

## WATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th July 2021 – 7pm

#### 1. OPENING PROCEDURES

**Present** – T Cansfield, P Collins, K Cox (Chairman), W Jenkins, V Knapp, J Powell, Clerk - Sue Porter and 5 members of the public, and 7 attendees on Zoom

1.1 Acceptance of Apologies – P Inley (work)

1.2 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 8th June 2021** – It was proposed by J Powell, seconded by T Cansfield 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 Dog Fouling – Village Green – Additional CCTV camera – The situation has improved recently, however P Collins will be installing an additional CCTV camera shortly.

#### 3. BUSINESS

3.1 Street Light Replacement – Stagside House – The quote has been received from Aylesbury Mains for a replacement street light, which would be £850.00 plus the connection fee. It was agreed that this situation be monitored, as the restaurant development works, opposite this location, may well provide an increase in lighting for the area.

3.2 Waste Bins for the Village – The Chairman has located some waste bins for the village which are £85.00 plus £15.00 postage each. All voted in favour to proceed and purchase three bins. These will be sited by the bus stop, on the Village Green and in Kilsby Road. As Norse will charge an annual emptying cost, of around £300 per bin, V Knapp agreed to empty the bins on a regular basis and put the bags with the Wombles litter for collection.

3.3 Highways Concerns raised by PC - Response from Matthew Clarke (WNC) – Following an e-mail from the Chairman the following response was received:

Traffic Calming – There is no funding for this project from Highways as the village does not fit the required criteria to qualify. Highways will be requested to undertake a traffic survey and also be asked what costs are involved for a traffic narrowing project.

The Police ANPR camera is now in place by the A5.

Speed Limit Signs – The flashing signs were replaced by Highways last year. Repeaters on the road would not be permitted due to the street lighting and adequate signage.

Grass Verge Damage – There is no funding available for preventative measures on the grass verges in Church Street; this is only made available when there are safety concerns. No Parking signs are not permitted on the highways verge, but residents can place signs on their own property.

HGV's – Due to the concerns raised many times by the PC, the motorway service barriers need to remain functional at all times. It was part of the planning conditions recently granted to Costa. This problem will be escalated through to JAG (Joint Action Group) who can enforce this with Highways England and the Services Management.

3.4 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022 – It was agreed by all that a community event needs to be planned for the village. An Event Planning Committee needs to be formed. The Village Hall Committee will be asked to be involved, along with the parishioners.

3.5 Internal Audit Report 2020/21 \_ The Chairman read out the report to the PC. The following actions will be undertaken as follows;

An Internal Control Policy will be adopted.

There will be two separate items on the agenda when discussing the precept planning, one for discussing the budget and the other for agreeing the precept figure.

Resolutions will be recorded in the minutes with the actions from the PC clearly defined.

3.6 Churchyard Grass Cutting – The contractor is undertaking a good job at the moment and is in regular communication with J Powell.

Quote for tree maintenance – H Mockett has provided the following quotes for consideration by the PC:

Churchyard – Reduce the height of 1 Holly Tree by half, trim back ivy on rear of Yew Tree, remove 1 x Holly Tree, Remove 1 x Holly Tree (behind Church) – all for the sum of £300 – All voted in favour to proceed.

Cemetery – Cut back Conifer hedge on Cemetery side – all for the sum of £460 – All voted in favour to proceed.

Cemetery – Reduce height of Conifer hedge to the previous reduction points, on the right side of the Cemetery – all for the sum of £499.00. All voted in favour to proceed.

3.7 Ideas for Young People in the Village – Following a social media post from V Knapp, along with speaking to the children, responses have been received, mainly from the younger age group, who would ideally like a play area. Older children have requested a basketball hoop. Costings will be obtained from Wicksteed, along with agreeing the best locations for the equipment to be sited. Those suggested were on the Village Green or behind the Wheelwrights Arms. Advice will be obtained from WNC Planning Department from V Knapp. There is grant funding available for these schemes, from the National Lottery or Postcode Lottery, and there has been an offer of help from a parishioner with completing these forms.

3.8 Potential Cycle/Footway from Watford to Murcott – There are safety concerns with children walking from Long Buckby through to McDonalds at the Services. This is a particularly fast stretch of road and no footpath. McDonalds have been contacted to see if any funding for a foot/cycleway project between Watford and Murcott. Highways will also be contacted by the Chairman and asked for their advice.

#### 4. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT – No report received

#### 5. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

5.1 Village Hall – No meeting held in June due to the Classic Car Show, which was a great success and had a great deal of community involvement and support. The Parish Council have been offered a donation of £1,000 towards a community project from the event, which was greatly appreciated. The Wi-Fi is now installed in the Village Hall.

5.2 Churchyard & Cemetery – Already discussed at Item 3.6

5.3 Parish Paths Warden – V Knapp has contacted the Canal & Rivers Trust regarding the state of the footpath between the motorway and Kilsby Road. They have responded with a request for more detailed information and photos. All Rights of Way defects are to be reported on the “Fix My Street” system, provided by WNC.

5.4 Street Lighting – The street light near to Woodlands Court is out, however, to save on call out charges from the contractors, the PC will await a second fault.

5.5 Highways – Already discussed at Item 3.3

#### 6. FINANCE

##### 6.1 Approve Accounts to be paid

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

<b>Chq No 1337</b>	S Porter	Clerk's Salary – June 2021	£ 321.40	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses – June 2021	£ 24.00	LGA 1972 s112
<b>Chq No 1338</b>	Leics Gardens	Grass Mowing – May 2021	£ 500.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
		Churchyard & Cemetery x 2		
<b>Chq No 1339</b>	HMRC	PAYE 2021/22 Q1	£ 130.95	LGA 1972 s112

**PAYMENTS RECEIVED**

Nat West	Interest	£ 0.13
WNC	½ Year Precept	£ 6,750.00
HMRC	VAT Refund 2020-21	£ 71.57

**Bank Balances**

**(as at 31/05/2021) - £ 17,716.26**

**7. PLANNING**

**WND/2021/0139** – Construction of new storage unit and extension to existing unit – **Nene Group plc, Welton Station, Station Road, Watford**

**No Objections**

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

**No Objections**

**8. PUBLIC TIME**

A Haywood advised that in his opinion the removal of the street light at Welton Station is not causing an issue and the PC should save the large costs involved by leaving this. He agreed that waste bins in the village are required and that the issue of speeding needs to be addressed, with the installation of something like a chicane.

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th September 2021 – 7pm - Watford Village Hall**

**Meeting Closed: 8:15pm**