Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2016, 8pm, Waresley Village Hall

Present: Councillors E Jack (Chair), J Archer, J Lawton, H Richardson
In attendance: District Councillor R West, David Morgan
Minutes taken by: S Sullivan

80. **To receive any apologies for absence:** Councillor C Thorne, County Councillor J Wisson, District Councillor B Boddington (J Archer had given noticed that he would be late)
81. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting and parish council meeting on 12 May 2016** were read out by Councillor Lawton; they were corrected, APPROVED and signed.
82. **Minutes of Planning Meeting on 29 June 2016** were read out by Councillor Richardson; they were APPROVED and signed.
83. **Matters arising not on the agenda**. Item 58 a-c It was noted that the Annual Return had been submitted to the external auditors on the due date.
Item 58 f David Morgan agreed to be Tree Warden.
Item 71 Insurance – another quotation had been obtained but Councillors felt that the existing policy provided more suitable cover.
Item 78 It was noted that more residents were using the car park at the front of the Duncombe Arms. It was not known whether a sign had been erected in Vicarage Road asking residents to try to avoid parking there while building works vehicles needed access to Wood Farm. ACTION: Councillor Richardson to check.
84. **Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests** Councillor Lawton declared an interest in Agenda Items 7a and 7b.
85. **Open Session** Councillor West reported that **he and Councillor** Boddington had attended a meeting on 22 July at the Priory Centre, St Neots to learn about proposals for the A428 road. There were **many** different possibilities, ~~but~~ including widening the existing A428 ~~was not one of them – instead~~ a new road was ~~planned~~ suggested linking Caxton Gibbet to the Black Cat. The final route would be decided by summer 2017. He and Councillor Boddington would attend all briefings in order to be totally honest and transparent with the communities they served. They were hoping that more openness and contact with Highways would enable residents to accept ideas and decisions more readily.

On the question of area Devolution, Councillor West said that he supported this – he thought the area would benefit and was a way if retaining local government at a time of major change in the provision of healthcare and the school system.

Councillor West was very concerned about the proposal to make redundant the post of Huntingdonshire's Tree Warden Coordinator: Bridget Halford did an excellent job. He regretted the change to Huntingdon's tree strategy.

The Chair thanked Councillor West and said the Parish Council had not yet received a satisfactory reply to Councillor Archer's letter regarding procedure for planning applications.

(Councillor Archer arrived at 8.40 pm)

Councillor West reported that Mr Jaarsma was to leave the Council and he hoped for a better approach from Huntingdon District Council towards villages.

Mr Morgan said that he would address the meeting under Agenda Item 9. Minute no. 58

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The Open Session was closed.

86. **Planning:** It was noted that the following decisions had been made by the Parish Council:

a) 16/01025/FUL Waresley Cottage, Eltisley Road, Waresley sG19 3BS Change of vehicular entrance to the property – Recommendation approval. (J Lawton updated the meeting and said that the Highways Department had not agreed to the proposal.

b) 16/01008/LBC Waresley Cottage, Eltisley Road, Waresley SG19 3BS Replacement windows – Recommendation approval. (J Lawton updated the meeting and said that the Conservation Officer had not approved replacement of all the windows as some of the metal windows were original – therefore only some windows would be replaced.)

c) To consider: 16/01349/HHFUL 16/01350/LBC Home Farm Manor Farm Road Waresley
Erection of Greenhouse, Summerhouse and Kitchen garden wall. Councillor Jack had inspected the site. The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL as it would have no visual impact on any other property and would improve the appearance of the garden. ACTION: Clerk to respond to District Council.

87. **Consultations and procedures** The following were noted:
   a) Devolution – Peterborough and Cambridgeshire – residents were encouraged to respond individually and a note had been placed in *Roundabout.*
   b) Cambridge City Deal – residents were encouraged to respond individually – replies were required by 10 October – a note would be placed in *Roundabout*, and Councillor Jack would circulate an email to residents. Councillors felt that the scheme as presented took very little notice of the needs of local villages whose residents commuted into Cambridge to work.
   c) A428 Forum Councillor Lawton would attend the meeting at Cambourne on 28 July.
   d) Boundary Review – It was noted that a boundary review of the District Council was being carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission – Waresley-cum-Tetworth would be in the proposed ward of Great Paxton, which would include Great Paxton, Abbotsley, Toseland, Yelling and Great Gransden. Councillors thought that this was a better division than that of the County Council. Individual comments were required by 22 August.

88. **Parish Planting** – David Morgan was invited to address the meeting. He explained that as part of the austerity cuts, tHuntingdonshire would be losing its Tree Officer in April 2017 – this would be a great loss, because Huntingdonshire was unique in having a tree planting strategy and its own dedicated tree nursery; Bridget Halford, part-time Tree Warden Coordinator, did a great job in advising on tree and hedgerow planting, sourcing and supplying appropriate, locally grown stock at very competitive prices. The nursery provided work for people with disabilities and was a source of pride to the area; trees helped to improve and enhance the environment and contributed to people's physical and mental wellbeing. It would be a great shame if this initiative ceased to be. Although there was little opportunity for additional tree planting in Waresley (most suitable areas having received trees), there was a continuing demand for hedges. He urged the Parish Council to write to the Huntingdon Council expressing their concern at the loss of this service, for a comparatively modest immediate financial saving of £16,000 (salary) per annum, and asked whether the Parish Council could consider making a financial contribution to the scheme in the future to ensure its continuity. Councillors AGREED that this might be considered in the future; in the meantime they AGREED to write to Mr Graham Bull (Executive Councillor for Planning

Policy), expressing their concern at the proposed loss of a very valuable service. The Chair thanked Mr Morgan. ACTION: Clerk

89. **Highways - Gransden Road Traffic Calming** Councillor Archer said that the work had now been satisfactorily completed. The Parish Council congratulated Mr Archer on managing the project successfully.
90. **Millennium Stone and Milestone repainting** Councillor Jack reported that the Millennium Stone had been satisfactorily cleaned and the lettering repainted. She was obtaining a separate quotation for the cleaning of the Milestone.
91. **Wooden seats** Councillor Archer said that the treework contractor, Colin Crane, had agreed to find appropriate replacement timber for the supports, and that the matter was in hand; it was not possible to put a timescale on this.
92. **Tree works in Churchyard** Councillor Archer reported that this work had been satisfactorily completed and the contractor, Colin Crane, had been paid.
93. **Parish website** Councillor Jack reported that this was as up to date as it could be, and was compliant with the Transparency Code. She still wished to change the introductory photograph. Parish news, such as details of public consultations, and parish events could be put on the website, and a link to the site published in *Roundabout*.
94. **Clerk's employment** Councillors reconsidered this and decided to keep the present arrangement.
95. **Finance – Payments:** The following payments were APPROVED: insurance £251.85; E-ON £55.93; E-ON (July) £55.93; Colin Crane tree work £495; K&M Lighting £90; Preformed Road Markings £409.20; Clerk's services April, May and June £227.25; Clerk's office expenses £55.37; I R Quince £348.
96. **Training**. Clerk reported on Clerk's/Councillor's catch up day 15 July: the principal points were changes to the audit system – Parish Councils with a turnover of less than £25,000 would be able to opt for self-certification with effect from 2017. Councillor's training September 2016. ACTION: Clerk's report and details of training courses to be circulated to Councillors.
97. **To decide who will provide summary of meeting for *Roundabout*.** Councillor Jack volunteered to do this.
98. **Date of the Next Meeting** Thursday 15 September 2016 8 pm Waresley Village Hall ACTION: Clerk to book hall.
99. The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

E Jack 15/9/2016