

WIMBOTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 7.00pm, held at Wimbotsham Methodist Church.

In Attendance: Councillors Chair: Jackie Squires, Simon Bates, Ian Cable, D Chilvers, Anne Smith, Borough Councillors Colin Rose and Vivienne Spikings and 3 members of the public. Clerk – Pippa Winson

46/21 To consider apologies for absence.

Apologies received from D Fendley and S Mingay.

47/21 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.

48/21 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 25th May 2021.

Having been circulated prior to the meeting the minutes were amended to include Cllr Colin Roses' presence, then agreed, and signed, as a true and accurate record by all present at the meeting.

49/21 To record Councillors' declarations of interest on Agenda Items.

None. The clerk had asked for clarification from NALC as at the last meeting it was felt that, as no financial support was being asked for, a Councillor could be involved in the decision as at the PC meeting, he is acting as a Parish Councillor, rather than as a member of the Group's Committee. NALC confirmed that Parish Councillors who are on a committee asking for support from the Parish Council would not have a pecuniary interest, in that the councillor would not financially benefit directly. They advised 'Where an organisation is asking for a financial contribution, asking the councillor to not take part seems a sensible step to take, because otherwise there could be concern about transparency, for example resulting in a complaint from another organisation who the council chose not to award a grant'.

50/21 Councillor Vacancies

No applications to consider.

51/21 Public Speaking.

- a) Cllr Rose gave his report: 'Please note for those who may wish to attend the Downham Area Police SNAP meetings the next has been moved to the 27th at 19.00 and I am still the Acting Chair due to something being overlooked in due process at the BC. Mike Howland is VC. Paula Gilluley, the new engagement Officer is on holiday until the 19th but hopefully all Clerks should be contacted 5 working days before the meeting, hopefully with an Agenda if we can sort such out prior to the meeting. Still no news on Ouse Dredging but that may not be possible this year. Next Covid point is the 19th. I am pleased to report Stuart Dark MBE is the new Leader. Harry Humphrey is the Mayor with Lesley Bambridge is Deputy Mayor - a well-earned recognition. Stuart has cancelled the Eastern Habitat part of the BCs 379 house development in Lynn which has pleased many especially in the area. There have been many moves to support the QEH now that it is reported to have over 200 props holding up the roof and having lost an intensive care ward. An initiative by the Labour group at the BC arranged a post card in support but as you will be aware Minister Hancock had to have his name removed. Another bit of what may be good news is that Borough Cllrs may get some money to spend in their wards as do Norfolk Cllrs - not sure exactly what initiatives this will be for but hopefully this will help local amenities, we will have to see. I have one VH Cmt. that need a new roof. This amount will be discussed at the next CPP, but £1k shared between 6 Parishes cannot help much, so it will be first come... Some repairs were eventually carried out to Hunstanton Groynes, but there are many of us BCllrs who feel this jewel in the BC crown should have a higher priority. Wisbech Incinerator is still rearing its head and although their MD Paul Carey had promised me a larger consultation area this appears to have been forgotten. Because of the Govs. need to get generating capacity and waste dealt with this large project might avoid the normal planning requirements. The new County Cllr, Chris Dawson, appears to be getting involved which is good to see considering how many CC concerns have been neglected in the past.
- b) No comments from members of the public.

52/21 Matters arising for items not covered elsewhere on the agenda – info only.

Clerk asked about the Fenland Bike Show and it was advised that it is not happening as their committee did not agree to go ahead with the event this year. The possibility of a smaller event was mentioned and it was suggested that this is discussed with Jonathan Soames-Waring. Next year's Queens Jubilee event to be future agenda item.

53/21 New Village Hall Working Group

Update from Anne Smith: A flyer has been printed for distribution in the village to advise of the event planned for 4th August. A preparation meeting is planned as Swann Edwards need to know what will be wanted for the presentation. Anne asked whether the newsletter distributors could deliver the flyers and want to encourage people to attend the meeting. Refreshments are to be provided and it was agreed that the Parish Council would cover the cost of these.

54/21 Correspondence

Clerk & Councils Direct Magazine
Letter from Barclays re changes to terms and conditions
Various via email

55/21 Highways

a) Update and Issues to be reported

Lynn Road footpaths have been reported to Highways asking for them to be cut back. It was advised that the hedges also need to be trimmed back. Runcton Holme have the SAM2 and it is being installed there now that insurance is in place. It was agreed that a further training session be arranged with Westcotec for Monday 16th August at 6.30pm. Padlocks are required to keep the SAM2, D Chilvers advised that he could get these. There is a pothole on West Way, D Chilvers will confirm exact position. A litter pick will be considered for the future.

b) Parish Partnership Scheme 2022

Potential application considered. It was said that a lot of people walk between Wimbotsham and Stowbridge and a trod could be considered. Stowbridge PC will be contacted to see if they are interested. It was possible to level the verges. County Cllr Brian Long may support the proposal and he does have some funds for limited projects.

56/21 Village Event

S Mingay and S Bates haven't pursued this any further yet. To be deferred to the next meeting.

