

WATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present – A Cansfield, T Cansfield, P Incley (Chairman), V Knapp, J Powell, Clerk - Sue Porter, West Northants Councillor Charles Morton , 2 members of the public, and 2 attendees on Zoom

1.1 Acceptance of Apologies – P Collins, W Jenkins

1.2 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 8th March 2022** – It was approved by all 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. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Nothing to report.

3. MATTERS ARISING – Nil

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022 – The grant funding application was rejected by WNC. The PC have all approved a figure of up to £1,500 be made available to fund the celebrations. The exact figure will be requested following the next Jubilee committee meeting and paid in May. Josh Adams has approved the use of the paddock for parking for the event.

4.2 Motorway Services Barriers - The Northbound Services barriers are being installed today. The Southbound ones are operation, but unfortunately open. Continue to monitor.

4.3 HGV 7.5t Weight Restriction – No update.

4.4 Play Equipment Proposals – The Chairman has spoken with Josh Adams, who has agreed to continue to let the children play in The Spinney, any play equipment would be costly so those plans are currently on hold. A proposal will also be sent to Northingworth Farm Partnership for their consideration on the use of any land.

4.5 Churchyard Wall Maintenance – There has still been no report received from Tom Freezer, despite several requests from the Clerk, J Powell and Steve Whelton (WNC). Alternative quotes are being sought and will be discussed at the May meeting. J Powell requests the removal of the grass dumping area in the Churchyard.

4.6 NCALC - Asset Mapping Project – A & T Cansfield have completed the inputting of the Asset Mapping data into the Parish Online software. Many thanks were given by all. The grant funding of £221.24 has been received and will be used to reimburse fuel costs to the Cansfields and also sponsor the trophies at the Jubilee Celebrations. All voted in favour.

4.7 NCALC – Clerk's Pay Award – The Clerk's appraisal has been undertaken with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The pay award of 1.5% was approved by the PC, and will be backdated to April 2021, making a backdated payment of £81.12 to be added to the next salary, along with the approved increase of 26p per hour moving forward from April 2022.

4.8 Annual Parish Meeting – The Parish Meeting will start at 7pm, but a “meet and greet” will be held from 6:30pm where refreshments will be served to encourage parishioners to attend and meet the local councillors. The Chairman's allowance of £100.00 was approved by all to fund the session. The Annual Parish Meeting will be advertised on social media and in the Watfordian.

5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

5.1 Village Hall – Provided by G Dent: The Trustees were extremely disappointed with the response from the Parish Council concerning Councillor Jenkins’s accusations, made in public at the February Parish Council Meeting. The Trustees will meet to discuss how to respond.

March Activity:

Boiler Upgrade -The boiler at the Hall has been replaced with a far more efficient model, with HIVE thermostat controls, allowing us to better manage the heating of the facility and the water, saving oil costs and reducing environmental impact.

The Green - Mowing of The Green has commenced in line with the agreement for community use.

Quiz Night - Another sell-out event in March was enjoyed by all who attended.

Long Buckby Car Meet - Helped raise over £700 towards the UNICEF Ukraine Appeal. Thanks to those who supported.

The Vintage Pizza Box - Now vising the Village fortnightly on Wednesday evenings.

Bookings: There were 14 external bookings in March. There are 16 external bookings for April.

Planned Future Events:

Summer Quiz Night - July 30th

Complimentary Community Hog Roast - August 13th. Following the success of a similar event held in May 2021 the Trustees are looking to hold another complimentary Hog Roast for Watford residents this summer.

5.2 Churchyard & Cemetery – The grass mowing season is underway and all OK.

5.3 Parish Paths Warden – Nothing to report apart from the siding of the paths is required in certain areas of the parish. V Knapp will report to WNC “FixMyStreet” with photos.

5.4 Street Lighting – All working.

5.5 Highways – No report. The surface over the canal bridge in Kilsby Road was reported as being damaged.

5.6 Police Liaison – A Cansfield continues to post any relevant information received on the social media pages.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Approve Accounts to be paid:

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

Chq No 1369	S Porter	Clerk’s Salary – March 2022	£ 324.60	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk’s Expenses – March 2022	£ 24.00	LGA 1972 s112
Chq No 1370	Watford Village Hall	PC Room Hire 2022-23	£ 100.00	LGA 1972 s133
Chq No 1371	Forde & McHugh	Street Light Repairs – November 21	£ 192.00	PCA1957 s3
Chq No 1372	N Power	Street Lighting – Jan-March22	£ 172.62	PCA1957 s3

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Various	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	£ 710.00
NCALC	AMP Grant Payment	£ 221.24
Nat West	Interest (Feb/March)	£ 0.21

Bank Balances

(as at 31/03/2022) - £ 13,325.65

7. PUBLIC TIME

It was requested that the bus stop on the West Haddon road be painted, a working party will be organised.

There were also concerns raised from a local parishioner to the building works that are underway at Stonehouse. The Chairman has spoken with the owners who have confirmed that the Planning department are aware; these improvements are classed as permitted development and WNC Planning will be monitoring the works.

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 10th May 2022 7pm
Watford Village Hall (Refreshments from 6:30pm)**

Meeting Closed: 7:52pm