Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of Meeting Thursday 1 December 2022, 8pm

at Waresley Village Hall

Present: Councillors Richard Jerman (Chair), Eleanor Jack (vice-chair), John Archer, Malcolm Gordon & Laura Edge.

Minutes taken by Rod Kerr (Clerk)

In attendance: Nick White, Stephen Scurfield & Wendy Hall

Apologies for absence: District Councillor Richard West (Unwell).

Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests. Councillor Jerman declared an interest in the planning application 22/02291/HFUL and will take no part in the discussions or decision.

To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 13 October 2022: The minutes had been circulated to the councillors and were approved & signed as a true & correct record by Chairman Richard Jerman after a duplicated paragraph was removed from the agreed draft.

Matters arising from those minutes not on the agenda: The planning application for 12 Vicarage Road has been approved.

Open Forum, Local Highways Initiative Application, Community Speedwatch & Possibility of a new footpath from Waresley to Abbotsley: It was agreed to discuss these agenda items at the same time .Stephen Scurfield & Nick White were concerned at the speed of traffic coming into & travelling through the village and how it could be slowed down.

A community speedwatch scheme was agreed to be a good first step to record the extent of the problem and provide evidence. This has been tried in the past but Stephen & Nick agreed to contact the Police and arrange volunteers to get things started.

There followed a discussion on the various methods to slow traffic that could be included in the next Local Highways Initiative Application. These included a new interactive sign (with a smiley/angry face), speed cameras, chicanes, speed humps, a 20mph speed limit. Many of these ideas had been discussed or requested in the past and rejected but it was thought it worth trying again. There is a government initiative called "Twenty's Plenty" which is introducing 20mph speed limits in many areas so it could be a good opportunity to tap into this. The Greensand Gateway signs could also be incorporated into this scheme.
Wendy Hall, who lives near Collings Brothers, asked if a footpath from Waresley to Abbotsley could be put in place along the B1040. She walks this route frequently and is concerned about the speed of traffic along this stretch of road. The councillors sympathised but felt it would only be used by a handful of people; much of it was

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outside Waresley Parish and would be very expensive to construct. There is already a footpath between the two villages although this does not go near the B1040. They felt a footpath between Waresley & Gamlingay would be more beneficial to local residents. They thanked Wendy for the suggestion but will not be taking it forward at this stage.

After further discussion, the following action points for Councillor Archer were agreed:

Contact Highways to see what the likelihood is of the PC being able to bid for:

- Interactive signs
- Chicanes at the main entrances of the village and road narrowing
- 20 mph speed limit (20's plenty campaign)
- Ask about the Greensand Gateway signs.
- He will then circulate a summary of what he has found out to the rest of the councillors within 10 days to let them formulate the LHI application to be submitted in early January.

Reports from County & District Councillors: Neither Stephen Ferguson nor Richard West were in attendance – Councillor West is still unwell but submitted a brief report which was read to the meeting (Appendix A).

Planning Permission Consultation - Reference: 22/02291/HFUL Replace oil boiler with 2 x Air source heat pumps. Site Address: Lily Hill House, Manor Farm Road Waresley Sandy SG19 3BX: Cllr Jack took over the chair for this item as Councillor Jerman took no part in the discussion or decision. The remaining councillors agreed that it was better for the environment to replace the oil boiler with the air source heat pumps and approved the application by 4 votes to 0.

Planning Decision 22/01190/CLED – Correspondence with District Council: This concerned a technical planning issue at Wood Farm on which the Parish Council were not consulted (correctly) . The District Council noted within the planning application decision that the Parish Council had been consulted and did not respond. Correspondence took place between the Chairman & the District Council to clarify that the Parish Council weren't consulted and that the notes on the planning approval were incorrect. The District Council agreed and apologised for this mistake but stated they were unable to change the notes within the approval. It was therefore decided to record this in the minutes (Appendix B).

Community Infrastructure Funding (CIL): This is a fund that can be put towards infrastructure projects in the village. It was agreed to wait until the outcome of the LHI application was known and then review the position in six months time to agree a project or to see if it could be used to support anything agreed from the LHI.

Luton Airport Flight path: We have had a response from our MP since the last meeting and he is on the case and had attended meetings. He is trying to postpone

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the PIR7. He agrees the review was flawed and will contact and lobby the CAA. Councillor Jack has sent a template around the village and reminded people that now is the time to object. Councillor Jerman wrote to the CAA and did not receive a satisfactory response. Government policy is currently to put flight paths over quiet, rural areas when it would make more sense to put them over more built up areas where the noise would not be noticeable. Responses should be sent in by 27 March 2023.Councillor Jerman will forward the email he received regarding this to the other councillors.

