

## **WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Waterbeach Parish Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the New Pavilion, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach.

### **PRESENTATION at 7 pm**

Prior to the meeting, Andrew Newton of Waterbeach Internal Drainage Board spoke about the drainage arrangements in Waterbeach.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Mr G Fletcher agreed to speak to items 9 (Equipment Purchase) and 10 (Football Tournament Parking) at that point in the meeting.

Mr A Evans spoke about the event the previous evening (to discuss the proposed Local Plan) which had been very well attended and those present had plans to demonstrate outside the District Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March. It was felt that Parish Councillors should attend. On a new Facebook page (Waterbeach Voice) the major issues of interest were drainage and lighting outside the village centre and in the recreation ground car park and footpaths.

Mrs S Kay supported what Mr Evans had said. As regards the Local Plan, it may be late in the process but may not be too late to influence the decision.

### **COUNCIL**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor Kay, Chair  
Councillors Bull, Bullivant, Cornwell, Grant, Howlett, B Johnson, P Johnson, Lloyd, Rabbett, Smart, J Williamson, M Williamson.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

E Jones, Parish Clerk

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Smith and Wright.

#### **152/13 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 February 2014 were approved as a correct record and were signed.

Proposed: Cllr Lloyd. Seconded: Cllr. Bull. In favour 9. Abstentions 4 – Cllrs Cornwell, Grant, Howlett and Rabbett.

### **153/13 MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Cllr P. Johnson declared an interest as a District Councillor in item 5 (Planning) and other matters relating to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Cllr Smart declared an interest in item 11 (Hearing)

Cllr Rabbett declared an interest in item 17 (Accounts)

### **154/13 PLANNING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council had no objections to the planning application S/2672/13/FL (11 Clare Close) with the proviso that building materials be kept off the road

Proposed Cllr Bull. Unanimous

### **155/13 ACCESS RAMP TO OLD PAVILION**

The Clerk presented a preliminary report, having received four quotations of varying price and detail.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be asked to obtain references and check when the work could be carried out and to check the following points on all quotations and report back to the council:

- Conformance to part M of building regulations
- Space allowed for the platform and turning outside the office door
- Improvement/replacement of the path at the base of the ramp

Proposed: Cllr Kay. Unanimous.

### **156/13 SKATE PARK**

- The working party reported that a suggestion had been made to replace the tennis court near the path with a skatepark and to restore the existing skatepark as a tennis court. Possible advantages over the current skatepark location would be easier access for construction and the completed skatepark would be further from residential properties. This option would therefore be incorporated into the tender documents.
- A member of public is interested in the unused half-pipe and has offered to remove it. This will be looked into.
- As it is hoped to publish the final tender document before the next Parish Council meeting, the final draft will be circulated by email to all councillors for their comments.

Cllr Grant left the meeting at 7.55pm

### **157/13 OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT**

The Clerk reported that the installation had started and it was hoped would be finished in the week beginning 17 March.

### **158/13 WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL LOGO**

It was felt that the time had come to create an identifiable logo for Parish Council signs, documents and correspondence and to agree a consistent use of fonts and layout.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should consult with Cllr Howlett and present some alternatives for the council to consider

Proposed: Cllr Kay. Seconded Cllr B Johnson. Unanimous.

### **159/13 REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

#### **(a) Keep Waterbeach Rural / Waterbeach Voice**

There was a long discussion during which it was made clear that the majority of councillors present supported the current agenda of this organisation in its opposition to the proposed Local Plan. However the Parish Council had been advised that it was inadvisable to fund an organisation with specific planning objectives as these objectives were not necessarily shared by all residents and it would mean the Parish Council taking a predetermined stance with regard to future planning applications, when it should remain neutral. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** to turn down this request for funding.

Proposed: Cllr Kay. In favour 8. Abstentions 4 - Cllrs Bull, Bullivant, Howlett and Smart

#### **(b) A Day at the Beach**

it was **RESOLVED** to approve this application for funding

Proposed: Cllr Lloyd, Seconded: Cllr Rabbett. In favour 10. Abstentions 2 Cllrs Bullivant & Smart

### **160/13 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

The Clerk had presented a report illustrating the benefits of a new white line sprayer for marking the sport pitches and recommended that the Council consider the purchase of such a machine and that the Colts Football Club be asked to see if they know of any grant funding available to assist with this purchase.