57/21 The Chequers

Clerk read the letter received from a parishioner expressing their concerns regarding the excessive volume of the music at The Chequers. Clerk has previously contacted the Borough Council regarding the noise complaints and read out their responses at the last meeting, they advised that complainants need to be referred to the CSNN Team so that they can investigate and take any necessary action. Kim from The Chequers was present and she advised that CSNN had been in contact with her and she was waiting for a response from them. It was advised that a lot of people are upset by the noise as it is every Sunday and it was suggested that it should be less frequent and that the associated anti-social behaviour recently hasn't helped. It was also said that 4 or 5pm until 9pm is too long a period for the music to be played. It was said that this is to the detriment of the whole village and that it can be heard from the other end of the village. It was said that it would be held inside alternate weeks once restrictions were lifted. The noise levels will be monitored and they will be shutting it down at 8pm. They have also stopped using the amplifiers. S Bates asked if they could advise residents of this and it was agreed that this information would be put on the noticeboards. J Squires thanked Kim for attending the meeting to discuss the issues.

58/21 Village Green Tree Works

The Parish Council received three quotes for the works and on proposal from S Bates and seconded by I Cable, all agreed to accept the quote from Richard Ebbs which totalled £3450.00. S Bates was thanked for getting the Christmas Tree taken down.

59/21 Representatives, to receive any updates.

- a) **Recreation Ground** – Along the Trod adjacent to Low Road, there is a large gap in the hedge allowing easy access onto Low Road. This is proving to be a cut through, from the playing field on the other side of Low Road, and any crossing here is deemed dangerous. A fence panel was erected on the Playing Field side but this has been removed. Clerk to contact Albanwise for consent for the PC to block off/fence this gap.
- b) **Village Hall** – Been busy since restrictions have been lifted and have some new customers. Some work needs doing to the floor.

- c) **Village Green** – Looks ok.
- d) **Footpaths** – All look ok except the PROW between Tinkers and Millers Lane. The end of the Trod has not been properly finished off at the end of West Way. Clerk to contact A Wallace from highways and W Esse.
- e) **100-Acre Trust** – Meeting next week. Major land drain works completed.
- f) **Allotments** – All ok. L Wing was not happy that the allotment rents were discussed at the last meeting without her knowledge. Agreed that item would be on next agenda so that she would have the opportunity to attend and discuss.

60/21 Maintenance

Village walkaround completed.

As previously discussed, gap in hedge on Low Road to be blocked when Albanwise give consent. S Bates advised that they had unsuccessfully tried to block off the Recreation Ground side. Clerk to contact Albanwise for their consent to do the works. Quotes to be obtained for the works.

Open culvert on Albanwise land and concerns that it may be dangerous and that there should be a warning sign. Albanwise and IDB to be contacted.

The footpath (PROW) which runs from Chapel Lane through to the lane at the back of St Mary's church, Albanwise has fenced this off from the rest of the field and therefore it is no longer grazed and the grass is long. This PROW now needs to be added to the cutting/strimming regime for the parish. Clerk to contact Holly Landscapes.

Millers Lane, the vegetation needs trimming back around the dog poo bin at the eastern end of the lane – (near to Lynn Road). Clerk to contact Holly Landscapes.

Millers Lane/access into allotments – here a PROW fingerpost sign has fallen over. Clerk has contacted NCC Highways.

Small Village Green, signposts on here need cleaning and painting. Clerk to contact handyman Mark Errington for quote.

Village sign requires removing and refurbishing. Clerk will ask for recommendations from other parishes and will then obtain quotes.

Low Road sign on the green is leaning and wonky so it requires straightening up. Clerk has contacted the Borough Council.

Bench on village green opposite the PH requires an overhaul. Clerk contacted Gary Painter, who had contacted the PC last year as he and his friends wanted to renovate the bench in their friend's memory. Clerk read out his email which outlined the works they intended to complete and everyone agreed this was acceptable. They hope to have the works completed by the end of August, but will advise when the bench is to be removed for this.

Fence surrounding the war memorial requires rubbing down and painting. Clerk to obtain quote from handyman. Car Park near Primary School. S Bates advised that he would check ownership, as he believes that it is owned by the Recreation Ground, and will speak to S Mingay and get it tidied up.

61/21 Newsletter

I Cable said it is on hold at present as he is busy and has asked for a guest editor. D Chilvers offered to have a go.

62/21 Planning

Planning Application reference 21/01121/RMM for Reserved Matters Application for layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for the erection of 240 dwellings and associated works and infrastructure at Land NE of Bridle Lane Downham Market. Main concerns are landscaping and lighting as outlined in response to outline application. There is perimeter landscaping shown on the northern side but no landscaping and hedging shown on the Wimbotsham side of the roundabout. Lighting mitigation also required at the roundabout. All agreed to object to the application on this basis and would welcome amended plans to consider. Increased traffic on Lynn Road, up to 600 additional cars so consideration should be given to a reduction in the speed limit. Consultation deadline is Thursday 15th July, so clerk will draft and email to I Cable tomorrow to review prior to submission.

Several planning issues have been raised in the village and these have been passed to the Planning Enforcement Team for their action.

63/21 Finance

- (a) Payments were agreed at tonight's meeting: Holly Landscapes (Footpath cutting) - £234.00 and (May and June Grounds Maintenance) – £877.36, Wimbotsham Methodist Church (Room Hire x 2) - £36.00, Westcotec (Part payment of SAM2) - £1020.00, HMRC (Clerks Income Tax) - £186.60.
- (b) Accounts to 30th June 2021 agreed and signed.

(c) Internal Auditors report reviewed. Policies need to be reviewed.

64/21 Councillors concerns and items for next meeting agenda.

Queens Jubilee Event.

65/21 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 14th September 2021 starting at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed nearer the time.

Meeting closed at 9.06pm

Chairman:

Date

DRAFT