

WIMBOTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7.00pm, held at Wimbotsham Methodist Church.

In Attendance: Councillors: Chair Jackie Squires, Vice-Chair Ian Cable, Dean Chilvers, Steve Mingay, Anne Smith and 1 member of the public. Clerk – Pippa Winson

138/21 To consider apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Borough Councillors Colin Rose and Vivienne Spikings and County Councillor Brian Long.

139/21 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.

140/21 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 25th January 2022.

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

141/21 To record Councillors' declarations of interest on Agenda Items.

None.

142/21 Councillor Vacancies

No applications to consider. Clerk will ask NALC if they can suggest any text for the newsletter. S Bates has now resigned so it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent for his time as a Parish Councillor.

143/21 Public Speaking.

- a) Borough Councillor Colin Rose had already circulated his report: 'Council tax for a band D property has increased by £4.50 leading to a charge of £139.37, of which £57.20 goes to the Internal Drainage Boards. Considering that in the overall area 300,000 properties are at risk this is money well spent. However, the Leader, Stuart Dark is looking at other ways to fund such work so that it is less of a burden to Council Tax payers. However, the Council's services are provided for just £82.17p per year. 23p per day covers a wide range of services including: Bin Collections, Tourism, helping people in a housing crisis, etc., in the largest local authority area in Norfolk and one of the largest in England. There has been an increase in CT relief and £78 million in grants to support local businesses. Which means that for every 4p of the council tax total in every £1 a host of services are provided with the increase generally below the current rate of inflation. We collect Council Tax for the NCC, The office of the Police and crime commissioner and parish Councils. There is a funding position for the next three years. There have been investments in litter picking and fly-tipping, commitment to the Town Deal projects across King's Lynn and we are putting £250k per annum for the next 4 years to tackle climate change and to support communities. More than a 1/4 of tariffs have not been increased. We have been identified as one of the areas to benefit from the government's levelling up scheme and are keen to engage but awaiting details of what this could mean. Other preceptors charge for their own services. When all are combined the average band D property charge is £2,014. Hopefully we can look forward to a return to some kind of normal now that SAGE has disbanded, but with staff shortages and a huge backlog please anticipate some delays. The next Police Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel will take place as a hybrid meeting on 13th April at 19.00, venue to be confirmed but probably Barroway Drove VH. However, Paula Gilluley is on leave until the 15th. I have left an email requesting confirmation to SBPC. Any other PC that can offer a venue with broadband on a gratis basis is welcome to make contact as there are three more meetings anticipated this year. As Police moral is very low more attendance in support would be much appreciated. The last meeting was only about 25 mins, this is your chance to help set local Police priorities. I have £490 left in my Cllr's grant if any community groups need some funding, unfortunately PCs are excluded, but if you missed the February CIL date there is another round in July for August. The last round was oversubscribed'.
- b) Members of the public. No matters raised.

144/21 Matters arising for items not covered elsewhere on the agenda – info only.

Wildflower planting at Turners Close, D Chilvers is meeting with Nick this week to confirm location.

145/21 New Village Hall Working Group

- (a) A Smith met with the headmistress of the school and want to work with the Parish Council. Still waiting for the responses to the planning pre-applications which were submitted.

- (b) On proposal from J Squires and seconded by S Mingay, all agreed to request to pay the £216 fee to CAN to submit the application to set up the C.I.O (Charitable Incorporated Organisation).

146/21 Village Green

Nick from Holly Landscapes has advised that the replacement tree needs to be planted in the Autumn rather than now , as it would require twice weekly watering through the summer. Barcham have offered a good deal on a tree for £200 and it was agreed that Nick's advice should be taken. On proposal from I Cable and seconded by D Chilvers it was agreed that the tree should be reserved. J Squires advised that her mum would like to cover the cost of the tree for the village. It was suggested a metal tree guard should be considered with a plaque, to be a future agenda item. The clerk advised that she had discovered that the 3 Lime Trees were planted on the Village Green to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee Diamond in 1897.

