

WIMBOTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.00pm, held remotely via Zoom.

In Attendance: Councillors: Jackie Squires (Chair), Ian Cable, Dean Chilvers, Steve Mingay and Anne Smith
Borough Cllrs: Colin Rose, County Cllr: Brian Long Clerk – Pippa Winson

99/20 To consider apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Simon Bates, David Fendley and Borough Councillor Vivienne Spikings has another meeting so will join later.

100/20 To Consider Requests for Dispensations from the restriction on participating in the discussion or voting on a matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

No dispensation requests.

101/20 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 8th December 2020.

Having been circulated prior to the meeting the minutes were agreed, and are to be signed, as a true and accurate record by all present at the meeting.

102/20 To record Councillors' declarations of interest on Agenda Items.

None.

103/20 Councillor Vacancies

No applications to consider.

104/20 Public Speaking.

- (i) Cllr Rose advised that they had discussed the budget today. Any news and updates are circulated via email by him and/or the Borough Council.

Cllr Long asked that if anyone witnesses or is made aware of breaches of Covid regulations then please report these to the Borough Council and Covid Marshalls will attend. Downham Market is to receive its own Vaccination Centre. This was announced on the radio this morning and should be up and running by the end of February. They are currently working on this year's budget, both BC and NCC. For both tiers of local government this is a challenging time in respect of finances. The BC have a budget which should be workable. Due to the pandemic, they have spent an extra 3.6 million pounds.

- (ii) No members of public present.

105/20 Matters arising for items not covered elsewhere on the agenda – info only.

Meeting with Richard Fisher, the BC Trees Officer, to be held next week to discuss the proposed Village Green Tree works. I Cable has taken delivery of 100 or so face visors.

106/20 New Village Hall Working Group

The Group met last night. Phil and Liz Wing attended. They advised that the Church don't intend to compete with the NVHWG and if there are any issues with funding, then they would help and support the Group. They intend to start the process of tendering for architects and this is likely to be a long process. In the next newsletter there will be a summary of the commissioned report for parishioners and an update. The report document is too long for it all to be included. In respect of the covenant, S Mingay thanked Kate for her work on this and advised that it looks to be nothing of concern unless the Recreation Ground is to be sold.

Cllr Spikings joined the meeting

107/20 Correspondence

Clerk & Councils Direct newsletter
Various via email

108/20 Highways

- a Update and Issues to be reported

Trod at the end of West Way looks scruffy and doesn't look like it has been finished properly.

- b Trod at the bottom of West Way

The trod around the field has been damaged and the sugar beet piled up. Clerk has contacted Andy Wallace at NCC and he has advised that: 'The problem is that all ditches appear full at the moment and the land is saturated and therefore I suspect there is little that can be done at present to help'. The ditch along the side has not been cleared and it looks to be the responsibility of Stow Estate. It was discussed whether to approach Stow Estate to ask them to clear the ditch and to re-instate the damaged area. Villagers do benefit from the Estate allowing unofficial access to a lot of paths in the village. It was agreed that they would be asked if there is anything that they can do to improve the drainage.

109/20 Wildflower Planting

It has previously been agreed that Turners Close, Chapel Lane and the small Village Green would be the most appropriate locations, as well as the Recreation Ground. It was suggested that residents be consulted, but that costs needed to be known first as they may be prohibitive. Clerk to obtain costs for ground preparation from Holly Landscapes.

110/20 Representatives Reports – to receive any updates.

Recreation Ground – Nothing to report as S Mingay has been out of action. Haven't done anything about the potholes yet. Holly Landscapes have done some tidying up.

Village Hall – Christmas Lights have been switched off. The hall has been closed except for the toddler support group which is allowed to continue under the government restrictions.

Village Green – Meeting next week to look at the medium to long term management of the trees.

Footpaths – In generally good condition. An enquiry was received about the Low Road footpath being blocked up, but clerk has contacted the footpaths officer at NCC and he has confirmed that the public rights of way are still accessible. Clerk had received a report from a parishioner that they 'were following the designated footpath along the bank by the roadside from Broomhill to Wimbotsham village. The fingerpost pointing to the fingerpost on the opposite side of the road (leading across the field to the village) necessitates a steep descent from the bank on to the road itself'. On descending they had fallen into the road. Clerk had reported this to NCC Highways and they had confirmed that they 'have programmed to have the bank gradient shallowed at this point and a couple of simple steps added to make access on and off the roadside simpler'. Parishioner was pleased with the quick response. PROW between Millers and Tinkers Lane still only half cut. It was suggested that a map of the footpaths be put into the next newsletter and that parishioners would be encouraged to keep to the designated paths, to act responsibly and not to trespass. I Cable advised that there is a path between Wimbotsham and Downham Market which needs attention, D Chilvers will identify it on a map for the clerk so that she can report it to the Town Council.

100-Acre Trust – I Cable advised that 16-17 payments had been made this year.

Allotments – J Squires advised that they look good.

111/20 Maintenance

Quote has been received from the handyman to paint the speed gates. On proposal from I Cable and seconded by S Mingay, all agreed to accept the quote for £310, works to be completed when weather permits, in the spring.

112/20 Streetlights

K & M have confirmed that none of the lights have part night photo-electric cells fitted at present so should the parish require part night lighting this would incur a cost of £65.00 per light ex vat. Cllr Long mentioned that it may be possible to obtain a Public Works Loan for the replacement of the lights with LED, but it was felt that the Parish do have the reserves to cover this. Clerk to try and obtain likely cost savings in respect of electricity bill.

113/20 Newsletter

Last one at the end of November. Not much to report at present so no date set for next edition.

114/20 Planning

I Cable asked if the Parish Council had had any recent contact from Persimmon and clerk advised that they hadn't made any contact. He said that he had heard, before Christmas, that they would be consulting the Parish.

115/20 Finance

- (a) Budget and Precept. On proposal from I Cable and seconded by J Squires, all agreed not to increase the precept for this year and to keep it at £20,400 plus the Council Tax Support Grant.
- (b) All agreed the clerks SLCC/ALCC subscription renewal: SLCC - £51.50 and ALCC - £15.00.
- (c) The following payments were agreed at, tonight's meeting:
Contribution towards NALC's FOI and GDPR training courses for the clerk, £30.00 + V.A.T.
- (d) Accounts to 31st December 2020 agreed and to be signed.

116/20 Councillors concerns and items for next meeting agenda.

C.I.L. Funding application/s.

117/20 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 9th March 2021 starting at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.31pm.

Chairman:

Date