

WEREHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 6.40 pm
In the Community Room, Wereham Village Hall, Wereham

Attendance:

Cllr Jacki Hitching (Vice Chair)
Cllr Annie Bruce
Cllr Jonathan Marsh
Helen Richardson Parish Clerk and Financial Responsible Person

Also in attendance:

Residents of Wereham - Public – 1
Cllr Martin Storey, NCC Councillor

Public Comments

Cllr Martin Storey provided the following highways update:

- He had been in contact with Jason Moorse and Andy Wallace, Senior Manager at Highways in regard to the crossing and safety concerns of the A134.
- He had visited the site with Highways four days ago.
- The speed of traffic was a concern.
- Highways had agreed through his intervention to take the concern via the Highways Safety Team at Norfolk County Council to compile a report on this issue. The report would include mitigations.
- The crossing in question was not lit very well at all and he had discussed this with Highways.
- There had been much discussion about what safety methods should be at the crossing. And Highways were beginning to agree with the reasoning that what was there was not sufficient.
- Cllr Martin Storey had endeavoured to make contact with Highways today for an update but had been unable to make contact with them, he would update the Clerk as soon as he had further information. The Clerk agreed to pass on to the Parish Council and residents when it was received.
- He hoped to arrange a further site visit with the Council and residents with Highways.

The Parish Council also discussed lack of Police presence to deter people from speeding. Cllr Martin Storey agreed to also raise this point with Highways.

A Member of public attended the Parish Council meeting to share their concerns in regard to road safety. The member of public shared that they didn't think a zebra crossing would work; but they felt a Pelican crossing with traffic lights would. They felt that the central reservation was dangerous and people should be able to cross without it. The Parish Council advised that the road was too wide for someone to be able to cross in one go, particular the elderly people in the village and the vehicles speeding were going to fast which was the main concern rather than the island being an issue.

The Parish Council discussed speed cameras and recording of the data of the Speed Management Sign. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Martin Storey for his update and agreed they would await to hear what Highways proposed as they were responsible for the Highway.

Cllr Martin Storey shared other information as follows:

- NCC held a budget meeting on 21 February, all information is available on the website. Expenditure was due to increase by £29 m, Council tax increase was 4.99%, and on a band D was £1.47 per week for NCC. The budget had been approved. There was a good number of public comments received which were sifted at separate committees and NCC was grateful for this feedback.
- The County Deal – this meant that the Government would issue Norfolk with £600m regarding levelling up, £20m over 30 years. It was out to consultation with the public running to 23 March on whether they think this was the right thing to do, it was not devolution issue. The people of Norfolk

would elect a Leader if it went ahead. The final decision would be made in December 2023.
Feedback can be given online or within libraries.

- Cllr Martin Storey agreed to follow up with Highways on a date they intend to carry out their one verge cut in the village.
- Cllr Martin Storey could be contacted if the PC or resident had any issues he may be able to help them with.

17/23 Openness and Transparency Notice

The Chair read the notice.

18/23 To Consider and Accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr Sandra Calvert; Cllr Charlie Bourne and Cllr Jo Bruce (personal reasons). Cllr Colin Sampson, Borough Councillor also had sent apologies.

19/23 To Receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items

There were none.

20/23 To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 9 January 2023 and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 9 January 2023 be approved as a correct record. (Cllr Annie Bruce proposed, Cllr Jacki Hitching seconded, all were in favour).

21/23 To Approve Minor Actions/Costs in Relation to Village Management issues:

