

PARISH COUNCIL OF WARESLEY-CUM-TETWORTH

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 31 July 2014 in Waresley Village Hall.

Parish Councillors present: Eleanor Jack (Chair), Chris Thorne, John Archer, Helen Richardson, Valerie Coleman.

Also present: County Councillor Julie Wisson, District Councillor Barbara Boddington, Laurence and Ingrid Broderick, Richard and Rosalind Nash, David Taine

Apologies: District Councillor Richard West

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 5 June 2014: these were read and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising:

Telephone Box: There was no progress to report re the replacement of the door.

Wildlife Trust: Access to Sugley/Gamlingay Wood from the Avenue. Eleanor Jack had received a letter from the Wildlife Trust just after the Open Meeting reiterating their reasons re their refusal to allow access. The letter had been circulated to parish councillors and was available from Eleanor Jack if anyone wanted to read it.

Waresley Park Garden Centre Planning Application: The plans for a play area have been approved by the District Council Planning Committee subject to height restrictions re play equipment and on condition that the play area was at least 30 metres from residential boundaries.

Parkside: Anonymous letters had been received by the Parish Council suggesting that a car repair business was operating from Parkside. John Archer had conducted some preliminary research into home based businesses and any requirements for planning permission. In this instance it did not appear that there was sufficient evidence or cause for the Parish Council to get involved further.

Open Session:

Laurence Broderick informed the meeting that he was aware of a heavy vehicle travelling at speed down Vicarage Road most mornings between 3 to 4 am which frequently hit a pothole and caused significant disturbance. Laurence has reported the pothole to the Highways Dept. and they have responded. He also reported that sheds had been erected in the field used for the flocks of sheep and that these were very close to his boundary and consequently affected the light in his shed. Eleanor Jack sympathised but advised that this was not a matter for the Parish Council.

District and County Councillor Reports: Both District Councillor Barbara Boddington and County Councillor Julie Wisson highlighted the plans of Network Rail to close all level crossings in the area as a part of the proposed modernisation of the East Coast Line rail infrastructure. Crossings would be replaced by bridges or underpasses. These proposals also include crossings outside of Cambridgeshire/Huntingdonshire including that near Everton. **Julie Wisson will email a pdf re the consultation process on this to Eleanor Jack for circulation.** The consultation on the Long Term

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Transport Strategy for Cambridgeshire has now closed but issues under discussion include road infrastructure including the A 428.

Councillor Wisson highlighted the useful Speedwatch website and wheelie bin stickers as an inexpensive method getting the speeding message across to drivers. She also confirmed that the road works planned for Drewels Lane had been delayed.

Councillor Boddington informed the Parish Council of her work on assessing the need for community defibrillators in local villages. She is looking for potential sources of funding to cover the estimated cost of £1000 per unit and will keep the Parish Council informed.

Councillors interests: no conflicts of interest were declared

Highways: Since the last meeting the Parish Council had concentrated on gathering evidence of speeding in the village and providing Speedwatch training for volunteers. Currently there are 8 volunteers and 6 have received the training. John Archer and others had used the Speedwatch equipment to monitor traffic speeds at the junction of Gransden Road/Vicarage Road. John Archer reported that 48% of cars coming up the hill from Gransden had been travelling in excess of 30 mph.

Eleanor Jack and John Archer had met with Sharon Piper, Policy and Regulation Manager, Cambs County Council to discuss the options for speed reduction/safety measures in the village. She had stressed that it was the job of the County Council to advise on the best solutions for the village rather than the Parish Council. Eleanor Jack however has subsequently received updated correspondence re the Local Highways Improvement Initiative 2015/16 which indicates that all projects involving Enforcement or physical traffic calming submitted under this scheme need to have been referred to Derek Crosby, Police Traffic Management Officer at Cambs County Council.

Eleanor Jack will speak to Derek Crosby to clarify the requirements re consultation.

There was further discussion re the Local Highways Improvement Initiative and which applications for speed reduction/safety measures might have a chance of success. Only one application was allowed and there was discussion (including suggestions from villagers in attendance) whether 2 distinct elements ie a children crossing sign painted on the road near Vicarage Road and a proposal for a chicane at the entrance to the village on Gamlingay Road could constitute one application.

The Parish Council agreed after discussion that it would make an application for the construction of a chicane on Gamlingay Rd. It was suggested that the residents of Vicarage Road could form themselves into a "local community group" and make their own application to the Local Highways Improvement Initiative. Alternatively, the Parish Council could raise the precept to cover the estimated cost of £600 to cover this work with the approval of the Highways Department. The Parish Council will continue in the meantime to gather evidence of speeding using the speedwatch equipment.

Rosalind Nash queried why one of the houses owned by Luminus Housing Association was still unoccupied. It was pointed out that Luminus is a private housing association and this issue was outside the Parish Council's remit.

She also asked who was responsible for the upkeep of the footpath around Waresley Wood near Browne's Pieces- Chair said it was a matter for the County Council and the relevant landowner, but that the area described appeared to be just over the parish boundary in Great Gransden.

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Appointment of Parish Clerk: Geraldine Fensome had resigned as Parish Clerk after 3 years of service. The Parish Council had received an offer of assistance from Sylvia Sullivan the current Parish Clerk of Little Gransden. An advert had been placed in the Roundabout and will be circulated via the email mailing list. It was suggested also that the clerks of Abbotsley and Great Gransden might also be contacted. **The Parish Council will await responses from the advertisements and make their decision.**

Parish Website: Chris Thorne has arranged for a website developer to meet with Eleanor Jack on August 6th 2014 to discuss the Parish Council's requirements.

Finance: The following payments were approved:

EON £44.99

Simon Slater (for churchyard maintenance) £75.00

AOB/ Date of the Next Meeting: Huntingdonshire District Council has opened an online consultation "Balancing Our Budgets" throughout the month of August. Eleanor Jack will circulate the details to the village email list.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Thursday 25th September 2014 at 8.00pm in Waresley Village Hall.

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