Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at Waresley Village Hall

Thursday 31 October 2024,

Present: Councillors Richard Jerman, Eleanor Jack, Malcolm Gordon & Laura Edge

Also Present: District Councillor James Catmur, Ben Griggs, Kevin Jones, David Taine, Martin Prescott, Dominic Offord Doug & Margaret Scott, David Standring & Nete Brogaard.

Apologies for absence. Councillor John Archer & County Councillor Stephen Ferguson.

2. Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests. – None

3. The Minutes of Parish Council meeting of 22 August 2024 had been circulated, agreed & were signed by the chairman.

4. Matters arising not on the agenda. Councillor Jack reported that the Millenium Stone inscription will be okay for a while, but we need to keep an eye on it. Councillor Gordon said the defibrillator pads & batteries have now been replaced – they will be good for another 5 years & we saved money. It had been agreed to spend a small amount of money to repair the old churchyard wall. It has been repaired to best of their ability within budget. We had a working party in September – a vote of thanks to all volunteers was recorded - thanks were given to Councillor Gordon for organising things. Training is to be arranged on use of the defibrillator – courses & trainers will be looked at.

5. Open Forum & Duncombe Arms Update Nete Brogaard asked about the bird scarers being used near her allotment near Vicarage Road – she thought they were too loud and too close – and they scare her dog. It was mentioned that they are used to keep seagulls & other wild birds away from the free range chicken farm to prevent the spread of bird flu. The clerk will email the owner of the farm to make him aware.

Martin Prescott from Nutwood pubs addressed the meeting. His company is hoping to purchase the Duncombe Arms – the deal has not been sealed but things are looking hopeful. If all goes well, he hopes to reopen the pub in early December 2024. He explained that they are not a charity, they run community minded pubs, and he wanted to check out our local community. They organise all sorts of events and try to work with local people and businesses. He is planning to be open 7 days a week – welcoming locals to pop in & relax. They run a Nutwood loyalty card – can donate points to a community card to help local causes. They recently had a- had a training evening with Essex Air Ambulance and have agreed to maintain the local defibrillator. They are looking to employ local people. Mr Prescott said the pub is in good condition and ready to go. Councillor Jerman was greatly encouraged by Mr Prescott's words and this sentiment was echoed by those present at the meeting.

6. Reports from County & District Councillors: County Councillor Stephen Ferguson was unable to attend and sent a report (Appendix A)

District Councillor James Catmur said many of the points he was going to raise had been covered by Councillor Ferguson. He added that HDC have a web page to help people to claim benefit. He mentioned the Climate Opportunity Fund to fund village climate mitigation. HDC

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will be launching a new funding round shortly. He attended a town & parish council session in St Ives and found this very useful. East West Rail will be electrified but there will be no overhead power lines. Councillor Jack added there are further preliminary & statutory consultations. She will sit in on a meeting on 14 November.

7. Planning :

- Planning Permission Consultation – Jubilee Lamp Duncombe Arms Eltisley Road Waresley (ref 24/01407/LBC) – Although this has been submitted by the Parish Council, we still need to give our opinion. In the view of the council, the restoration is vital to preserve this historic monument. They voted 4-0 to approve the plans. There had been one comment from the general public, wrongly posted by the District Council as an objection.
- Confirm Approval of Planning Permission Consultation - Home Farm Manor Farm This was a pared down reapplication – the councillors had discussed and approved the application by 5 votes to nil.

8. Update following volume of noise from events at Waresley Park Estate. A petition signed by some residents from West Close & Manor Farm Road had been received in August regarding noise from events at Waresley Park. Councillor Jerman had been in conversation with Ben Griggs and the major points covered were- a permanent noise monitoring system is being installed although it was pointed out that since the petition all events had been noise monitored manually. The Estate is not planning on noisy events in the future, no weddings are booked for 2025. Two to Three weeks' notice will be given to residents if any events are planned. It had been asked why there was a time difference between the petition being received and the response – this was due to the timing of the parish council meetings.

9. Update regarding grant & acceptance of quote for restoration of Jubilee Lamp. As discussed earlier, planning is in. We have received a grant from HDC of £2000 towards it – progress has been slow due to the planning department – we must now await their decision. The stonemasons, Hibbetts have agreed to honour their original quote – it was to approve payment of the 40% deposit subject to planning permission being granted –Proposed by Councillor Jerman & Seconded by Councillor Gordon and approved by 4 votes to nil. Work will not start until the Spring although preparatory work could be carried out/Councillor Jack was thanked for all her hard work in this matter.

10. Update on Highway Matters & 20mph Application: The drain outside Water End House has been fixed. The mobile speed sign is now up near the Garden Centre – the other two posts are up but the one at the Eltisley end of the village has been put in the wrong place – Highways have now agreed to reposition it at their own expense. The batteries are lasting 2-3 weeks -we need volunteers to change them over – the spare battery is kept & charged in the village hall – the brightness will be turned down to save battery life – solar panels will be considered for the next LHI application. It was thought the new sign has been a success so far.

The damage to the signs around the Jubilee Lamp has now been repaired and tidied up. And the kerb has been made good

District Councillor Catmur explained some of the things the speed signs can do from his experience in Gransden – the light can be turned off but it will still record speeds – this can be useful for LHI data. They can be put into reverse mode to record cars as they pass the sign.

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It was suggested that lorries passing through the village are monitored to ascertain their origin – Hilton carried out a similar survey.

11. Approve Updated Parish Council Constitution & Standing Orders: The clerk had circulated a draft constitution – the councillors studied it prior to the meeting and agreed to adopt it with the amendment to state " Voting as amended by current & future legislation/regulations" – this allows for voting on motions online rather than in person, should the regulations change.

12. Consider the Precept for 2025/26 – the clerk had prepared a spreadsheet showing the projected income and expenditure for 2025/26 – there will be more clarity on possible future grants for the jubilee monument in the near future. The councillors will consider the figures and make a final decision at the next full meeting on 7 January – ahead of the deadline on 17 January.

13. Finances

Update on Banking and PAYE

It was agreed to change the Parish Council bank account from Barclays – we cannot use the low cost pay roll system with the current one. Councillor Jack proposed we change the bank account to Unity Trust – seconded by Councillor Jerman. Councillor Edge will look into doing this.

Payments approved:

- Quarterly Electricity Bill – Streetlights £177.22
- Approve deposit for Jubilee Lamp repairs to Hibbitt & Sons £2235.60
- Mrs E Jack – Expenses £30.35
- Mr M Gordon – Expenses Defib Pads & Batteries & Churchyard Wall £300.10
- Mrs S Gordon – Planter Expenses £47.98
- Mr R Kerr – Expenses for website renewal - £30.00
- Confirm Annual Streetlighting Contract K & M £349.04
- Clerks Salary for September & October 2024 £120.00
- PAYE for April to August 2024 - £30.00
  Proposed en bloc by Councillor Jerman & seconded by Councillor Edge.

14. AOB & Confirm date of next PC Meeting

Councillor Gordon noted that plants had been stolen from the planters, now replaced. He hoped the new bank account would enable the council to pay contractors on amore timey basis.

We will check our insurance policy to see if volunteers (for example in the Churchyard work parties) are covered.

The bench outside the old churchyard has been taken away for repair by the Banks family - and they have indicated it will be returned by Christmas at the latest.

The next full meeting was agreed for Tuesday 7 January 2025 at 8pm in Waresley Village Hall.

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