

## WEREHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING NOTES

Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 6.35 pm

### Wereham Village Hall

#### Attendance:

Cllr Jo Bruce	JB	Chair
Cllr Brian Bruce	BB	
Cllr Jacki Hitching	JH	
Cllr Jonathon Ratsey	JR	
Cllr Pamela Walker	PW	
Helen Richardson	HR	Parish Clerk

#### Members of the Public: 4

### 1.0 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all and thanked those attending. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gail Koopowitz, Vice Chair.

### 2.0 May 2017 Annual Parish Minutes

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising. Proposed by JR and seconded by JH, all agreed.

### 3.0 Chairman's Report (May 2017 – May 2018)

#### What have we managed to achieve over the last 12 months?

Well we had a change of councillor and welcomed our new colleague John Millard on to the team last July.

Like last year, there were many things crossing over as ongoing projects, things like getting the pond wall repaired, applying for grants to replace the play area equipment & flooring.

There remain serious issues around the village with drainage, with the same local resident's property nearly flooded over Xmas & New Year. We are hopeful thanks to a contribution from Councillor Martin Storey that the Highways team will fix the issue once & for all later this year.

We've had lots going on this year with trees, especially the awkward one over the pond that needed to be removed due to disease. Its location was tricky to say the least. There are also trees needing attention within the churchyard that will be tidied up or removed later this year.

A constant problem in parishes around the country remains our four-legged friends. We've agreed to install 2 new dog poo bins over the next month or 2. One in The Row and one near the Cavenham Road/Church Road junction. Hopefully this will help alleviate the problems. People are encouraged to use them. Anyone seen out with a dog without evidence of dog poo bags can be asked to produce them. Failure can result in a fine.

We are also investing in an upgrade to the current street lights we are responsible for within the village. We are moving over to LED lights which will save us money over time on running costs. Our old bayonet fittings were proving ever trickier to get replacement bulbs when they failed.

This year is the first time we've decided to have a village handyman. Mr Stannard has been undertaking the various little jobs needed around the village for the last few months. His reasonable rate has meant rather than put things off whilst we wait for a willing volunteer we've actually been able to get things done. Its been a breath of fresh air and something I hope we continue with in the future.

Poor Helen has been inundated over the last few months getting us ready for the new GDPR (General Data Protection Rules) rules that come in later in May. Its been a big undertaking and not to be underestimated. Hopefully now this work is done she will have more free time to keep up with all her other jobs.

I said this last year too but you need to have confidence in your local council, so rest assured that as ever we are as focused on bringing in the best deal for the village at an ongoing price we can all afford. We do need to spend money to continue to enjoy where we live but we continue to run this village like any other successful business, by investing wisely.

Finally, I'd just like to end my report by thanking all of my fellow councillors for the voluntary work they've carried out around the village within the last 12 months. And to offer my warmest congratulations to the Village Hall committee for the new village hall. Well done to all the team, it just shows how much a small group can achieve with one shared vision. Really well done & on behalf of the whole village a big thank you from all of us and for generations to come. I look forward to sharing some good times with you all over the next few years in such a wonderful space.

#### **4.0 Battles Over Tribute – Ian Rye**

Ian Rye shared that on behalf of the Heritage Group, he would be taking photographs of the last Parish Council meeting to be held in the old village hall.

He said that the next event held by the group would be a talk regarding the Bexwell Aerodrome.

He shared that there would be a 'Battles Over' Tribute commemorating 100 years since the end of World War One, on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. On behalf of the Heritage Group he asked that the Parish Council support an event and involvement in the new village hall for this event. There will be videos playing on the cinema system in the hall from this time, items on display and information about those remembered on the Wereham War Memorial, including stories of those who come back from the war, there will be music and dancing of the Charleston. Ian shared that there was a tradition of playing pipers across the world on the exacting time that the armistice was signed, there is currently a proposal to meet at 6 am on the day at the War Memorial to hear the pipers playing. There also will be a remembrance service on 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11 am at the War Memorial. The Parish Council thanked Ian for sharing this information and agreed that they would fully support the proceedings as required. The Clerk advised Ian to send posters of the event for the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

#### **5.0 Play Area – Reimagine Project**

The Clerk shared that there was a brief to extend the age range in terms of equipment available at the play area for 8-13 years. The Clerk shared that she had approached three companies and received quotes for extending the play area and including 2 or 3 extra pieces of low noise equipment for this purpose. The Clerk shared plans that had been supplied in the meeting. The Clerk advised that funding would be sought as soon as it was available.

#### **6.0 Public Concerns**

There was none.

Meeting closed at 6.54 pm

Confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Chair signed .....

Date.....