East West Railway: The Councillors decided to write to our MP to suggest that the East West Rail proposal was an expensive, unnecessary project which should be abandoned in this time of economic stress. Councillor Jack will draft the letter.

Establish if a new Rights of Way Officer has been appointed: Councillor Jerman will chase up Councillor Ferguson again for an update.

Electoral Boundary Review: Our new constituency will be St Neots & Mid-Cambs – a big change. We have written about this in the past. The final consultation ends on 5 December – there does not seem to be much we can do about this now – we have made a comment and this is to note that it will be going ahead.

Streetlights: It has been noticed that some of the streetlights are staying on through the night and that it may be more energy saving to adjust the timers to switch off after midnight. It does not cost the Parish Council any extra as the electricity is not on a metered supply. The lights did have timers fitted originally but it seems many of these no longer work. It was also noted that they did offer a level of security when they are on late at night. It was agreed that the councillors would monitor all the lights to see what time they switched on & off review the timings at the next meeting.

Jubilee Lamp Repairs & Old Churchyard Gate; A meeting was arranged between Anthony Knox the stonemason & a number of the councillors to review the work needed at the Jubilee Lamp. It was agreed that the older inscriptions should not be replaced as they were in a better state than the 2012 inscription. The only solution to this appears to engrave this onto a new piece of stone which would be bolted onto the lamp base. He will provide a revised quote for this work. Councillor Jack had contacted the District Council Conservation Officer again regarding this and they finally responded, stating that the work did require permission from them. She will complete the necessary forms for this while Mr Knox will be advised to hold off until this is approved and to provide a new quote. He did not attempt to cash the deposit cheque sent to him dated 31 March 2022 until after it was out of date & it was returned by the bank. He will be asked how he wishes to proceed with this.

Malcolm Gordon has spoken to Jimmy Dunn who does work for Wood Farm and other places and he will be able to carry out the necessary work on the Churchyard gate in due course.

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County Broadband: The expected connection date now seems to be in the New Year. Councillor Edge will chase them up to see if there is a definite date for connection as there seems to be some confusion over messages being issued.

Access to website – update: Andy Ottley advised the clerk that he had given full access to the clerk & Councillor Jack but we would need to use a new website designer/company to be able to amend the pages other than the PC content. Councillor jack will speak to Andy directly to clarify this matter.

Finance: Councillor Jack has written to the bank again to get the contact details changed to Councillor Edge & to add signatories. They have still not been able to process the original request. She will contact them again to chase up – she suggested that we look to change our bank.

Approval of the following:

I. K&M Lighting – Annual Contract payment - £294.38
II. Confirm RELAS payment to Little Gransden PC - £150.00
III. Simon Slater – Churchyard Maintenance - £330.00

These payments were proposed by Councillor Jerman & Seconded by Councillor Jack and approved.

AOB & Confirm date of Next Meeting: The Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership consultation on transport was discussed. This scheme aims to improve public transport in Cambridgeshire but by imposing a congestion charge on vehicles entering the city. The councillors were asked to formulate their thoughts and to decide if a PC response was to be sent, Many thought the scheme was unfair and would penalise those who need to visit Cambridge for shopping, leisure or to go to the hospital.. Councillor Jack will send out an email to the village list explaining the consultation and urging residents to contribute to the survey by the deadline of 23 December 2022.

Councillor Gordon wondered how the precept was calculated and if we could claim more in future years for projects. Great Gransden had a precept of £39000 and wondered if it was just worked out on the size of the population or other methods were used. This will be clarified for the next meeting.

The flooding along Gransden Road is due to blocked drains which will not be cleared until the telecoms work is completed in January 2023.

The next meeting was provisionally arranged for **Thursday 9 February 2023 at 8pm in the Village Hall – the clerk will book this**.

The meeting was then declared closed at 21:50.

