Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 28 September 2017, 8pm, Waresley Village Hall

Present: E Jack, J Lawson, J Archer, H Richardson
In attendance: County Councillor J Wisson, District Councillor R West, Mrs W Phillips, Mr Mark Ponder, Mr L Broderick, Mrs I Broderick, Mr G Sugars, Mrs H Webb
Minutes taken by S Sullivan

96. **Apologies for absence** were received from District Councillor B Boddington
97. **Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests** – none.
98. **Co-option of Parish Councillor** Following the resignation of Mr Chris Thorne after many years' service, the vacancy had been duly advertised. Mr Richard Jerman was co-opted to the Parish Council (proposed by J Archer, seconded by J Lawton).
99. **Signature of Acceptance of Office, Register of Interests** Mr Jerman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was given the Register of Interests to complete.
100. **The minutes of parish council meeting on 3 August 2017** were read out to the meeting by Councillor Lawton, before being amended at 86b, APPROVED and SIGNED,
101. **Matters arising not on the agenda.**
    a. Minute 77A Councillor Jack reported that she had responded to the consultation on the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. Receipt of the response had been acknowledged.
    b. Minute 77B Consultation on Huntingdonshire Local Plan – Councillor Jack had commented.
    c. Minute 87 Councillor Jack had updated the filing using the new filing cabinet.
102. **Open Forum**
    a. **County Councillor Wisson** reported that a new primary school was to be provided for St Neots because there were not enough primary school places to meet the current need.
    b. **District Councillor West** reported that Councillor Boddington had sent a separate report on the A428; there were staffing problems at the District Council which had resulted in some missed wastebin collections; the planning department was also under stress and decisions on applications were being delayed but two new members of staff had recently been recruited; the library services were running a series of public workshops to discuss their future. Councillor West congratulated Richard Jerman on his co-option to Waresley Parish Council.
    c. **Mr Broderick** drew attention to the following: The Monument needed attention for the fascia was flaking and the lettering worn; the milestone also needed attention; at the burial ground the seat needed attention and the wall was being pushed out of place by self-set trees; the post-box paint was flaking; the streetlights needed cleaning; the

number of heavy vehicles and general traffic in Vicarage Road were increasing and damaging the verges, as well as making journeys very early in the morning. (R Jerman offered to speak to Mr Charles Mear at Wood Farm; Clerk to ask S Slater to quote for work on trees near wall in burial ground; other items not on the agenda to be brought forward to next meeting.)

103. Consultations and procedures

a. **It was noted that there had been a Consultation** on the future of Children's Services in Cambridgeshire.

b. **Workshops were being held throughout the county** on the future of public libraries in Cambridgeshire – E Jack said that she would try to attend the next in Cambourne.

c. **Highways Open Day** 3 October.

d. **Huntingdonshire Parish Council Conference** 9 October, E Jack hoped to attend.

e. The Parish Council noted that the Clerk did not seem to receive information on all the public consultations. ACTION: Councillor Wisson offered to ensure that the County Council's email records had been updated.

104. Planning:

No planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

105. Damage to sign at Manor Farm Road: Councillor Jack reported that Finnigans had had the sign welded and it was now awaiting the fitting of a metal surround to reinforce it.

106. Village Hall Following a public meeting, a new management committee had been informed. Councillor Richard Jerman agreed to be Parish Council representative on the management committee. The new bookings officer was Ingrid Sims. The management committee asked for a greater degree of financial support from the Parish Council for this village and community asset. In principle, this was agreed and would be considered when agreeing the budget and setting the precept for 2018/19. Councillor Wisson said that grants were available for improvements and capital expenditure – Abbotsley and Little Gransden village halls had both recently received substantial grants.

107. Fly problem in summer It was noted that there had ben a fly problem again during the summer, although not so severe as in 2016. The precise cause was difficult to determine and dependent on several factors, including weather conditions and harvesting. Concern was expressed for residents and businesses in the area. Councillor Jerman suggested that a very effective flykiller called Red Top Flytraps could be purchased at modest price.

