

## **WATFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 – 7pm in Watford Village Hall**

#### **1. OPENING PROCEDURES**

The Civility & Respect Pledge has been signed and the certificate received.

Present – A Cansfield, T Cansfield, P Collins, P Incley (Chairman), W Jenkins, V Knapp, J Powell, Clerk - Sue Porter, West Northants Councillor Phil Bignell and 1 member of the public on Zoom

1.1 Acceptance of Apologies – Nil

1.2 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 13th September 2022** – The minutes were approved by all as an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

1.3 Declarations of Interests – Personal or Prejudicial – Nil

**2. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Phil Bignell** – The advisory 20mph speed limit signs have been arranged. The Council Offices in Lodge Road, Daventry are due to close in March 2023. The Planning Offices are moving to Towcester from 1st December 2022, however there will be small hubs based in Daventry, Brixworth and Brackley.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 Chairman and Leadership Training – Thursday 13th October 2022 (Online) – P Incley and P Collins will attend.

**4. PUBLIC TIME** – Nil

#### **5. BUSINESS**

5.1 WNC Code of Conduct – It was approved by all that the WNC Code of Conduct be adopted.

5.2 Cemetery - Planting of the Jubilee Trees & Rose Garden – A working party will be arranged to plant the trees. The PC will await an update from Ken Brand regarding the Rose Garden.

5.3 Parish Online Software – The annual cost was incorrectly quoted last month by the Clerk. The cost to the PC for the year is actually £38.40. It was agreed that this is far more acceptable and all voted in favour to subscribe.

5.4 Councillor E-Mail Addresses – As part of the Parish Online software, emails and websites can also be provided. More information will be requested.

5.5 75th Northants CALC Annual Conference – 1st October 2022 – The Clerk and Chairman attended on behalf of the PC. Watford were the winners of the prize draw, coming away with £300 Wicksteed Playground Vouchers and a bottle of Prosecco. Sessions attended were the Cost of Living Crisis and Climate Change, along with Q & A sessions with NCALC and WNC. There is a community transport service, which is currently operating in South Northants, called Ability. More details will be obtained and circulated to the parish.

5.6 Cost of Living Crisis Support during the Winter months – Ideas have been suggested, such as opening the Village Hall if required. Other villages are using churches, community centres and setting up Community Larders. The PC will ask the village for ideas, and will discuss further in November, to determine the local requirements. There is a Warm Spaces scheme operating and WNC are asking for people to register if they can assist.

5.7 Play Park Area – There has been a zoom meeting held between Danny Moody, P Incley, V Knapp and the Clerk. Lots of useful information was provided. A planning application will be required for the land for change of use, once this is recorded on the Rural Land Registry. V Knapp will confirm with Andrew Eden the donation of the land. There will be an onsite meeting arranged to invite the parishioners to attend and give their views. Grant funding is available, along with the option of a Small Works Loan, which has minimal interest charged.

5.8 Wildflower Area – Grass Triangle – A working party has been arranged for Sunday 16th October for the planting of the daffodils. The triangle will be planted with the wildflower seeds once the area has been sprayed off. Wildflower seeds have been purchased by R Smith to the sum of £61.50. All in approval.

5.9 WNC – Local Government Boundary Review for Ward Councillor Numbers to reduce to 77 – There is an online consultation to complete. It was agreed that the links to Long Buckby would be preferred. The recommendation is one ward councillor for 4277 people.

5.10 Overgrown Hedges – Station Road – There are safety issues with this pathway. The hedges on the bend have been trimmed back but not far enough. The footpath is too narrow, and the road signs remain obscured. Andrew Eden has advised that the hedge is due to be cut in the new year.

5.11 Poppy Wreath Order – It was proposed by J Powell, seconded by T Cansfield and all voted in favour to purchase the poppy wreath for £30.00 (S137). This will be delivered with the Long Buckby wreath to avoid the problems from last year.

5.12 HGV's – 7.5t weight limit restriction – D Lister (WNC) has sent a response to P Collins with regards to the weight limit restrictions and attached a copy of the Lorry Management Information pack which can be completed and submitted to Highways.

5.13 20mph Traffic Signs – Many thanks were given to Phil Bignell (WNC) for arranging for Watford to be part of the advisory scheme which is currently operating around the county. The “30” on the highway need repainting, as this is now very faded. This will be reported to Fix my Street by the Clerk.

5.14 Village Gateways – A survey will be undertaken of the 4 entrances to the village and a plan of action decided. Discuss in November.

5.15 WNC – Planning Peer Review – No interest.

## **6. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

6.1 Village Hall – Geoff Dent - Over the last 2 months the hall has again been busy with external bookings: 18 Bookings in September and 19 Bookings currently for October.

The next event at the Hall will be a Quiz Night on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are on sale at £12 including Fish Supper, or Vegetarian options.

The guttering over the Fire Door has been repaired.

EIRC Certification has been gained with only one advisory improvement recommendation.

All updated policies are now available on the Village Hall website.

Current light fittings in toilet areas and the store rooms will be replaced with LED lighting per our Environmental Policy.

As suggested at the last PC Meeting a sign will be placed on the wall over the defibrillator, visible above parked vehicles.

The Village Hall will be closed for a period of 3 or 4 days during the next month as the main hall and reception area flooring will be replaced.

The next meeting of Trustees is scheduled for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October

6.2 Churchyard & Cemetery – Nothing to report.

6.3 Parish Paths Warden – The Clerk will request that the mechanical sweep attends Church Street to clear the highway and footpath of the beech nuts.

6.4 Street Lighting – The street light recently repaired on Fog Cottages has failed again. The Clerk has requested a return visit from the maintenance contractors.

6.5 Highways – With the motorway service barriers closed there has been a reduction in HGV traffic of 2%. The drains at Nene Ind Estate need to be monitored during heavy rainfall to see if the flooding is still occurring.

6.6 Police Liaison – Several instances of car break in's reported in the rural villages. This will be posted on the social media.

6.7 Defibrillator – The new pads have arrived. It was confirmed by the Village Hall that a sign will be erected to prevent parking in front of the defibrillator.

**7. FINANCE**

7.1 Approve Accounts to be paid:

It was proposed by V Knapp, seconded by T Cansfield and all voted in favour to pay the following accounts:

<b>Chq No 1393</b>	S Porter	Clerk's Salary – September 2022	£ 315.36	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses – September 2022	£ 81.00	LGA 1972 s112
		Defibrillator Pads	£ 57.00	
<b>Chq No 1394</b>	R Smith	Wildflower Seeds	£ 61.50	LGA 1972 s111
<b>Chq No 1395</b>	RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath (S137)	£ 30.00	
<b>Chq No 1396</b>	Parish Online	Annual Subscription	£ 38.40	LGA 1972 s111
<b>Chq No 1397</b>	Zurich	Insurance Renewal 2022-23	£ 300.00	LGA 1972 s111
<b>Chq No 1398</b>	Forde & McHugh	Street Light Repairs	£ 192.00	PCA1957 s3
<b>Chq No 1399</b>	Buckby Library & Hub	Grant Payment 2022-23	£ 250.00	LGA 1972 s111

**Bank Balances**

(as at 31/08/2022) - £ 14,974.21

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 8th November 2022 - 7pm**

**Meeting Closed: 8:11pm**