- a) Repairing Grass on the Pond Area
It was agreed to monitor the grass regrowth. The Clerk agreed to create signs to advise the public not remove deceased wild birds at the pond due to Avian Flu and to report to the Parish Council who would report to DEFRA or report to DEFRA directly. A second duck reported by a member of the public on Tuesday, and which DEFRA wished to collect and test, was taken away by an unknown person. The first duck was collected on 12 March and was due to be tested by DEFRA, the result would take 14 days and if there was no avian flu then they would not contact.
- b) Cleaning Play Area Equipment and Commission of Annual Play Area Inspection
RESOLVED: That the cost of £70 to clean Play Area Equipment; telephone box and common land sign be approved. That the cost of an annual play area inspection costing £120 be approved. (Cllr Annie Bruce proposed, Cllr Jacki Hitching seconded, all were in favour).
- c) Purchase of a Litter Bin at Entrance to Play Field
The Parish Clerk agreed to ask the Village Hall if they would look after a wheelie bin if the Borough Council were able to supply without having to purchase costly bin-housing.
- d) Cutting of Hedge within the Cemetery
The Clerk agreed to discuss further with Norfolk ALC.
- e) New Perspex for Noticeboard
RESOLVED: That purchase of Perspex be approved up to £80 and installation costs by Village Caretaker. (Cllr Annie Bruce proposed, Cllr Jonathan Marsh seconded, all were in favour).
- f) Distribution of Fobs/Magnets with Defib Code
The Clerk agreed to ask the Village Hall if they would be able to hold the supply for people to collect if they wish.
- g) Litter Pick Promotion as Part of the Great British Clean up

RESOLVED: That litter picking packs be arranged with the BCKLWN pending support from volunteers. (Cllr Annie Bruce proposed, Cllr Jonathan Marsh seconded, all were in favour).

22/23 To Approve Costs and Actions in Relation to Tree Management and TPOs

RESOLVED: That there be no objection in regard to recent TPO's served. (Cllr Jacki Hitching proposed, Cllr Annie Bruce seconded, all were in favour).

23/23 To Approve Any Action or Costs in Relation to the Village Sign Refurbishment including unveiling

RESOLVED:

- 1) That base costs of £195 inc VAT and installation costs of £150 inc VAT for the Village Sign be approved.
- 2) That an unveiling be approved for Saturday 6th May, time to be confirmed.
- 3) That associated costs budget of £50 be approved
- 4) That the addition of a plaque be approved.

(Cllr Annie Bruce proposed, Cllr Jacki Hitching seconded, all were in favour).

24/23 To Approve Review of the Policies:

- a. 'Dealing with Abusive Persistent or Vexatious Complaints'
- b. 'Complaints Policy'
- c. Closure of the Covid 19 Related Policies and Procedures and Scheme of Delegation
- d. Closure of the 2022/23 Wereham PC Action Plan

RESOLVED: That the policies as presented on the agenda from a – b be approved, and c – d be closed (Cllr Annie Bruce proposed, Cllr Jacki Hitching seconded, all were in favour).

25/23 To Approve Payments to date

Payee	Item	Exc VAT	VAT	Inc VAT
Clerk	Wages Jan and Feb 2023, include refund for Laptop £399.	1011.19	0.00	1011.19
HMRC	PAYE	136.80	0.00	136.80
Npower	January 2023 Streetlight Electricity	24.93	1.25	26.18
Npower	February 2023 Streetlight Electricity	21.93	1.10	23.03
Norfolk Wildlife Services	Tree Management Survey	485.00	97.00	582.00
BCKLWN	Dog Waste Emptying (6x bins)	520.00	104.00	624.00
Village Care Taker	09.02 Cut Weeds from graves (old ones) and remove; clear leaves and rubbish from main road; move sam2	30.00	0.00	30.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	Emergency Celluar Annual Rental Year 7	60.00	12.00	72.00
Scribe	Accounting Software and Cemetery Software	585.60	117.12	702.72
SLCC	Clerks Membership	120.00	0.00	120.00
Wereham Village Hall	Hall hire in January 2023	20.75	0.00	20.75
Wereham Village Hall	Hall hire in March 2023	12.75	0.00	12.75

RESOLVED: That the payments as presented be approved. (Cllr Jacki Hitching proposed, Cllr Jonathan Marsh seconded, all were in favour).

26/23 To Approve Exemption from the Annual Governance and Accountability 2022/23

RESOLVED: That the Wereham Parish Council approve exemption from the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23. (Cllr Annie Bruce proposed, Cllr Jonathan Marsh seconded, all were in favour).

27/23 To Receive Councillors Concerns and Agenda Items for next meeting and Forward Work Programme

- The Clerk agreed to ask the landowner of the hedge on Lammas Lane to trim it back as it was growing across the bridle way.
- The Clerk agreed to check in with the Village Caretaker on the Speed sign that was indicating the wrong speed limit.

28/23 To Note Date and Time of Next Meeting – Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Wereham Village Hall (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council). It was Noted