



Waters Upton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Waters Upton Parish Council which took place on **Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at 7.30pm in Waters Upton Village Hall.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs L M Baker Oliver (Chairman)
T Revitt
E Thomas
J Griffin

In attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
5 Members of the public
Cllr S Bentley (TWC)

19/3623 **WELCOME**

The Chairman, Councillor Baker Oliver, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

PUBLIC SESSION

A442 Cold Hatton Central Refuges

Concerns were expressed that the temporary signage has now been knocked out of place and the base pads are not visible to drivers, particularly at night and in poor weather conditions.

The Clerk was instructed to inform TWC and to ask when details of the proposals for this area of the Parish will be available.

Police Support and Information

Concerns were expressed that the local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are not kept up to date with local incidents and information. It is accepted that the information system does now send through messages, but they do not include local information. The community is aware of an incident in November, which has not yet appeared on the report.

19/3624 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr D Smith	Authorised Leave of Absence
Cllr B Rothwell	Annual Holiday

RESOLVED that these apologies be accepted.

19/3625 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of the need to declare an interest in any items on the agenda and should this be pecuniary, then Members should leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

All Members had declared an interest in budget discussions but had a dispensation to take part in the discussion and to set the precept for 2019/20.

19/3626 **MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER 2018**

It was proposed by Councillor Revitt and seconded by Councillor Thomas, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2018 be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

19/3627 **MATTERS ARISING**

Highway and Safety Signs

It had now been nearly three years since the initial sign audit was requested by TWC and the Councillors worked to put together a comprehensive list of missing and damaged signs around the Parish. It is accepted that some, particularly on the B5062, were replaced but there are many still damaged or missing. Others have since been added to the list following accidents. It was agreed that the Clerk must keep the pressure on TWC highways to ensure that all signs are repaired or replaced as soon as possible. They should be reminded that the damaged sign at Middle Lane, Cold Hatton has the Parish Smartwater sign attached to it.

A442 Cold Hatton

An update had been requested and a report is forwarded to the officer (now Adam Brookes) to request action after each accident / incident that occurs. The police report that there have been no significant incidents since the removal of the central refuges, but they do appear on the Shropshire Fire & Rescue Site. It was agreed that we should update Inspector Gary Wade and invite him to attend a follow on meeting with the Parish Council.

New Recruit

The Parish New Recruit, PC Wayne Upton, has been seen in the Parish and appears to have a positive effect. Other locations are required – please get in touch if you have an issue that he may be able to help with.

Blocked Road Drains and Gullies

Following the recent reports, TWC has visited sites in Great Bolas and cleared the road drains. We need to report any other locations, please contact the Clerk with details.

19/3628 **FINANCE**

a) Payments

Cheque No	Payment	Law / Statute	Amount
000068	Clerk’s Salary	LGA 1972 s112	600.00
000069	PAYE	LGA 1972 s112	150.00
000070	Hall Hire	LGA 1972	108.00
000071	Parish Centre Bins, windows and CCTV reimbursed	LGA 1972 s133	792.00
000072	Street Light Energy	LGA 1972 Sch 14 p34	456.66
000073	Library redecorating, shelving (grant funded)	LGA 1972 s133	666.94
000074	Roadman, churchyards, play areas, bus shelters, parish centre etc (2 months)	LGA 1972 s135	713.00

The Payment Voucher and cheques were signed by two Councillors within the terms of the Council’s Financial Regulations.

b) Financial Report

The total in the current account at 10th January 2019 was £52,581 which includes the funds raised for Parish Room Croft and the Defibrillator.

c) Budget

Members had considered the draft budget which had been provided to Councillors before the meeting. Details were available of the current year spending and explanations available for under-spends and earmarked reserves.

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Revitt that the precept for 2019/2020 be set at £24,450. All were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would raise a precept of £24,450 for 2019/20 which would be collected by TWC as part of the Council Tax Bills. The funding will be provided back to the parish as 50% in April and 50% in September.

Details of the budget and earmarked reserves will be included in the Annual Report.

19/3629 PLANNING

a) Planning Applications Updates

None

b) New Applications for consideration

TWC/2018/0815 18 Crudgington

Amended plans had been received

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would continue to express concern that the proposed development is still too large for the site, both the footprint and height are inappropriate for this location. Also, the design is not in keeping with the area which is therefore contrary to the Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan.

