



## Waters Upton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Waters Upton Parish Council which took place on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm in Waters Upton Village Hall.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors:

T Revitt (Vice Chairman)  
E Thomas  
H Roberts  
J Quin

**In attendance:**

Katrina Baker (Clerk)  
Cllr S Bentley (Ward Member)  
15 Members of the public

**20/3817 WELCOME**

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Revitt, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Unfortunately, the Chairman had been delayed as he travelled back from York.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Footpath – Pinfold Croft to Swan Court  
4, The Paddocks – hedging plants and drain pipe  
Wrekin Forest School – permissions, licences and future uses

**20/3818 APOLOGIES**

Councillor B Rothwell	Delayed due to poor weather conditions	Approved
Councillor J Griffin	Application for Leave of Absence for 6 months	Approved

**RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted and that 6 months Leave of Absence be granted to Cllr Griffin for personal circumstances.**

Jamie Brennan, the Manager of the AD site at Barns Farm, Rowton had sent a text to the Clerk on 24<sup>th</sup> February offering his apologies to tonight's meeting. The text read

*'My apologies I will not be able to attend the meeting. I will ensure that I am available in March. Just to give you an update, the works should have been finished outside of the school. However, the contractors ran out of tarmac which led to a delay. They expect to complete this morning.*

*The generator on site has been surrounded by obstructive barriers which help to mitigate the sound. The wind over recent weeks is causing problems with this but we have got this up and secure now.*

*I hope the light pollution is now reduced, we have very little activity later than 7pm on site.*

*There was a recent concern over the diesel from the gas connection point – this was investigated by CNG as it is controlled by them and Cadent. I have a meeting scheduled with them and will send any updates as and when they are available'.*

**20/3819 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.

None.

**20/3820 MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN JANUARY 2020**

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

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 be accepted and signed by the Acting Chairman as a true record.**

**20/3821 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA, FOR INFORMATION ONLY****a) Catsbitch Lane**

A message from TWC had confirmed that the work to repair the highway between Melverley House and The Lodge will take place w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> March (weather permitting).

**b) River Lane – STW connection**

Residents in Old Rectory Fields and Swan Court have been able to travel up and down River Lane for access. It was disappointing that they had not received the letters from STW to explain the extent of the work, however, there have been no issues to date.

**c) Orchard Close**

The work required on the open watercourse at the rear of Orchard Close properties has been further delayed as TWC resources have been transferred to the flooded areas of the Borough.

**d) Sytch Lane**

The Highways Officer had visited the area and understands the residents' concerns. However, it would not be possible to have purpose-made signs erected as they could distract drivers. They had, however, offered larger TRO signs and road markings. This will be added to a future agenda for the Highways Liaison Meetings.

**20/3822 FINANCE****a) Payments**

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the payments be agreed and that the cheques be signed in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

Cheque no	Payment	Regulation	Amount
000143	Parish Centre CCTV, bins and window cleaning	LGA 1972 s133	£1009.02
000144	Old Rectory Fields – legal fees	LGA 1972	£40.00
000145	Street Light Upgrades	LGA 1972 Sch 14 p 34	£816.00
000146	Parish roadman, play areas, churchyard and parish centre	LGA1972 s112	£429.00
000147	SLCC Subscriptions – 2020 x 25%	LGA 1972 s143	£56.20

**b) Receipts**

Waters Upton Stores has paid the electricity invoice.

**c) Financial Report**

The Current Account Balance was £37,966.20 at February 11<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**d) Earmarked Reserves**

A copy of the current earmarked reserves is available for consideration by Members as we approach the end of the financial year.

**20/3823 PLANNING****a) Planning Applications Updates****i) Old Rectory Fields**

The legal transfer has been completed and a copy of the Land Registry Title is available. An invoice for £40 had been received from Day's Solicitors for the disbursements.

**b) New Applications for consideration**

**TWC/2020/077 Erection of buildings store, silos and a new access at Moor Bank Farm**

**TWC/2020/079**

**TWC/2020/152**

These applications follow on from the permitted development already granted for an agricultural building on the opposite side of the road to Moorbank Farm.

Members support the proposals but would ask that the Planning Officer keeps in mind the B5062 and close distance to the blind bend at Moorbank when considering the new access.

**RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council has no objections to the proposed buildings, store, silos and access, but would request details of the access with particular reference to the location on the B5062 near to the blind bend.**

**TWC/2020/0081 Meeson House, Meeson**

**Retrospective Application for an agricultural storage building**

Waters Upton Parish Councillors discussed this retrospective application and were surprised that the owner did not realise that permission was required. Members remain opposed to retrospective applications, however they consider each one individually. Providing the building is constructed within the requirements of legal regulations, three councillors had no objections and one remained against the application. By a majority, it was confirmed that the Parish Council would support the application.

**RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would support this application, providing its construction meets all the necessary building regulations.**

**TWC/2020/0113 Riverside, 28 Stars Lane, Cold Hatton**

**Erection of a storage building, workshop and shed**

Waters Upton Parish Councillors are aware of the extensive history of the development of this site. There are inaccuracies in the application and therefore the Parish Council could not confirm whether or not it is in support of the proposals. However, it is important that the planning officer includes protection from future changes of use, if they are minded to approve this application. A condition should be added in that they cannot be used for any other purpose in the future.

**RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council makes comments regarding the need for conditions to protect the proposed developments from future changes of use.**

**c) Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan**

Members considered the Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan and its importance in the determination of planning applications in the Parish. As part of the monitoring and review, the Parish Council confirmed that the WUNP meets the needs of the Parish at this time.

**d) Other Planning Matters**

**i) The Swan site, Waters Upton**

TWC is in negotiation with the owner of the Swan site to confirm conditions that will secure the ACV provision for Waters Upton and to protect the site which is the entrance to the village and important to local residents.

**20/3824 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) Great Britain Spring Clean Events**

The Parish Council will arrange events on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 as part of the Great British Spring Clean. The event will take place from the village hall, between 10am and 4pm and will include sign cleaning, rights of way clearance as well as litter picking and drain identification. The Village Hall management committee is undertaking a spring clean in and around the building, too.

**c) Wrekin Forest School**

Details relating to the two aspects of leisure provision on the site are available and have been shared with Members. The Forest School has been established for 8 years and is approved, licensed and inspected by TWC and SC. It is a CIC and provides a venue for outdoor health and well being activities for schools including HLC, The Bridge School, Wolverhampton University and The Autism Outdoor Education Centre.

Also on the site is an Events Area, this is licensed for 5 events per year to have amplified music. This is monitored by TWC. Some users camp over night, under the 28 day rule. However, the Proprietor is aware that if they wish to extend the 28 days, they will need to apply for a license.

There are 10 pitches, available from April to September. The site is fully insured and they now employ security services to ensure that the music finishes on time.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk would ask for copies of the Inspection Reports and to ask if permission was needed for the removal of trees on the site.**

**20/3825 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

None.

**COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

None

**20/3826 CLERK'S REPORT**

**a) Flooding,**

The tanker and gulley team have visited the Parish and identified most of the drains. Although some are now clear of debris, others have not worked for years and are hidden in the verges. These will be added to a programme for repair.

**b) VE Day – 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May**

The Grant application has been acknowledged but not been determined yet. When we are aware of the figure, a meeting will be called to discuss the different aspect of the activities which are included from Friday to Sunday.

- Friday night pop up pub and film
- Saturday – parish walk and village green event
- Sunday – service and memorabilia display and afternoon tea and cakes

**c) Field View Fence**

Historic documents show the boundary fence between the play area and Corvedale as the responsibility of the Parish Council. Quotations are required to provide a new fence, on the Parish Council land. Councillor Quin offered to identify two companies who could offer a quotation and then it was agreed to delegate the decision to the Chairman and Councillor Quin when three quotations are available

**RESOLVED to get 3 quotations and for the Chairman and Councillor Quin to have delegated authority to make a decision.**

**d) Highway Maintenance, Upton Stones**

Waters Upton Parish Centre Management Committee has been informed of the propose work in order that Upton Stones can be adopted. This work entails footpath and highway maintenance and the replacement of kerbs and raising of the drains. The work has been delayed due to the other A442 work, but it is hoped that it will be completed soon. The street light upgrade is not included, however.

**20/3827 REPORT FROM TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

Councillor Stephen Bentley, one of the Ward Members for Edmond and Ercall Magna reported the following:

- A number of meetings with officers have taken place regarding local matters.

**20/3828 WEST MERCIA POLICE REPORT**

West Mercia police have offered advice regarding 'We Don't Buy Crime' grease which is available for farmers and

landowners. This is available at no charge for a trial period, after which they can be purchased if thought to be effective. Waters Upton remains a low crime zone, but everyone is encouraged to remain vigilant and to report anything at all 'out of the ordinary'.

It had been confirmed that anyone can add a camera to cover their property, however these cannot be set on public land.

20/3829

**PARISH MATTERS**

**a) Neighbourhood Watch and SmartWater**

Sufficient Smartwater Kits were purchased to enable all residents to be part of the scheme, there are kits available for the new house residents at the reduced cost of £8.90. New posters have been displayed and new residents are encouraged to purchase their kit to be a member of the scheme and to receive the benefits of 'We Don't Buy Crime'. Local residents are encouraged to register for the Neighbourhood What's App and to use the WUNW email system.

**b) Gates to The Parish Room Croft village green**

The gate hinges are to be made secure to prevent people being able to lift the gate in order to gain unauthorised access to the site.

**c) Suspicious Vehicles**

Residents are asked to note down registration numbers and to report suspicious vehicles or activity direct to the police on 999 in an emergency, or 101 to log information. The use of the Neighbourhood Watch App is excellent for spreading the details in order that everyone else can watch out for suspicious activity. However, Waters Upton Chat should be used for conversations so as not to dilute the importance of the WU Neighbourhood Watch App.

20/3830

**NEXT MEETING**

25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

7.30pm

Full Council

Waters Upton Village Hall

The Acting Chairman thanked Members for their important contributions to the meeting and thanked the residents for attending. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.*