147/21 Recreation Ground

It was previously suggested that the Recreation Ground could consider installing a fence at the rear boundary and that the Parish Council could consider contributing rather than pay for additional fencing next to the Trod on Low Road. S Mingay advised that historically fencing had been installed there and it hadn't lasted very long so the Recreation Ground Committee decided that they did not want to spend any funds on this. They suggested slash and layering hedging and/or shrubs may be more effective. The Parish Council were still concerned about public safety and asked if S Mingay would go back to the Committee to ask them to re-visit their decision. S Mingay agreed but their next meeting isn't until early April. J Squires advised that there may be a Safety Officer at NCC who may be able to offer advice.

148/21 Correspondence

BC – posters advising of sessions that they are holding for those in privately rented properties giving advice to help those struggling to heat their homes

Email received from NCC: 'Over the past year the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Team has received multiple reports of issues relating to the condition of Millers Lane. This is a restricted byway and as such Norfolk County Council as the Highway Authority has a duty to maintain it for use on foot, on horseback and for non-mechanically propelled vehicles such as pedal cycles. Whilst other private rights may exist over this track, the requirement to maintain it to a higher standard, for example for the passage of cars and vans, does not rest with the Highway Authority. It is usual and expected that this is shared between those who exercise those higher rights. We are contacting you to suggest that the Parish Council are in the best position to take action in regard to this issue, for example brokering a local solution to arrange ongoing repairs to the lane, supported by those allotment holders, business and residents using the lane in motor vehicles'. It was suggested that an article is put into the newsletter and to see what the residents think. The PC could consider contributing to materials. Clerk will contact Frimstone for costs per tonne. To be on next agenda for further discussion.

Various via email

149/21 Highways

(a) Update and Issues to be reported

Pothole by the Village Hall. The path on Westway near number 69 and the layby needs cutting back. The footpath outside number 39 is damaged. The path on Lynn Road towards the A10 needs siding and cutting back and the other side too, opposite Millers Lane. The vegetation needs cutting back on the path towards Downham also. It is felt that the vegetation needs cutting back harder in this area as it is only ever given a minimal trim. S Mingay has already advised of a Loose and projecting kerbstone outside 35 church road which is a potential Trip hazard. Possibly caused by HGV's accessing the big house.

(b) A10 Issues

J Squires missed the last SNAP meeting as she had the wrong time. J Squires read out her email to Paula Gilluley, the Police Community Engagement Officer. She asked if 'other parish councils adjacent to the A10 show concern about the A10 and just what these are please?'. J Squires then read out Paula's response: 'At the last SNAP Meeting for the Downham Market area the priorities of Speeding at Welney, Rural Crime in Terrington and Anti-social Behaviour in Downham Market were voted in. As I am sure you are aware, Speeding is a complaint raised by many parishes and towns, not just within in Norfolk but Nationwide. While our Roads Policing Officers and Local Policing Team Officers and our Camera Safety Partnership Team do carry out speed enforcement and checks county-wide it is simply not possible to spend significant amounts of time in any one location. It is often useful to link in with Highways for long term solutions to speeding concerns who have the remit for roadside

furniture such as the lighting of bollards and road layouts. I will raise your concerns with our Camera Safety Team and see if they have this area as a hot-spot location for attendance as well as highlighting the area to our Roads Policing Team’.

150/21 Wimbotsham School

- (a) The school have raised concerns over parking and have a ‘School Run Pledge’
The children are raising some money to buy some cartoon children figures which can be put in places where parking causes an obstruction around the school. The figures would be removed each day. They have requested consent from the PC, the Parish Council don’t own or control the land so are unable to give consent, but have no objection to the proposal. It was suggested that ‘No Parking’ signs may be the best solution. It was suggested that maybe parents, on a rota basis, could ensure that the children leave safely. Possibly talk to parents as they park to encourage better parking practices. It was also suggested that the school could remind parents of the new Highway Code changes particularly in respect of pedestrians.
- (b) Request for the PC to hold a dummy PC meeting for the school so that the children can take part. It was agreed that I Cable and J Squires would attend, it was suggested that they contact J Squires for potential dates in April.

151/21 SAM2

It returned from Runcton Holme at the end of January. There was a delay in it going back up due to Covid. It was erected on 13th February on West Way. It will be up in Church Road in two weeks.