TWC/2018/1041 Land opposite Hillcrest, Sytch Lane

Proposed eco-dwelling

RESOLVED that the Parish Council could not support such a development as it is outside of the WU Neighbourhood Plan. The site is limited and the proposal would not be appropriate at such a location which is not in the village of Waters Upton and not a brownfield site. This area is known to be on a flood plain and there were concerns that rainwater which travels down Sytch Bank could cause issues on the site.

TWC/2018/0807 and 0808 Meeson Hall Mews

RESOLVED to support the application which had been submitted on the advice of the Heritage Officer and which would ensure that the development is in keeping with this Listed Building.

c) Other Planning Matters

i) The Swan Site

Provisional plans were to be available and a meeting will take place with the Parish Council and Ward Members. We are told that it will include a Community Asset as part of the proposals. The Parish Council will seek to ensure that it also includes other elements of the scheme which are essential for the success of the CA, which will include adequate car parking.

ii) River Lane sewage treatment box

Following a meeting of the Swan Court residents with TWC, it is understood that there is now a plan of action to rectify this situation. It is disappointing that the developer who is responsible for the situation cannot be made to rectify the issues as his company went into liquidation.

19/3630 CORRESPONDENCE

Items received for information – please contact the Clerk if you wish to read any of these documents or if you require additional information.

- a) All correspondence has been shared with Members throughout the period since the last meeting. Members have not requested that any should be included on the agenda.
- b) Shropshire Association of Local Councils
Members were reminded of the need to keep up to date with changes in legislation and to be aware of their responsibilities as a Parish Councillor. It is important to read all communications from our Association which are circulated. Training and information seminars are also useful. Anyone considering standing for election in May will be invited to attend Training and Information sessions which can be funded by the Parish Council.
- c) Telford & Wrekin Council Events
All Members are invited to support the Mayor and a number of invitations have been circulated. The Parish Council cannot fund tickets to charity / fund-raising events, but Members are welcome to attend if it is their wish.
- d) River Lane, Waters Upton
At last the One – Way down hill order comes into force on 7th February 2019 and the road will be closed whilst the road markings and signs are erected. TWC has agreed to extend the road closure order for one day to enable our Roadman to remove the excess soil and to trim back the hedges and to tidy the boundaries whilst the road is closed.

19/3631 RIGHTS OF WAY (WET3P)

- a) A meeting of the WET3P will take place late in February or early in March. Kynnersley PC has asked to join the partnership. We still have posts and waymarkers available. Thanks were extended to the local residents that are walking the routes and noting all obstacles and where signs etc. are missing. This will be an ideal opportunity to get routes fully accessible and we will be able to promote safe routes and encourage a walking group to meet on a regular basis and enjoy our countryside.
All landowners are respectfully asked to ensure that routes across their land are open and accessible and clearly signposted.
Andrew Careless, Rights of Way Officer, TWC, has agreed to ensure that the signs are clear to ensure that local routes are easily identifiable.
- b) The re-opening of the route between Parish Room Croft and Swan Court can only be achieved by negotiation or a legal court order. The initial enquiry to Land Registry informed the Parish Council that it was not a situation that could be supported and recommended that the negotiation took place in the first instance.

19/3632 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman informed the meeting that there had been no further progress with the complaint to TWC regarding the Planning Committee procedures, although the Independent Assessor had been in touch to explain that further meetings had now taken place with Members of the Planning Committee. A response is expected in February.

The CPRE meeting took place at Edmond and it was clear that there would be benefits to CPRE becoming a statutory consultee, they are in other areas, but not it TWC. This was supported at the meeting and the Parish Council agreed that it would be an advantage, particularly to rural parishes.

Clean Green Day will take place in September and it is hoped that the Parish Council will arrange an event.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

None

19/3633 CLERK'S REPORT

a) Green Guarantee Sites

Details have been circulated and it is disappointing that there are none in rural areas. It would appear that TWC have selected urban sites for this status.

b) Speed Indicator Devices

There was a lot of support for the creation of a partnership to enable rural parishes, with limited budgets, to be able to join with others for the provision of SIDs to assist in identifying speed related issues and to highlight concerns to road users and residents. A meeting will take place in June and Waters Upton would be invited following their register of interest in such a scheme.

c) Dog Waste Bin request

A bin has been requested for Meeson, it was agreed that the question would be asked of TWC and the new contractor regarding new bin sites and the cost of providing and emptying so that Members can consider this at a future meeting.

d) ID Badges

It was agreed that following the election, new ID badges will be required for all Members and Waters Upton would join with other local councils to have an agreed design, with a T & W PTC lanyard.

e) Wrekin Area Committee

The Clerk had represented the council at this meeting in Donnington where details of SIDs, Arriva 519 bus and planning were discussed.