At 8.15 pm the Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow Mr G Fletcher, representing Waterbeach Colts, to speak. Mr Fletcher spoke in favour of the proposal and pointed out that the sprayer can be used for marking cricket as well as football pitches.

it was **RESOLVED** to ask the Colts to try and obtain external funding for part of the cost.

Proposed: Cllr M Williamson. Unanimous

### **161/13 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT PARKING 23/25 MAY 13**

The possibility was discussed of allowing parking inside the recreation ground itself, alongside the hedge beside the driveway. Mr Fletcher has approached the school to see if parents could park there and this looks possible. Parking attendants, cones (which the Community Association could assist with.) and car sharing were mentioned. It was agreed to ask Mr Fletcher to meet with the Chair and the Clerk and to come up with dry and wet weather options

### **162/13 HEARING**

Cllr Kay read out the following statement regarding the recent court hearing.

Waterbeach Parish Council were represented in the case number (UKEATPA/1595/12/BA) in the appeal court by Shahin Ismail from LCSS. Alan Williams and the Chair, Norma Kay were in attendance. The hearing took place at the High Court on February 10 2014. The case was heard by His Honour Judge Shanks and lasted approximately 3 hours. Judge Shanks commented on the judgement from the Employment Tribunal hearing in Bury St Edmunds. He found that the judge in the case had made a finding of “wrongful dismissal” regarding notice pay but a contrary finding in the unfair dismissal claim. The Parish Council was required to pay the ex-clerk for some holiday pay and notice. The case for unfair dismissal was lost by Mrs. Smart. Judge Shanks said that the problem was that the judgement in the Employment Tribunal did not provide sufficient detail of the reasons for Mrs Smart’s dismissal and concluded that she was entitled to know the details of why she had been dismissed. Judge Shanks upheld the appeal, however it will be a limited rehearing with the only issue being whether there were reasonable grounds for the Appeal Panel to have found the Appellant guilty of misconduct. “The only evidence to be called is that which was before the Appeal Panel.” Judge Shanks made helpful comments about the case. HHJ Shanks implored the parties not to spend any more money on what he described as ‘pointless litigation’ but he accepted that Mrs. Smart was entitled to have her reasons. Judge Shanks said that Mrs Smart should not take the hearing as a “win”. The Parish Council hopes that, in light of the judge’s comments, the litigation can now come to a close. Waterbeach Parish Council Employment panel met on February 21<sup>st</sup> and welcomed the opportunity to return to Bury St Edmunds in this matter.

Councillors were invited to ask questions but none were raised.

### **163/13 TILLAGE HALL LICENCE**

It is hoped shortly to sign a formal lease with a Limited Company called Waterbeach Tillage Hall which would in due course become a registered Charity. The governing documents have previously been circulated. In the meantime

it was **RESOLVED** to issue an informal licence to the new organisation Waterbeach Tillage Hall

Proposed: Cllr Kay. In favour 9. Abstentions 3 – Cllrs M Williamson, J Williamson and Smart.

### **164/13 EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

It was agreed to reinstate the Emergency Committee and that those involved should meet as soon as possible – namely Cllrs J Williamson, Lloyd, P Johnson, B Johnson and Rabbett. Members of the community were also to be included.

### **165/13 PAYMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES CONTRIBUTIONS – 76 ROSEMARY ROAD - S/1879/13/VC.**

it was **RESOLVED** to sign the undertaking

Proposed: Cllr Kay. Unanimous

## 166/13 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- School Lane Chittering is in a bad state due to the soakaway being blocked with mud. This had first been reported to the County Council over 6 weeks ago. Because of this the School bus has to stop on A10
- The play equipment in the Chittering playpark needs to be cleaned.
- There is still a problem with the location of the dog bin on Primrose Lane
- A new pothole has opened up in front of One-Stop
- The pothole near the Fish shop is very big and dangerous in particular for bikes
- A problem with the street lights in Waddelow Road and Wiles Close has been reported
- The light opposite the bus stop needs to be replaced
- The small gate at the cemetery does not shut due to a problem with the wall.

