



Minutes of the meeting of Waters Upton Parish Council which took place on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm in Waters Upton Village Hall.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: B Rothwell (Chairman)  
J Quin  
T Revitt  
H Roberts  
E Thomas

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

**19/3724 WELCOME**

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

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Overgrown Trees – front of The Stackyard and corner of churchyard**

During a meeting with the site owners, mention had been that the trees were left ‘for safety’ reasons whilst workmen are on the side of the highway. However, a request will be made for them to be cut back to improve visibility for drivers.

**19/3725 APOLOGIES**

Cllr J Griffin Personal circumstances

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

<b>RESOLVED that these apologies be accepted.</b>
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**19/3726 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.

Cllr E Thomas Crescent House Farm  
Land adjacent to Old Rectory Fields

**19/3727 MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN JUNE 2019**

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

<b>RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</b>
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**19/3728 MATTERS ARISING**

**Kickstart**

The first roadshow will take place at High Ercall on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August and for the following three Fridays. There will be a wide range of activities, information and services provided free of charge. There is no charge to attend. There will be something for everyone to have a go on and families are encouraged to come along and take part. BBC Radio Shropshire will be at the first event for the morning show.

The Crudginton event will take place at the school on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, we hope there will be a good attendance. This has been sponsored by the Parish Council, to enhance the funding available from TWC. Activities will be on from

10am until 4pm.

### **Defibrillator Training**

Thanks were extended to Di, Paul and Sarah, from the village, who had offered life-saving skills training and how to use the defibrillator at the Village Hall. There were 11 people who attended. It was agreed that further sessions could be available, in an evening, and the first would be baby and children's first aid and life-saving. Dates will be announced in the newsletter.

### **Dog Fouling**

Whilst some areas have improved, there is still a local issue. It has also been noted that dog-walkers often use the villages for exercising and they do not always pick up, especially when they are walking 3 or 4 dogs. If anyone has seen an offence, please contact a Parish Councillor or Clerk with the details.

### **Litter and Dog Waste Bin**

TWC is to review all the waste bins across the Borough in the Autumn. It is their intention to reduce the number of bins, but to add bins to new locations where required. Meeson will be considered at that time.

**19/3729**

### **FINANCE**

#### **a) Kickstart Reimbursement**

The grant funding provided for the Kickstart Programme has been held by the Parish Council in a separate fund. Expenses have been paid by the Clerk and claims for reimbursement made to the Parish Council. It was agreed that if any funding remains at the end of the programme, this will be donated to the Parish Room Croft Fund for play equipment.

#### **b) Payments**

This item will be deferred as no signatories are in attendance.

#### **c) Remuneration Panel and Scheme**

The letter from TWC explained that TWC are to employ the services of an Independent Panel to undertake a review of the Borough's Remuneration Scheme. At the same time, they would review the scheme relating to Parish & Town Councillors, with mileage and expenses.

The letter had only been received days before the first meeting of the Panel, but TWC had confirmed that there would be a further opportunity for comments to be fed to the panel for consideration.

Members agreed that a scheme should be available, which might enable a person to become a Councillor because the fund could pay for transport or child care. However, most Councillors would want to undertake the role as a volunteer, to serve the community where they live or work.

The current maximum of £100 for smaller councils is sufficient, but Members must have the option as to whether they wish to claim it or not. It must be paid through PAYE. The Clerk will draft a list of duties of the Councillors and the Chairman will estimate the number of hours a Parish Councillor works per month or per year, and how many for the Chairman.

**19/3730**

### **PLANNING**

#### **a) Planning Applications Updates**

##### **i) 4 The Paddocks, Parish Room Croft**

Members were disappointed to receive the reply from Ian Ross, as the Planning Department Legal Officer. The refusal to accept our call –in has denied the community and Parish Council of their democratic right to its concerns publicly.

To grant permission for the fence (before ensuring that the enforcement notice has been acted upon to ensure that the correct front hedge in the correct location and the re-positioning of the waste water pipe had taken place) was not acceptable and we would request some assurance that this will be actively pursued.

The actions taken by the owner to remove the hedges to the front and side of the property, knowing that they were protected by conditions outlined in their property conveyance, has had no regard for the hard work of the Parish Council and residents to secure the site and protect the visual appearance of the boundary in the centre of the village.

However, as outlined in the email from the legal officer, a further meeting with the planning officers at this late stage would have no benefit.

The Parish Councillors truly believe that the applicant has had no regard for the planning system and has 'gone around' the application process in order to achieve their own personal outcome

with complete disregard to the effect on the village or neighbours.  
The Parish Councillors remain concerned and it is hoped that this will not set a precedent for other such actions and retrospective applications in the future.

In view of the current situation and in order to continue to represent the best interests of the community, the Parish Council will accept the offer of a meeting with the Head of Planning and the Legal Officer, in order to explain how the process has shown an example that TWC does not care about its rural community and it does not recognise the work undertaken by Parish Councils to support the best interests of villages and residents. The Chairman and Councillor Thomas invited the Ward Member, Councillor Bentley, to join them at the meeting where they will also express concern that the planning department has become weak and does not support the work of the enforcement team.

**ii) Phase II, The Stackyard**

Councillor Roberts and the Clerk were invited to a site meeting at The Stackyard to understand the site plan and in particular the connections for the church and the car park area. It has been agreed that drop down lockable bollards will be provided (for security). Whilst on site, details of the boundaries were discussed and information shared about the proposals for phase II.