There was a lot of unrest between local councils regarding the planning process at TWC and it was agreed to raise this issue, with examples, with the Managing Director and Leader of TWC through the Parish Charter Monitoring Group.

Questions were also asked about the benefits of Neighbourhood Plans, when there was evidence that TWC does not always take their policies into consideration when considering applications in Parishes that have Neighbourhood Plans. It had been agreed to enlist the help of SALC to identify if other local authorities treat NPs in the same way. Once more information is available, SALC will be asked to raise this with The Secretary of State.

f) Live Well Telford

A new community information system will be available soon. Details of all PTCs will be included and it will be publicly accessible to enable local residents to obtain details of where to go to for help and assistance with a wide range of service providers.

g) Twincl

This is a community lottery and organisations can register so that anyone purchasing lottery tickets can indicate that they wish a percentage of their stakes to go to their chosen organisation. All organisations receive a percentage of any profits on an annual basis.

h) Open Watercourse, Orchard Close

There remains one outstanding letter to be returned to TWC and when this has been received, the work can commence. This is vitally important at this time, as a lot of waste soil, rubble etc. has made its way into the watercourse from recent building works. TWC had confirmed that they will take further action if the letter is not received due to the seriousness of the issue.

i) Street Lighting Upgrade

Work has continued to ensure that the proposed new LED lighting will not unnecessarily affect the wildlife and night skies. A proposal, within budget, is being finalised and a meeting of the Sub-Committee will take place in February so that a recommendation can be brought forward to the next meeting.

19/3634 REPORT FROM TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

- Councillor Bentley was pleased to report that the usage of the Arriva 519 Saturday service was increasing and Arriva are 'very pleased' with the take up. Ercall Magna Parish Council has agreed to hold the funds and Arriva will send through the invoice towards the end of the trial period. Any shortfall on funding will be provided by a private company which has kindly agreed to support this worthwhile scheme.
- The proposed industrial development at Shawburch had been met with strong opposition, particularly from Apley and Shawburch residents. Working with other Members of TWC, a request to the Leader resulted in an announcement that the application is to be withdrawn by Homes England, who is the owner of the site. However, Cllr Bentley warned that it is his belief that there was political motive behind this and that an application will be re-submitted following the election. He and his colleagues have announced that it would be their wish that a Review of the Local Plan takes place as soon as possible so that inappropriate land designations such as this can be reviewed.
- A request for the PCC to consider average speed cameras on the A442 had not been successful due to a lack of evidence over the past 5 years. This brings back the view that the police do not record all accidents and therefore the evidence and statistics are not up to date.
- There will be a 3.2% increase in Council Tax, along with increases for the police and fire & rescue services, this was agreed as part of a two year budget however the settlement from Government has not yet been announced and therefore TWC has not produced its budget for 2019/20.
- The CPS is not pursuing the Post Office robbery case.
- Concerns exist locally about the loss of wildlife and birds visiting the village. This was included in the Neighbourhood Plan and it is a worry that it may be that the new building within the village is causing this to take place.

19/3635 PARISH MATTERS

a) Neighbourhood Watch and SmartWater

Our co-ordinator gave a report which focused on local concerns that we are not always aware of incidents. Recent garden thefts had only been reported by our own What's App and Nextdoor information services and not by the police.

Smartwater kits are still available at the reduced price of £8.90, this is a limited offer and local residents are encouraged to have their kit and advertise the fact that their equipment is security marked – it is a deterrent to would-be intruders.

b) Other Matters

A442 Solar Slow Down Sign

This sign as you enter Crudgington at Sleaf, is still not working.

Woodland Trust

A request for a tree pack will be submitted.

Crudgington School

Parents and children appreciate having the PCSOs outside of school on occasions to raise awareness of the need for the 20mph zone at school times.

19/3636 NEXT MEETING

27th February 2019 7.30pm Full Council Waters Upton Village Hall

The March meeting will move forward to 20th March in order that it can take place before Purdah, which starts on 26th March and remains in place until the election.

The Chairman thanked Members and the public for their important contributions to the meeting. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed **Date**

These Minutes are produced in draft form. E & OE until confirmed as a true record by Full Council at the next meeting on 27th February 2019.