## 167/13 REPORTS

- (i) **The Parish Clerk** presented her report which is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Smart suggested that it may not be necessary to remove turf before planting the wildflower seeds and that he knew a less expensive source of seeds. The Clerk asked Cllr Smart to put her in touch with the person who had advised regarding the turf as well as to send her information on the alternative seed supplier.

- (ii) **County Councillor** – County Cllr Leeke reported : -

- There will be a fresh consultation on the A14 as a new layout is proposed.
- The County Council budget has been agreed including ParknRide changes and cutting of funding to children's centres e.g. Dolphin Centre. Locality managers will ask Parish Councils if they are interested in supporting some sessions.
- The police liaison meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb mentioned the burglaries & problems with parking on Clayhithe road.
- Some of the potholes have been filled today.
- It had been acknowledged that the lighting contract had been poorly drawn up and executed. Whilst it had been intended that the number of lights be reduced by 10% they should have been redistributed rather than big gaps being left.
- Cllr Leeke has been in contact with the area manager regarding School Lane Chittering and has taken note of the other points raised.

- (iii) **District Councillor** –District Cllr P Johnson reported: -

- The renaming of Robson Court is still being investigated. Also the site engineer had suggested the company may offer something e.g. a seat as a contribution to the community
- Cllr P Johnson has been touch with Anglian Water who have cleared rubbish from Denny End ditch.
- The County Council are now clearing the dyke along the A10
- There is a small stock of sandbags now in the garage near Chapel Close on the recreation ground

- (iv) **Chairman** – Cllr Kay reported: -

- The application for a crossing had again been declined although we were higher up the list this time. The Parish Council could look into the possibility of financing this independently via reserves or a loan. It was estimated that the cost would be around £25,000. It was agreed to add this matter to the next Finance Committee Agenda.

- The defibrillator machine had been installed and is now fully operational. The ambulance service complimented Robert on the attachment of the notice to say that the machine was non-operational during the installation phase; which has not always been made clear at other installations. On a very serious note it was brought to the Chair's attention that a Facebook page "Waterbeach Matters" was making completely inaccurate comments about the hours when the defibrillator can be used. The item is fully operational 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and it is an offence to publish untrue or potentially misleading information about an item of safety equipment, especially one that has the potential to save lives. There will be some joint familiarisation sessions with sports clubs and these will be advertised soon but training is not necessary to use the machine. The defibrillator is accessed under instruction from the 999 service and the machine talks to you and tells you what to do. The ambulance service is also hoping to re-establish a "First Responders" presence in the village. Posters will be displayed for anyone who might be interested in joining the scheme and undergoing training.

- Cllr Kay noted that the Parish Council and this village are very lucky to have the employees they do have and proposed the following resolution

It was **RESOLVED** that this Parish Council distances itself from the objectionable mistruths and in some instances, libellous comments posted on the "Waterbeach Matters" Facebook page. The Parish Council will take steps to protect the reputations of its staff and elected members and is exploring these issues with Facebook through its legal advisers.

Proposed: Cllr Kay Seconded: Cllr Rabbett. In Favour 11. Abstentions: 1 Cllr Smart

- The Parish Council was most grateful to Don Hapuarachchi for the Magnolia tree now in place within sight of Dave Halsey's ground floor flat at Chapel Close. Dave was a very valued member of our community and the tree will be a lovely reminder of Dave's presence and the work he was involved with over the years. We also thank Don for helping to position the tree with some heavy duty equipment. Our staff were very grateful for the help.
- Thanks were recorded to Cllr Howlett for a first rate job on the layout of the newsletter. It was agreed that in future the final PDF be circulated to Councillors in advance of distribution so they are fully aware of the final content.

(v) **Library Officer** – no report submitted

(vi) **CAPALC** – no report submitted

## 168/13 ACCOUNTS

A list of bills due to be paid was circulated to councillors.

It was **RESOLVED**. To pass the accounts for payment.

Proposed Cllr Lloyd Seconded Cllr Bull. In favour 10. Abstentions 2 - Cllrs Cornwell and Smart.

The Meeting closed at 9.21 pm

**Chairman**