**b) New Applications for consideration**

**TWC/2019/0526**

**Yew Tree Farm, Bolas Heath - extension**

**RESOLVED to have no objections to the proposals but to request that any comments from neighbours be taken into consideration.**

**TWC/2019/0531**

**Land at Bolas House – removal of a hedge**

**RESOLVED to support the removal of the hedge.**

**c) Other Planning Matters**

**i) 1 and 2 The Poplars, Cold Hatton**

The Inspector's hearing, scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> July, has been postponed and we had been informed that he will now call a public inquiry.

**19/3731**

**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) Wrekin Area Committee**

The meeting had taken place on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, the Chairman had represented the Parish Council and has included information in the Chairman's Report. The Minutes of the meeting will be circulated for information.

**c) Boundary Review**

There are no proposed changes to the Parish of Waters Upton.

**19/3732**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A copy of the Chairman's Report is available on request. It included details of the presentation at WAC relating to the development of Integrated Health and Social Care services and the work of the T & W Integrated Partnership Board, which will involve representatives of the acute Hospital Trust, GPs, Council and Social Care. The Board is aiming to support health lifestyles and have introduced community services in specific locations. They have developed a Live Well Telford app, with lots of local information. The initiative has been linked with the setting up of Primary Care Networks. The Board is looking to identify existing venues and local groups to undertake 'drop in' clinics in the local communities.

## COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Roberts reported on the recent Highways Liaison Meeting which had continued to look at the options for the A442 at Cold Hatton, sites for Speed indicator Devices, the replacement bollards on the safe route to school by Chapel House, the LED SID at Crudgington, traffic calming outside of Lower House Farm and the many missing and damaged road signs. Copies of the notes of the meeting are available on request. It has also been confirmed that a site meeting will take place at Shray Hill with the local residents.

The Clerk will enquire if Catsbitch Lane is included in the current Capital Programme, due to its poor and dangerous condition.

Members confirmed the four sites for SIDs will be A442 Cold Hatton, Great Bolas, Crudgington and Waters Upton. The sites will be confirmed to TWC who will undertake the necessary assessments to ensure the sites are suitable and within the regulations.

19/3733

### CLERK'S REPORT

#### a) Grounds and Cleansing Contract

We are now in the 4<sup>th</sup> month of the new contract and the weather has not helped to keep the contract on track. Due to the delays, the schedules have not yet been made available to PTCs and therefore we have been in a difficult position. At this time, there has been no confirmation as to the specification on grass cutting or litter picking, so we have not been able to address areas of concern. It is important that Idverde, the contractors, undertake the work required that is included in the contract, if the Parish Council was to undertake some of the work that has been missed, we will never be able to prove that it is their responsibility.

The Community remains concerned at the poor condition of the verges, although it is positive to have seen the road sweeper.

Quotations have been requested for additional grass cutting in Meeson and Catsbitch Lane, where two cuts per year is not sufficient to ensure adequate visibility for drivers and pedestrians.

#### b) Old Rectory Fields

The Legal Transfer is now with the solicitors.

Days New Homes has had a sign produced for the car park area. This should be erected soon.

#### c) Freedom to Move

This draft proposal of a Strategy for 2019 – 2024 has been compiled by the Shropshire Playing Fields Association.

This document is worth reading as it contains many benefits for the rural areas. A special Rural Forum will be held in September to discuss this further.

#### d) Swan Court

Confirmation has been received that Severn Trent Water will be addressing the sewerage and flooding issue on behalf of the 5 Swan Court properties, at the bottom of River Lane, Waters Upton.

19/3734

### REPORT FROM TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

TWC confirmed a motion to be plastic free by 2030 and to set up working groups, with the communities, to address this issue and the entire climate change agenda.

Consideration for electric vehicles is on the current agenda and Parish & Town Councils may consider including this in Neighbourhood Plans, to encourage the provision of charging points at all new properties.

Care should be taken regarding the public inquiry for The Poplars, one did not go in favour of the Parish Council with reference to The Swan site some years ago.

It was disappointing that the PTCs were not asked if they wished the Remuneration Panel to consider the scheme for PTCs, and it is hoped that there will be no charge to PTCs for this review.

19/3735

### PARISH MATTERS

#### a) Neighbourhood Watch and SmartWater

The NW Co-ordinator updated the meeting on the introduction of additional vehicles and the success of the 'We Don't Buy Crime' scheme which will be more prominent.

The recent newsletter from West Mercia Police is not a good example of good value, as its poor design and layout is a waste of paper. Three single pages, could have been produce on two sides of A4.

**b) Parking outside of Waters Upton Stores, on the junction of Upton Stones**

Customers will be asked to move into Upton Stones or to use the layby at the front of the shop. Visibility is already poor on the junction and some parking habits make this worse.

**c) Parking outside of St Michael's Church**

Parking at this location is very dangerous and especially as it is close to a blind bend and it is not respectful of the adjacent church building. Our recent newsletter article asks for drivers to keep this in mind before leaving their vehicles.

**d) Speed**

It is hoped that the installation of four points for SIDs will assist in promoting acceptable speed into the villages, especially where there are pedestrians and no footpaths.

PC Wayne Upton is still available, on request. He will be on duty outside of Crudgington School in September.

**19/3723 NEXT MEETING**

25<sup>th</sup> September 2019    7.30pm    Full Council    Waters Upton Village Hall

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 8.20pm.

**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> September 2019.*