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Appendix A

Gmail

Rod Kerr (Waresley PC) <clerk.waresleypc@gmail.com>

Re: Waresley-cum-Tetworth Parish Council Meeting Thursday 9 February 2023

3 messages

Richard West (Cllr) <Richard.West@huntingdonshiredc.org.uk> Sat 4 Feb at 18:55
To: Rod Kerr <clerk.waresleypc@gmail.com>

Report from Richard West for the Waresley-cum -Tetworth Parish Council meeting on Thursday 9 th February 2023

A428 PROJECT UPDATE BLACK CAT to CAXTON GIBBET
Planning permission (called a Development Consent Order) was granted by the Secretary of State back in August 2022. National highways been preparing for construction. However Transport Action Network submitted an application to the High Court for permission for judicial review of the Secretary of State decision to grant the A428 Development Consent Order.
A judge at the High Court has now reviewed the application and has refused permission for judicial review on all three grounds
While this is positive news, the legal process is not complete as Transport Action Network has requested that it's application for permission for a judicial review be heard at a High Court oral hearing
The High Court does not publish timescales,

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
The government has stated that it will be making audit committee have at least one independent member, mandatory requirement once parliamentary tine allows.
Many councils have already appointed an independent member ahead of such mandatory requirement in the interests of good governance and

EAST WEST RAIL
Have no new updates for the council

Richard West

As such there is no requirement to consult on this type of application, as correct

Gmail

Appendix B

Rod Kerr (Waresley PC) <clerk.waresleypc@gmail.com>

Planning decision 22/01190/CLED Wood Farm, Waresley

4 messages

Andrea Dollard <Andrea.Dollard@huntingdonshire.gov.uk> Mon, 21 Nov 2022 at 11:06
To: richardjermanwpc@gmail.com <richardjermanwpc@gmail.com>
Cc: jack.eleanor@gmail.com <jack.eleanor@gmail.com>, clerk.waresleypc@gmail.com <clerk.waresleypc@gmail.com>

Chair Waresley-cum-Tetworth PC

Dear Councillor R Jerman,

Thank you for your letter dated 27th October 2022 addressed to the Chief Planning Officer, Ms Kerr.

I have been asked to respond as the Case Officer dealing with the application for the certificate of lawful existing development issued.

You have raised a concern about the following statement in the Officer Report (22/01190/CLED - certificate of existing lawful use) 'Consultations were sought from Waresley Parish Council, but no representations have been received at the time of determination'

You have also asked for the following:

1. Confirmation on the correct procedure
2. Correction of the erroneous statement in the report
3. Clarity on whether the absence of comment from the parish council affected the officer's decision

1. I can confirm that the correct procedure for consultations on a Certificate of Lawful Existing Development is as below.

Section 191 of the Town and Country Planning 1990 Act provides a procedure whereby applications can be made for a Certificate of Lawfulness to ascertain whether any existing use or development of buildings is lawful and therefore immune from enforcement action.

As set out in my report "The Planning Practice Guide section on Lawful Development Certificates advises that applications must be accompanied by sufficient factual information/evidence for a Local Planning Authority to decide the application and advises that without sufficient or precise information, a Local Planning Authority may be justified in refusing a certificate. The onus of proof in a Lawful Development Certificate application is firmly on the applicant. However, in appeals to the Secretary of State which raise legal issues, the Courts have held that the relevant test of the evidence on such matters is "the balance of probability"

Therefore, it is for the local planning authority to make a judgement of the information/ evidence submitted, as to whether on the balance of probability it is sufficient to prove the existing use/ breach has occurred for more than the required times for immunity from enforcement action. If the information/ evidence meets that threshold, unless the LPA hold any evidence to the contrary, a certificate is issued.

taken into consideration. However, in this particular case, our records confirm that a letter was printed for consultation with yourself in error.

The matter was further compounded by that fact that in this case, it appears that the letter was not received and, in order to acknowledge that a letter had been sent and that no representations had been received, a statement was included within the report for completeness. To clarify, once a letter leaves the building, we have no system in which to confirm if the letter had been received by yourself.

This should not have happened, and I would like to apologise for this error. I can understand that seeing the statement in the Officer Report would have caused the Parish Council avoidable concern.

2. Unfortunately, I am unable to remove the statement from the Report as this has been issued and is within the public domain.
3. I can confirm that as consultation was not required (process set out in 1 above), the absence of any representation from the Parish Council would not have affected the decision.

I hope that I have been able to provide some clarity and reassurance on this matter. Although, if you remain dissatisfied, you may wish to raise a complaint, please see here for further information on how to do this.

Kind Regards,

Appendix B

Andrea Dollard

Andrea DOLLARD

Development Management Officer

South Team

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