

WATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th February 2022 – 7pm in Watford Village Hall

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present – A Cansfield, T Cansfield, P Collins, P Incley (Chairman), W Jenkins, J Powell, Clerk - Sue Porter, West Northants Councillor C Morton , 5 members of the public, and 7 attendees on Zoom

1.1 Acceptance of Apologies – V Knapp

1.2 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 14th December 2021** –

J Powell proposed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by P Collins and all voted in favour. These will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

1.3 Declarations of Interests – Personal or Prejudicial – Nil

2. GUEST – PCSO Craig Egdell (Neighbourhood Policing Team, Daventry Rural Officer) – A

crime report was provided with details since October 2021. Crimes are mainly centered around the motorway services; there is a low crime rate within the village. There has been an assault on a resident reported. Arrests were made earlier this week in relation to caravan thefts around the county. The PC raised the concerns regarding the lack of closure of the motorway service barriers.

3. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Charles Morton – The Covid Support Application

Fund is now available to charity/community groups within the parish affected by the pandemic.

Parish Councils are not eligible to apply at the moment. The three ward councillors have a total of £7,500 to distribute within their area. The deadline to apply is 22nd March 2022.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Wayne Jenkins – A statement was read out with regards to two vexatious allegations submitted to his employers from two individuals, this could have had a huge impact on his work and personal life and he believes this was due to his role as a parish councillor. These allegations were found to be unsubstantiated.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022 – Saturday 4th June will be the celebration day, the road closure notice has been applied for and approved for Church Street. Children and adult games have been arranged, craft and food stalls booked, music playing in the afternoon and evening, and beacon lighting in the evening. The Jubilee Committee are meeting on a fortnightly basis. Ken Brand is to visit all residents in Church Street to advise them of the plans. A Save the Date leaflet will be distributed to all residents. £1,000 in donations has already been pledged from local businesses.

5.2 Queen's Green Canopy – Plant a Tree for Jubilee. There are plans for a tree planting in the Cemetery in the Autumn. The proposed tree will be an oak, with a plaque also put in place.

5.3 Motorway Services Barriers –E-mail correspondence has been going between W Jenkins/Matt Clarke/Kev Fagan. The Services Management Team have responded to the lack of motorway service barriers in place by stating these will be repaired within a reasonable timescale, which is considered by the PC as totally unacceptable. No barriers being in place are in breach of planning conditions, and this argument has been taken on board. The Southbound barriers have since now been reinstated. The Northbound barriers are beyond repair, and replacements are awaited. W Jenkins will continue to pursue this with Kev Fagan until a solution is reached. WNC Councillor Charles Morton has offered to provide assistance.

5.4 HGV 7.5t Weight Restriction – P Collins is undertaking a traffic survey and a month's worth of data for February will be produced, for reviewing by the PC at the March meeting. The problem through the village is not helped with HGV operators who are encouraging this route is used through to the A14/A1. Over 20,000 vehicles are using the village on a weekly basis, with HGV's being 7.5% of these in the last week.

5.5 Play Equipment Proposals – Defer to the March meeting.

5.6 Village Green – Maintenance Management by the Village Hall Committee for 2022 – The Village Hall Committee have concerns with regards to the wording of “maintenance”, suggested in the proposals from Andrew Eden. This does need to be changed to grass cutting and strimming only. Clarification needs to be requested from the PC Chairman to NFP, but only after the next Village Hall Committee meeting, which is due to be held on 16th February.

5.7 Churchyard Wall Maintenance – No further updates have been received and the wall repairs need to be addressed. J Powell will contact Tom Freezer to get the detailed report following his site visit last year.

5.8 NCALC - Asset Mapping Project/Working Group & Grant Funding of £221.24 – A Cansfield, T Cansfield and the Clerk will form the Working Group and provide the information requested for the project. The grant has been accepted and will be requested by the Clerk.

5.9 WNC – Enhanced Partnership under the Bus Services Act 2017 – This has been circulated for information purposes only. The consultation runs until 25th February 2022.

6. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

6.1 Village Hall – A new circuit breaker has been installed due to new electrical regulations in place. The car park resurfacing is still awaited. Quiz night is planned for the 19th March. The boiler is due to be replaced.

6.2 Churchyard & Cemetery – Nothing to report, apart from the edging in the cemetery, which was undertaken in December, this now needs to be maintained by the contractor once the mowing season starts in March.

6.3 Parish Paths Warden – No update.

6.4 Street Lighting – Nothing to report, no issues identified.

6.5 Highways – All covered earlier in the meeting.

6.6 Police Liaison – General information updates and crime reports are being received. These will be posted online for all to read.

7. FINANCE

J Powell proposed that the following accounts be paid, seconded by T Cansfield and all voted in favour:

7.1 Accounts to be paid:

Chq No 1359	S Porter	Clerk's Salary – Dec 2021	£ 324.40	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses – Dec 2021	£ 24.00	LGA 1972 s112
Chq No 1360	S Porter	Clerk's Salary – Jan 2022	£ 324.60	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses – Jan 2022	£ 30.00	LGA 1972 s112
Chq No 1361	Leics Gardens	Grass Mowing – Dec 2021 (Churchyard & Cemetery)	£ 250.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
Chq No 1362	HMRC	PAYE 2021/22 Q3	£ 168.91	LGA 1972 s112
Chq No 1363	E-On	Street Lighting – Oct-Nov21	£ 78.49	PCA1957 s3
Chq No 1364	N Power	Street Lighting – Dec21	£ 63.39	PCA1957 s3
Chq No 1365	K Stilgoe	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	£ 299.00	LGA 1972 s111
Chq No 1366	G Kenning	Cemetery – Ashes Internment	£ 50.00	Open Spaces Act 1906

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Nat West	Interest – December 2021	£ 0.14
Co-Op Funerals	Cemetery Services	£ 300.00

Bank Balances

(as at 31/12/2021) - £ 15,892.15

8. PLANNING

WND/2021/0869 – Variation of Condition 5 of planning permission DA/2019/1069 to require the facility to close at 23:00hrs on any evening when in use with the exception of New Year's Eve when it will be allowed to remain open until 1:00am on New Year's Day – **Buildings to the rear of Garden Cottage, Church Street, Watford**
No Objections

WND/2021/0834 – Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) for use of part of first floor as four bedroom HMO – **Mango Lounge, Station Road, Watford**

WND/2021/0851 – Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) for use of part of ground floor as 1 x 1 bed self-contained unit, use of first floor for 6 x 1 bed self-contained units and use of second floor for 1 x 2 bed unit – **Mango Lounge, Station Road, Watford**

The PC objects to these planning applications and request the support and guidance from WNC Councillor Phil Bignell. The Mango Lounge is within the Conservation Area of the Grand Union Canal. There are tenancy agreements submitted which are disputable; this building has been empty for the past 7 years. The argument that persons have stayed there in the past due to being staff for the restaurant is a totally different situation.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permission granted:

WND/2021/0791 - Work to trees subject of tree preservation order TPO59 - **Poynings, Church Street, Watford**

PLANNING APPEAL

The Parish Council noted the following planning appeal:

WND/2021/0232 – Construction of glazed enclosure to existing first floor terrace – **Garden House, Watford Court, Kilsby Road, Watford**

9. PUBLIC TIME

Previous traffic surveys should also be used when submitting any data to WNC Highways, as additional information.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 8th March 2022 – 7pm - Watford Village Hall

Meeting Closed: 8:15pm