108. Streetlights It was AGREED to obtain a quotation for:

a. Cleaning all the streetlights, repairing the two faulty lights –
   1. opposite West Lodge, Manor Farm Rd and
   2. outside The Square (opposite North Lodge). Fitting a timer to that opposite North Lodge. ACTION: Clerk

b. In addition, Councillor Jack would ask the owners of Waresley Grange and/or Water End to trim back trees shading the streetlight, which obscure the light and could cause it to shine during daylight hours. ACTION: E Jack

109. **Play Area** Councillor Jack reported that she had contacted the Cricket Club but had received no reply. ACTION: E Jack to follow up.

110. **Blocked drains Waresley Road** Councillor Archer reported that there remained a difference of opinion over ownership of the ditch and legal liability. He would report to the next meeting.

111. **A428 upgrade** District Councillor Boddington had reported that an initial decision had not yet been made but was due in "autumn 2017". As this would also be subject to consultation processes, a final decision from the Secretary of State was not expected until 2020.

112. **Horse and Rider Sign B1040** Councillor Jack reported that the Highways Department had informed her that the sign would cost £925 plus VAT rather than the approximately £700 previously indicated. Several other cheques and pledges of financial support had been received – from Councillors Boddington, West, Wisson and Jack. It was AGREED to fund the shortfall and to proceed with installation of the sign. Proposed by Councillor Lawton, seconded by Councillor Archer.

113. **Highways –**

a. **Request for footpath outside 1–6 The Square** – The Parish Council considered a letter from residents requesting the extension of the footpath outside The Square to connect the car park at the rear with the front garden. Mr Mark Ponder was invited to speak to this item and he explained the difficulties experienced by residents of 5 and 6 The Square, who could not cut their hedge or get their mowing machines from the front to the back garden without going on the road. The Parish Council explained that any support from the Parish Council would have to be via a Local Highways Improvement bid – the project for this year had already been decided. Such bids were not guaranteed to be successful – they had to meet certain criteria and only the top few bids across the county were successful. The Parish Council AGREED to reconsider this request when considering a future Local Highways Improvements bid.

b. **Road safety and speeding traffic** – brought forward from previous meeting – Local Highways Improvement bid. Councillor Archer reported that he was working on refreshing the earlier bid that had been rejected: he was hopeful that the additional information presented would result in a successful application. The deadline for receipt had been extended to 15 October.
(Councillor West left the meeting at 9.40 pm)

114. **Trees – Dead tree** Brought forward from previous meeting. Councillor Jack reported that she had spoken to the lessee of the property; they had said they would take advice.

115. **Audit** – The external auditor's certificate had been received and placed on the noticeboard – it would be added to the website.

116. **Finance**

a. Payments were APPROVED as follows: Clerking services July, August & September £227.25; S Slater Churchyard maintenance £330. Proposed by Councillor J Lawton, seconded by H Richardson.

b. Receipt of payments as follows: Private donation to Horse & Rider sign £10, BHS Cambridgeshire donation towards Horse & Rider sign £175.

c. Request for Precept to be submitted by 15 December.

d. Clerk reported a discrepancy between bank statement of 15 September (£135 paid in 23 August) and amount banked (£185) – she had written to the bank asking them to check their records and make the necessary adjustment.

117. Training

a. It was noted that David Morgan had not been able to attend tree seminar on 3 August owing to sudden illness.

b. Planning Workshop 2 November St Ives (E Jack to attend)

c. Clerk's catch up day 22 September – Clerk had attended and would circulate a report. Main areas covered had been use of social media for parish councils, and access to Cambridgeshire Council's mapping services.

118. Summary of meeting for *Roundabout.* H Richardson offered to do this.

119. Date of the Next Meeting Tuesday, 14 November 2017 8pm Village Hall. ACTION: Clerk to book hall.

Meeting closed 10pm