

## WATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 1st April 2021 – 7pm

#### 1. OPENING PROCEDURES

**Present** – P Collins, G Dent (Chairman), A Haywood, P Inceley, J Powell, Clerk - Sue Porter and 12 members of the public

**1.1 Acceptance of Apologies** – K Cox

**1.2 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2021** – It was proposed by P Collins, seconded by P Inceley, and all voted in favour, that the minutes were 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. MATTERS ARISING

**2.1 Watford Village Name Signs – Planting Project** – It was agreed that the village name signs will remain as they are and there will be some containers, donated by P Inceley, planted up around the signs with seasonal bulbs, wildflowers etc. The planting project will be posted on social media to get some volunteers together to arrange.

**2.2 Street Lighting - Electricity Costs Review – Update** – Clear Utility Solutions have advised that the power usage is very low and with this in mind the current “Emergency Tariff” with E-On provides a zero cost standing charge – therefore the advice is to stay on the tariff.

**2.3 Community Allotment** – Defer until May.

#### 3. BUSINESS

**3.1 Village Hall Committee** – G Dent thanked K Cox for the donation of the CCTV cameras for the Village Hall. Events planned include an Easter Egg Hunt, Classic Car Show, Thai Evening, Murder Mystery Night, Table Top Sale and the AGM (Zoom). The Village Hall will also be open for Election Day on Thursday 6th May.

**3.2 Parish Council Elections – Thursday 6th May 2021** – The deadline for returning the nomination papers is Thursday 8th April at 4pm, should more than 7 applications be received there will be an election for the new parish council.

**3.3 20mph Advisory Speed Signs – Highways Pilot Scheme** – There is a trial taking place in West Haddon with advisory 20mph speed signs. If successful, Highways will then invite Parishes to register their interest in being part of the scheme, and they will also undertake a resident’s survey to enable observations to be recorded about driver behaviour in the community.

**3.4 Cemetery Trees** – Three Sakura Cherry Trees have been planted in the Cemetery, along with two on the Village Green. Many thanks were given to P Collins and D White. Western Power will be contacted with regards to cutting back the hedge from the cables.

**3.5 Dog Fouling – Village Green** – A letter was read out by the Chairman which had been received from the landowners of the Village Green. This letter advised that due to the amount of dog waste left on the Green, the grass cutting will be suspended until the situation is under control. The Dog Warden has been notified and residents will be urged to report and send in any evidence of persons failing to pick up after their dogs. It was suggested that an additional CCTV camera could be added to the system to cover the Green. Maybe a dog waste bin in the area could be an option, or even a replacement bin supplied by the Unitary Council to replace the one that was removed by DDC and never replaced, despite many requests from the Clerk and Chairman. This issue will be highlighted on the village social media.

#### 4. FINANCE

##### 4.1 Approve Accounts to be paid

It was proposed by A Haywood, seconded by J Powell and all voted in the favour to the pay the following:

<b>Chq No 1328</b>	S Porter	Clerk's Salary – March 2021	£ 321.40	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses – March 2021	£ 33.60	LGA 1972 s112

#### PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Nat West	Interest	£ 0.10
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#### Bank Balances

(as at 28/02/2021) - £ 13,069.15

#### 5. PLANNING

**DA/2021/0212** – Retrospective permission for the construction of two ponds and associated landscaping. Removal of unauthorised outbuilding – **Brockhill Lodge, Long Buckby Road, Watford**

**No Objections**

**DA/2021/0213** – Single storey rear extension – **Pytchley Stables, Main Street, Watford**

**No Objections**

#### 6. PUBLIC TIME

G Dent advised that he would not be standing for the parish council from May, and this would be his last meeting. Many thanks were given from all.

There were concerns raised over the lack of bins in the village provided. Having undertaken several litter picks recently it was felt this is a matter that needs investigating further. This will be added to the May agenda.

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 20th May 2021 - 7pm**  
**Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 20th May 2021 – 6:30pm**

**Meeting Closed: 7:40pm**