

WIMBOTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.00pm, held remotely via Zoom.

In Attendance: Councillors: Jackie Squires (Chair), Ian Cable (Vice-Chair), Simon Bates, Dean Chilvers, Steve Mingay and Anne Smith
County Cllr: Brian Long
Clerk – Pippa Winson

118/20 To consider apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Borough Councillors Colin Rose and Vivienne Spikings as they both have another meeting to attend.

119/20 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.

120/20 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 26th January 2021.

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.

121/20 To record Councillors' declarations of interest on Agenda Items.

None.

122/20 Councillor Vacancies

No applications to consider. There is a notice on the noticeboard, and it was suggested that a further advert could be in the next newsletter.

123/20 Public Speaking.

- (i) Report from County Councillor Brian Long: He said that business continues as it can in a remote fashion. The Cabinet are looking at the housing relief road for West Winch, which would run from Setchey through to the A47, so those traveling to the A47 can avoid the Hardwick Roundabout. He said that about 18 months ago the Borough Council agree to put a sum into a green lighting and heating project called REFIT. A REFIT 2 scheme has now been published which now includes additional measures. The Borough Council are likely to receive £2.8 million pounds back from the initial £1 million pound investment, so this could cover all Council owned buildings. S Mingay asked about the McDonalds development and the destruction of habitat and trees. Cllr Long advised that Downham Market Town Council have been keeping a close eye on this to ensure that the planning conditions and requirements are adhered to. He said that they were probably trying to do the works to the trees prior to bird nesting season. A Smith said that parishioners had expressed concerns to her regarding litter, and Cllr Long said that McDonalds do employ staff to tidy the site and the local area.

Cllr Long left the meeting.

- (ii) No members of public present.

124/20 Matters arising for items not covered elsewhere on the agenda – info only.

None.

125/20 New Village Hall Working Group

A Smith has already emailed her update: 'Since our last update in May 2020, Swann Edwards have completed their stage 1 Feasibility Study for a proposed new village hall. The study was funded by the Parish Council and a consultant was used to ensure the study was independent. The study developed from the information gathered from the Community and User group survey and reviewed the village as a whole, identifying a number of sites for initial feasibility appraisals.' It is proposed to hold a community consultation event when lockdown restrictions allow so that residents can air their views as to which option to take forward to a design stage.

126/20 Correspondence

Clerk & Councils Direct newsletter

A complaint has been received from a parishioner regarding dogs barking, they were advised to contact the BCKLWN as they have a team that address these issues. After discussion, it was identified that this is not an isolated occurrence in the village, so it was agreed that an article should be written for the newsletter.

Various via email

127/20 Highways

- a Update and Issues to be reported

Large potholes on Low Road near the beet pad and on West Way opposite the shop. The road surface is breaking up on Church Road near S Mingay's house. Andy Wallace has advised that the Rangers will

look at the trod on West Way when they next visit the village. The footpath on Lynn Road, from Millers Lane to the A10, is very overgrown and needs cutting and edging. The PROW from Tinkers Lane to Millers Lane has still not been cut and it has been reported to Highways that there is barbed wire on the ground which is a hazard. Clerk to contact the Highways Manager and say that this has been reported before and is dangerous.

128/20 C.I.L Funding

Clerk contacted the BCKLWN for advice regarding proposals but due to staff shortages they are unable to respond. S Mingay suggested that additional benches could be considered for the Village Green, in conjunction with the proposed tree works.

129/20 Wildflower Planting

Clerk contacted Nick from Holly Landscapes regarding the ground preparation, and he suggested that two trial areas are considered initially as for large parts of the year the land will be bare. He suggested two areas, one on each side of the entrance to Turners Close of 2 x 6m and he would charge £200 for the ground preparation of these. All agreed that this was the most sensible option. Clerk will contact BCKLWN.

130/20 Village Green

I Cable and J Squires met with Richard Fisher, the BCKLWN Tree's Officer. On proposal from I Cable and seconded by S Mingay, all agreed to the proposed tree works, which is to remove the Lime Tree which is in decline and the smaller of the 3 sycamore and for the remaining trees to have their crowns thinned by 20%. Richard advised that the Lime should be replaced with a standard Common Lime or English Oak. It was agreed that the replacement Tree would be an English Oak. Clerk to apply for consent and get quotes for the works.

131/20 Representatives Reports – to receive any updates.

Recreation Ground – Field a bit wet and boggy. One piece of equipment has been taken out of use and pending repair.

Village Hall – The hall should re-open on 12th April if Covid restrictions are lifted. Only one group able to run at present.

Village Green – Nothing further.

Footpaths – All ok. PROW still an issue, as previously discussed and Trod running from the end of West Way. Clerk contacted William Esse and he responded that the beet haulage company had made a bit of a mess and that as soon as is practicable he will hire a digger and reinstate the area.

100-Acre Trust – I Cable advised they had a meeting in February and there is nothing to report.

Allotments – J Squires advised that they all look ok.

132/20 Maintenance

A walk around the Village to be arranged when able, possibly May.

133/20 Streetlights

Clerk contacted Eon and they advised that electricity costs are likely to reduce by at least 50%. Clerk also contacted some other parishes and they said they made savings of around 60% on electricity, as well as reduced maintenance costs.

On proposal from I Cable and seconded by S Bates, all agreed to replace the bulbs with LED ones to make savings and reduce ongoing costs.

134/20 Newsletter

Not much to report at present, but next one likely to be May.

135/20 Planning

Nothing to consider.

136/20 Citizens Advice Bureau

In response to their donation request letter, they confirmed that they helped 12 Wimbotsham residents in the last year. On proposal from S Bates and seconded by I Cable, all agreed to donate £100.

137/20 Finance

- (a) The following payments were agreed at tonight's meeting:
NALC training contribution confirmed at £18.00 each course, Came & Co. Insurance - £457.93, BCKLWN Dog waste collection - £471.12, Norfolk CAB Donation - £100.00 and Royal British Legion Donation - £100.00.
- (b) Accounts to 28th February 2021 agreed and to be signed.
- (c) On proposal from S Mingay and seconded by A Smith, all agreed to the appointment of Jo Raby as Internal Auditor.

138/20 Councillors concerns and items for next meeting agenda.

C.I.L. Funding application/s. S Bates proposes that the Parish Council arrange an event for the children of the village in late August/early September if the Summer Fair is unable to go ahead. Further information and proposal to be brought to next meeting. I Cable felt that the event should be for all residents. It was agreed that it was a good proposal, but that it may attract people from outside the village. The Chair of the Fenland Classic Bike Show wants support from the Parish Council, subject to Covid rules permitting the event. It was proposed that thanks should be expressed to the Christmas Tree Group of Paul Goodrum, Dusty Miller, and Chris Hartley for the Village Christmas Tree. It was then proposed that thanks also be sent to Kate and Ian for putting up the Christmas lights at the Village Hall.

139/20 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 20th April 2021 starting at 7pm. Clerk suggested holding the Annual Parish Meeting at this time, as suggested by NALC, but Councillors felt it should be kept in May.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chairman:

Date

DRAFT