

WATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th November 2021 – 7pm in Watford Village Hall

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Present – T Cansfield, P Incley, W Jenkins, V Knapp, J Powell, Clerk - Sue Porter, West Northants Councillor , 5 members of the public, and 7 attendees on Zoom

1.1 Election of Chairman – J Powell proposed that P Incley be nominated as Chairman, seconded by V Knapp and all voted in favour.

1.1 Election of Vice Chairman – J Powell proposed that P Collins be nominated as Vice Chairman, seconded by W Jenkins and all voted in favour.

1.2 Co-Opting of Parish Councillor – Andy Cansfield would like to be co-opted to be on the parish council. There being no other applicants, it was agreed by all that A Cansfield be co-opted.

1.4 Acceptance of Apologies – P Collins

1.5 Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 12th October 2021** – It was approved by all that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

1.6 Declarations of Interests – Personal or Prejudicial – Nil

2. GUEST – Kevin Fagan (WNC – Community Partnerships Manager) – Unable to attend due to illness, a report was read out:

Two issues which I was planning to speak to which would be of specific interest to Watford PC are the barriers at the service roads to Watford Gap Services and the issues around the former Mango Lounge.

You may know that I had a hand in getting the barriers reinstated; I recently became aware that they were not working again and have started to work with colleagues at National Highways (as Highways England are now known) to address the repair – DDC made it a planning condition for the new drive-thru coffee concessions that the company who got the gig would reinstate the barriers and be responsible for their maintenance.

Mango Lounge - my Planning colleagues were already looking into the possible breach of regulations and I have also brought Housing Enforcement, HMO Licensing and Council Tax into the mix; Police are aware and we are looking at a range of potential issues.

3. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Charles Morton (WNC) – It was asked that the PC respond to the WNC Strategic Plan Consultation which includes proposals for 5000 new homes in Long Buckby, between the Railway Station and the Wharf. All ward councillors are against the proposals. An exhibition was held in the Community Centre which was well attended by over 100 residents. Another one is hoped to be arranged to enable more people to view the proposed development and the impact on the area.

4. MATTERS ARISING – Nil

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022 – V Knapp, along with Danielle Incley, has had a meeting with Ken Brand from the Village Hall. There will be a flyer distributed around the village and a community fundraising effort needed.

5.2 Motorway Services Barriers - This will be deferred to December when hopefully Kevin Fagan will be in attendance and an update can be provided. The PC are fed up with the excuses and the lack of urgency with the repairs.

5.3 HGV 7.5t Weight Restriction – Traffic calming through the village is not an option according to Highways, so a weight restriction will be the alternative option.

5.4 Play Equipment – Wicksteed Leisure Proposals – Await a quote from Wicksteed.

- 5.5 Village Green – Maintenance Management Discussions – NFP have decided against the mowing of the Village Green and have suggested the land be returned to grazing. The Village Hall Trustees could be interested in taking on the responsibility, with the support of the PC and the community. A meeting will be arranged between all parties; the PC, Village Hall Trustees and Andrew Eden,
- 5.6 Churchyard Wall Maintenance – Awaiting a report from Tom Freezer who did the recent inspection. Once the quote is received, it will need to be agreed whom is responsible for the paying of the repair works.
- 5.7 West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan – The PC will prepare a response which will be approved over e-mail and submitted by the deadline date of 6th December 2021.
- 5.8 WNC Town & Parish Forum – Wednesday 17th November 2021 6-7:30pm (MS Teams) – W Jenkins will attend on behalf of the PC.
- 5.9 Street Lighting Maintenance Contractor – Aylesbury Mains have ceased trading. All clients are being referred to Forde and McHugh who offer the same maintenance service. The street light outside Woodlands Court will be reported for repair.

6. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

6.1 Village Hall – Update provided from Geoff Dent:

October/November events: Very successful Quiz Night, Sold out Murder Mystery Night, Poppy Brunch in aid of The British Legion raised £200 (Great to see the local artists and Long Buckby Classics supporting)

Maintenance: Car park surface, still pending following numerous contractor issues, Stage extension work completed, Light fittings in small meeting room and kitchen to be replaced with LED fittings, Autumn tidy up of exterior grounds planned for November

Bookings: There are 23 separate bookings for November.

Up & Coming Events: Thai Food Night & Quiz and Christmas Fayre

6.2 Churchyard & Cemetery – The grass mowing season has now been completed. No issues to report.

6.3 Parish Paths Warden – The faded/missing way markers have now been replaced along the path from Kilsby Road to Long Buckby. The stile still needs repairing by the canal. The footpath sign, as you approach from West Haddon, has been replaced.

6.4 Street Lighting – The street light outside Woodlands Court remains out. This will be reported to the new contractors.

6.5 Highways (To be appointed) – W Jenkins agrees to take on the role of Highways Rep.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Approve Accounts to be paid:

It was approved by all that the following accounts be paid:

Chq No 1350	S Porter	Clerk's Salary – Oct 2021	£ 346.80	LGA 1972 s112
		Clerk's Expenses – Oct 2021	£ 24.00	LGA 1972 s112
Chq No 1351	Leics Gardens	Grass Mowing – Sept 21	£ 500.00	Open Spaces
		Churchyard & Cemetery x 2		Act 1906
Chq No 1352	H Mockett	Cemetery Tree Works	£ 460.00	Open Spaces
				Act 1906
Chq No 1353	E-On	Street Lighting July-Sept 21	£ 108.01	PCA1957 s3
Chq No 1354	HMRC	PAYE 2021/22 Q2	£ 187.22	LGA 1972 s112
Chq No 1355	RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath (S137)	£ 30.00	LGA 1972 s111
Chq No 1356	Buckby Library & Hub	Grant Donation (Approved 2019)	£ 250.00	LGA 1972 s111

Bank Balances

(as at 30/09/2021) - £ 20,295.92

8. PLANNING

WND/2021/0563 – Listed Building Consent for repairs to Locks 1, 3, 5, 6 & 7 including ladder replacements, gate replacements, grouting and repairs to chamber brickwork – **Watford Locks, Watling Street, Watford**

No Objections

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permission granted:

WND/2021/0545 – Removal of tree within a conservation area – **1 Fog Cottages, Station Road, Watford**

9. PUBLIC TIME – Chairman of Long Buckby PC, Geoff Spokes, asked for support in responding to the WNC Strategic Plan. Many thanks were given for the donation to the Buckby Library & Hub, this support is greatly appreciated.

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

Meeting Closed: 7:50pm