

WATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 2nd July 2020

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Dee Solomon handed in her resignation from the Parish Council which was accepted. The vacancy will be notified to DDC, should an election not be called, then the PC can co-opt at the September meeting.

1.1 Present – B Childs, K Cox (Chairman), G Dent, A Haywood, P Incley, J Powell, Clerk - Sue Porter and 20 members of the public

1.2 Apologies – Nil

1.3 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 4th June 2020** – These minutes were proposed by P Incley as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by A Haywood and all voted in favour. These will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

1.4 Declarations of Interests – B Childs – Planning Application DA/2020/0332 (Personal and Prejudicial) – Neighbour

J Powell proposed that Item 4.4 be removed from the Agenda, seconded by P Incley and with 4 votes in favour and 1 against. Carried.

Following confirmation from A Haywood that Item 7 would not be controversial, this item remains.

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Letter from Andrew Eden with regards to the garden extensions in the village – It was confirmed that nothing further had been received from Andrew Eden since the last meeting therefore there was no further comments to add. It was proposed by G Dent that this item be removed from the agenda, seconded by J Powell and with 4 votes in favour and 1 against. Carried.

A Haywood received two warnings from the Chairman for his behaviour during the discussions

3. REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCILLORS

J Powell – The northbound barriers remain open following Covid-19, and now traffic is increasing and things are starting to improve, the Clerk will write to the Manager at the Services to ask that these be closed.

P Incley – There will be a request to DDC Environmental Health for some increased signage around the village to try and deter the amount of litter dropped. There are some blocked drains along Station Road which the Clerk will report to Street Doctor for attention.

A Haywood – There is still a problem with flooding at the triangle, which NCC are aware of, but have yet to take any action. There is a headstone in the Cemetery which is lying flat; need to determine the ownership for action to be taken. The grass cutting contractor is now attending every two weeks and this is proving a great success. A Hayward did ask that when the grass is not growing so much, due to the hot weather, that the cuts be cancelled, as it is not always necessary that often.

(B Childs arrived at the meeting)

B Childs – There are nitrous oxide canisters being found around the village, and this appears to be happening around the entire District.

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Parish Councillors – Code of Conduct – The Chairman reminded the Councillors of their duties under the Code of Conduct. There should be no bullying and with respect shown to each other.

J Powell would like it recorded as an official complaint against A Haywood, that she did not appreciate being called a liar at the last meeting.

4.2 Speeding Issues/Traffic Calming through village – NCC are currently running a scheme to determine safer schemes through villages. Residents have been logging their suggestions to be considered for funding. Andrew Eden has written to NCC Highways and offered part of the land by Rectory Farm, so that the pavement can be extended at this part. The mobile speed camera, with data collection, will be discussed further at the next meeting. K Cox will circulate the information to all.

4.3 Additional Waste Bins – A quote has been received from Norse for two additional litter bins, with weekly emptying, for the sum of £1,546 plus VAT. It was agreed that this was too expensive for the PC to fund; however the local businesses will be asked if they would like to sponsor a new litter bin.

4.4 Payments to Grass Cutting Contractors (Ambtrans) – August 2016-September 2018 – Dismissed.

4.5 Parish Council Meeting Agendas – It was agreed by all that the items on the Agenda can be placed by any Parish Councillor, the Clerk, or member of the public. Items should be relevant to the village and should the PC not be able to provide advice or assistance, then this can be transferred to an external body. Private matters should not be discussed within a meeting.

4.6 Cedar Tree – Woodlands House, Woodlands Court, Watford – It was agreed by all that this tree needs to be removed due to safety reasons. This is a great loss, but an approved replacement will be planted.

4.7 Wheelwright's Arms – External Flue and Gate – Planning Conditions – The Chairman confirmed that all of these conditions have been adhered to. A Haywood will check with the DDC Planning Officer.

4.8 Wheelwright's Arms & Laundry Cottage - There are boulders situated on the grass verges outside both properties. A Haywood states this against the law, regardless of who owns the land, and will be taking further action.

4.9 Village Hall Committee – G Dent confirmed that the Village Hall renovations continue. Government guidelines now allow the Hall to re-open, however it will remain closed, as there are no firm bookings as yet. A Risk Assessment will be undertaken before re-opening, along with a deep clean. The next planned booking is a wedding reception on 22nd August. The fence between the Hall and the Green will be reinstated. It is hopeful that a gate will be put in place too. The PC confirmed that this would be acceptable, subject to approval being received from Andrew Eden. The website and Facebook page are now both up and running. Discounts will be offered to local residents on any bookings.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Approve Accounts to be paid:

It was proposed by J Powell, seconded by A Haywood, and all voted in favour that the following accounts be paid:

Chq No 1308	Leics Gardens	Churchyard & Cemetery	£ 780.00	Open Spaces
		Grass Mowing – May/June 2020		Act 1906
Chq No 1309	S Porter	Clerk's Salary – June 2020	£ 201.80	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses – June 2020	£ 33.60	LGA 1972 s112

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Nat West	Interest	£ 2.11
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Bank Balances

(as at 31/05/2020) - £ 12,922.52

6. PLANNING

DA/2020/0332 – Part conversion and first floor extension to garage to form annexe – **Greetwell House, Main Street, Watford**

The Parish Council support the objections raised by the neighbouring property, and will ask that these comments are taken into consideration when determining the application.

PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permissions granted:

DA/2020/0313 – Construction of workshop together with removal of canvas canopy and revocation of planning permission DA/2019/0609 – **Venture Caravans, Toll House, Watling Street, Watford**

DA/2020/0122 – Outline application for replacement of existing dwelling with two dwellings on a different footprint (All matters reserved) – **The Old Lodge, Crick Road, Watford**

DA/2020/0096 – Construction of single storey rear extension and part conversion of garage and construction of first floor to form bedroom to be used ancillary to the main dwelling – **Greetwell House, Main Street, Watford**

7. STATEMENT FROM PARISH COUNCILLOR ALAN HAYWOOD – The Parish Council were reminded that approaching is the 2 year anniversary of the sad loss of parish councillor and friend, Malcolm Shirley. He will always be remembered and is very much missed.

8. PUBLIC TIME – It was asked that personal views and beliefs, along with long-standing grudges are not aired during the meeting between parish councillors. There should be appropriate action taken with any councillor that does not adhere to the Code of Conduct, both in the meetings and whilst out in public.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 3rd September 2020 - 7pm

Meeting Closed: 8:12pm