152/21 Queens Platinum Jubilee Event on 5th June 2022

- (a) J Squires read out the plan for the day. On Sunday 5th June in the afternoon, we will be joining in with the Big Jubilee lunch by holding a community picnic on the village green. The village hall will be open, which is adjacent to the green, for teas, coffees and use of the toilets. This is also our wet weather venue. We will be giving each child in the village a commemorative gift of a platinum jubilee mug, which they can collect at the picnic, or alternatively will be delivered to their homes. We will hand out platinum crowns for people to wear, face stickers for the children, handheld flags and hang platinum jubilee bunting in the trees and on the village hall. We will be running a fancy-dress competition, for the best crown. There will be different age group categories with prizes for the winners and runner up prizes for every entry. Wimbotsham Primary School will be producing a display of drawings, poems and written research which will be on show in the village hall, A Smith will liaise with the school on this. People can view this display during the Jubilee lunch day. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has offered their assistance on the day with the preparations and activities on the village green. A Smith offered to speak to Kim at The Chequers to see if they could run a BBQ for the Thursday evening on the Village Green. The Recreation Ground have a gazebo if required. D Chilvers will speak to S Bates regarding the beacon lighting.
- (b) Grant Application
Application has been submitted and decisions will be made at the end of April.
- (c) Purchase of Commemorative Gifts
It was agreed that where possible products will be UK produced. Need to know the number of items to order. If parishioners want a Jubilee mug, then they will have to register their interest. I Cable offered to put a flyer together to publicise this and the rest of the Jubilee events.
- (d) Merchandise purchases
As discussed above.
- (e) Informing Villagers of Events
As already discussed, flyer will be produced for distribution.
- (f) Assistance required
Will need to try and get further volunteers to help.
- (g) Any other ideas for discussion
No further ideas to discuss at this time.

153/21 Litter Pick

Request from school for joint litter pick. Agreed that happy to hold joint event. The Parish Council are able to get equipment from the Borough Council if the litter pick is on public land. A Smith will liaise with the school to choose a date and then the clerk can book equipment and rubbish collection. Will put posters up to advertise.

154/21 Representatives, to receive any updates.

- a) **Recreation Ground** – Have submitted application for CIL funding for the zipwire.

- b) Village Hall** – All ok. No committee meeting has been held for over 2 years. A meeting needs to be arranged so that the bookings clerk/treasurer can receive her honoraria payment. Clerk will chase D Fendley on this.
- c) Village Green** – The tree work is now complete.
- d) Footpaths** – All ok.
- e) 100-Acre Trust** – Nothing to report.
- f) Allotments** – All ok.

155/21 Maintenance

- a)** Asset Register - Nothing to report.
- b)** Turners Close Memorial Tree – Clerk has contacted NCC regarding this, will chase for update.

156/21 Newsletter

It is out now and being delivered. D Chilvers will deliver a copy to the school.

157/21 Planning

Nothing to discuss.

158/21 C.I.L Funding

The joint application for the Trod with Stow Bardolph Parish Council, between Wimbotsham and Stow Bridge was submitted by the clerk.

159/21 C.I.L Payments

Fencing at the Village Hall was mentioned again. D Chilvers said that he would check back on his notes regarding the length required. I Cable and/or D Chilvers happy to meet on site.

160/21 Society of Local Council Clerks

On proposal from J Squires and seconded by A Smith, all agreed to support the request from SLCC to support the petition to allow flexibility with regard to remote and hybrid meetings.

161/21 Finance

- (a)** On proposal from J Squires and seconded by A Smith, all agreed to the appointment of J Raby as Internal Auditor.
- (b)** Payments agreed: Wimbotsham Methodist Church (Hall Hire) - £18.00, Limetree (Newsletter) - £282.20, Flagmakers (St George's flag) - £54.06, Clerk (Rigby Taylor Wildflower Seeds) - £222.00, Gallagher Insurance - £487.02, HMRC (Clerks Income Tax Q4) - £199.80.
- (c)** Accounts to 28th February 2022 agreed and signed.

162/21 Councillors concerns and items for next meeting agenda.

None.

163/21 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 26th April 2022 starting at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed, clerk will check Village Hall availability.

Meeting closed at 9.27pm

Chairman:

Date