

PARISH OF WATERBEACH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Waterbeach held on Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 7.30 pm at the Community Primary School, High Street, Waterbeach.

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Maurice Leeke and District Cllr Ingrid Tregoing.

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor M Williamson, Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone and gave a short introduction about the format of the meeting.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 May 2016 were put to the meeting and agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Bull Seconded: Cllr Shipp. 5 in favour, none against

3. REPORTS ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR 2016-2017

Michael Williamson presented the draft accounts for 2015-16 and covered the following highlights in his Chair's report:

Cemetery – arrangements were now in hand to secure additional land from the MOD to enable the cemetery to be extended. A legal agreement was being drawn up.

The SCDC Local Plan – publication had been further delayed. Transport was a key elements on which the Government Inspector had commented and asked questions. It may be a year before it was ready

New Skatepark – it was good to see this facility so well used by residents and also people from neighbouring villages.

40 mph signs – these had now been put up on Denny End, Car Dyke and Clayhithe roads

Pedestrian crossing – the Council was aware of concerns with the design of the crossing by the Baptist church. These would be following up with the County Highways authority who were the decision making body for these.

Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup – the Council had not been able to help as the WTP looked for new premises, but it was understood a potential site had now been identified.

Grants – the PC had supported WAY, Relate and the Waterbeach Independent Lending Library during the year.

Parish Office – Liz Jones had moved on and the new Clerk, Shelley Mason, was now in post.

The Grounds care had been the subject of a tendering exercise during the year but no bids had been received so no changes were foreseen. The Chair thanked the grounds staff for keeping the village areas in good shape.

Looking ahead, projects to be developed included improvements to the Recreation Ground Car Park; a revamp of the Old Skatepark and a new bowls pavilion. These were big projects which would need project management expertise to guide WPC through the technical and procedural challenges that would arise.

Planning

Cllr Barbara Bull, Chair of Planning Committee, referred to the recent U&C planning application. This was an exceedingly large application, one of the biggest in the UK. and WPC would have access to specialist planning advice from a consultant (Tim Slater) to help it understand the issues and processes involved. She also explained that while contributions

could be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure (so-called Section 106 contributions) – there were tight constraints on what they could be spent on and a recent rule change meant we would have to identify specific projects in the future.

Highways

Cllr Ivan Gilzean, Chair of Highways Committee, explained the Committee was aware of concerns regarding both speeding and parking. These were difficult issues to resolve and enforcement was a major concern. There were now new speed limit signs in village and the Council was also hoping to jointly purchase a mobile speed sign (like the one in Horningsea). This would have the dual purpose of encouraging drivers to observe the limits and providing data which the Council could collect as evidence of an ongoing problem.

4. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A report was received from County Cllr Maurice Leeke which would be put onto the website. District Cllr Peter Johnson said it had been a busy year and the one ahead would be equally demanding. With lots of development already under way, he pointed out that SCDC had only three Planning enforcement officers for its 101 villages. It was therefore important the public continued to report concerns into them.

District Cllr Ingrid Tregoing said she was working on plans for a warden scheme to assist older residents in need in the village and she hoped a formal proposal could be presented to the Parish Council for approval in the coming months.

Cllr Williamson thanked them for their updates.

5. PRESENTATION ON THE WATERBEACH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Williams made a presentation on the Neighbourhood Plan and the stages its development needed to work through. Volunteers to join in with the development work were most welcome with meetings usually on the second Tuesday of each month.

6. REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Williamson explained that reports received from groups would be put onto the Waterbeach Parish Council website

7. OPEN FORUM

Questions had been taken during the preceding items. No additional matters were raised.