

WATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th July 2022 – 7pm in Watford Village Hall

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present – T Cansfield, P Incley (Chairman), W Jenkins, V Knapp, J Powell, Clerk - Sue Porter, West Northants Councillor Charles Morton and 6 members of the public

The Chairman announced that the meeting is being recorded.

1.1 Acceptance of Apologies – A Cansfield, P Collins

1.2 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 14th June 2022** – It was proposed by J Powell, seconded by W Jenkins and all voted in favour that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and these will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

1.3 Declarations of Interests – Personal or Prejudicial:

P Incley– WND/2022/0497 (Personal)

V Knapp– WND/2022/0497 (Personal)

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Motorway Services Barriers – These are currently fully operational and will continue to be monitored. It will be interesting to see how the numbers of vehicles travelling through the village has changed on the monthly reports produced by P Collins.

2.2 Play Equipment Proposals – A community working group will be set up to move the project forward and allow for grant applications to be submitted. NCalc will be asked for some advice.

2.3 Litter Bin Emptying – The parish bins are being emptied regularly by V Knapp. The new bin has been delivered, and will be installed on the Green. The Kilsby Road bin will be reviewed over the Summer and see if a larger bin will be required. If this is the case, the weekly emptying by Norse with an annual charge of £300.00 plus VAT will also be considered. Discuss further in September. It may also be possible to relocate one of the smaller bins by the Station Road seat.

2.4 Grass Verges Mowing – P Incley mowed the grass verge coming into the village from the Services, and A Cansfield trimmed back the trees. A letter will be sent to Andrew Eden asking him to cut back the overgrown hedge. The Clerk will request a map of the grassed areas which are currently mowed by Highways, and then a decision will be made by the PC if this is to go out to contract for 2023 onwards. The annual grant payment the PC would be allocated will also be requested.

2.5 Wildflower Area – Grass Triangle – The land will be prepared by a working party, along with the grass sprayed off, ready for sowing of the wildflower seeds in the Autumn. The Clerk will contact the Kilsby Clerk for advice. It is possible that sponsorship for this area will be available.

2.6 Churchyard Tree Quote – The Chairman read out a letter received from A Haywood, who is concerned that another job has been awarded to H Mockett for tree maintenance work, and that no other quotes have been asked for. It was explained to all that the PC Financial Regulations state that works under £500 do not need another quote, and that H Mockett has been a regular contractor for the PC over many years and with an excellent job always provided.

3. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Charles Morton) – The Community Grant Funding Scheme is open to local groups and charities, and up to £5,000 can be applied for between the 8th-27th July. A second opportunity will be available in September/October.

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Purchase of the Jubilee Tree – A budget of up to £350 was approved for the Jubilee tree. It was agreed that in the absence of oak trees being available, a copper beech would be purchased. Local garden centres, along with online sales, will be checked by the Clerk. The tree will be planted in the Cemetery in the Autumn.

4.2 Community Speedwatch – The first sessions have taken place and over 80 vehicles have been recorded as going over 35mph. This will continue throughout the month of July. Update provided in September.

4.3 Churchyard Wall Maintenance – The works are underway currently and looking good,

4.4 Replacement Seat – Station Road – The seat is old and damaged and in need of a replacement. It was proposed by V Knapp, seconded by J Powell, and all voted in favour to purchase the Phoenix 2 person seat in black from Glasdon for the sum of £434.00

4.5 Invitation to discuss Prologis – DIRFT – Land to the East of the M1 – The dates were given to those interested in attending, either 27th July or 3rd August at 2pm. Councillors to notify the Clerk if interested in attending.

4.6 Proposals for Crick Solar Farm – All neighbouring parishes will be briefed as the plans get underway.

4.7 Buckby Library & Hub – The Chairman read out the latest update provided and any grant funding from the PC will be discussed at the September meeting. The posters and update will be added on the noticeboard.

4.8 WNC - Public asked to have their say on modifications to Local Plan – Nothing affected in the Daventry District. Noted.

4.9 WNC – Review of number of WNC Councillors – At the next election in 2025, the numbers of councillors are expected to reduce from 93 to between 77 & 82 throughout the 31 wards.

5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

5.1 Village Hall – Maintenance – The works on the car park have been completed, apart from seeding the verges. The costs were a little higher than expected but the Village Hall were able to secure a grant of £3000. Further maintenance/improvement is being considered; the Main Hall flooring and improved loft insulation.

Bookings: There were 15 external bookings in June and 15 external bookings for July.

Events: A Quiz Night and BBQ are planned for Saturday 30th July and a Complimentary Hog Roast planned for Saturday 13th August

5.2 Churchyard & Cemetery – All looking good, a letter of thanks will be sent from the Chairman with the latest cheque payment.

5.3 Parish Paths Warden – Nothing to report.

5.4 Street Lighting – All working OK.

5.5 Highways – No report.

5.6 Police Liaison – No report.

5.7 Defibrillator – The defibrillator is registered on The Circuit. The dates will be checked on the batteries and pads and noted for future ordering.

6. FINANCE

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

6.1 Approve Accounts to be paid:

Chq No 1381 S Porter	Clerk's Salary – June 2022	£ 315.16	LGA 1972 s112
	Clerk's Expenses – June 2022	£ 24.00	LGA 1972 s112
Chq No 1382 NCALC	Annual Membership/Internal	£ 481.54	LGA 1972 s143
	Audit 2022/23		
	Code of Conduct Training	£ 45.60	LGA 1972 s111
Chq No 1383 Leics Gardens	Grass Mowing – June 2022	£ 500.00	Open Spaces Act 1906

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Various	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	£	240.00
HMRC	VAT Refund 2021-22	£	260.43
Nat West	Interest (May/June)	£	3.22

Bank Balances**(as at 30/06/2022) - £ 16,337.91****7. PLANNING****WND/2022/0497** – Two storey side/rear extension with first floor balcony – **Ivy Cottage, 34 Station Road, Watford****No Objections****PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED**

The Parish Council noted the following planning permission granted:

WND/2022/0337 - Work to trees subject of tree preservation order DA146 - **25 Main Street, Watford****8. PUBLIC TIME**

A Haywood has asked that Highways concerns/defects are raised through the Highways Representative and not from himself, an ex-councillor. The Chairman stated that this role had recently changed between councillors .

Concerns were also raised to the locations chosen for the Community Speedwatch team of volunteers to stand at, and there were better sites in the village available. J Powell advised that the sites were actually chosen by Northamptonshire Police.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 13th September 2022 - 7pm**Meeting Closed: 8:20pm**