

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

**Notes on Annual Parish Meeting held in St Mary's Church, Great Wrating, on  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 7.30 for 8 p.m.**

Present: County Cllr Bobby Bennett  
District Cllr Peter Stevens

Tim Barling, Agent, Thurlow Estate

Parish Cllrs Terry Holloway (Chair), Margaret May (Vice-Chair), Tim Hayes and  
Barry Judge. (Cllr Dawn Fisk had sent her apologies)

Approx. 15 members of the public

### Welcome

Cllr Terry Holloway, Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed the attendees, and thanked the Parochial Church Council for the use of the church for the meeting.

### Great Wrating Parish Council report

Cllr Holloway said the Parish Council's priorities were highways and security. He said areas where the Parish Council had not yet achieved its objectives were the proposed Heritage Trail, curbing speeding, the maintenance of verges, and tree-planting. However, it had succeeded in getting "Quiet Lanes" status for the village's two by-roads, installing a defibrillator, placing a bench in the churchyard in memory of former Red Lion landlord George Sykes, and refurbishing the Village Sign.

He outlined plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon-lighting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

A petition, organised by Eileen Stephenson, calling for a reduction in traffic, especially heavy lorries, through the village, was presented to County Cllr Bobby Bennett, who promised to pass it on to the relevant members of the County Council.

### Suffolk County Council report

Points mentioned by County Cllr Bobby Bennett included:

- the decision to continue with the booking system at recycling centres, which was introduced during the pandemic and had proved effective
- the County Council's ambition for Suffolk to be the 'greenest' county
- additional spending on highways
- an emphasis on adult services and children's care
- the possibility of Suffolk getting a "county deal" as part of the Government's "levelling-up" agenda
- the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees, which was now one of her County Council responsibilities
- she said she was trying to find a solution to the traffic problem in the village and offered to arrange a meeting of representatives from several villages with County Council officers.
- she said it looked as though long-awaited repair work at the ford in The Street would now go ahead.

Highways concerns raised with her by residents included:

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

- a serious problem in Thurlow Road, which was so narrow in places that lorries could not pass each other, sometimes causing queues of traffic to reverse down the hill.
- the possible resurfacing of School Road, which would probably bring it up to the same level as the pavement. Vehicles already drove onto the pavement, making it dangerous for pedestrians.

## Tree-planting

Cllr Judge said one problem the Parish Council had in siting the trees was that it did not own any land. He said the Parish Council would welcome suggestions as to where they should be planted and pointed out that as young trees they would need to be watered .

Cllr Holloway said one possibility was to plant avenues.

Tim Barling gave advice on tree-planting, including the use of water-jackets.

## Motorcycles

Mr Barling, when asked what could be done about the problem of motorcyclists using Thurlow Estate tracks, said it was very difficult to catch the offenders. Cllr Holloway said the Parish Council would use the e-mail tree to urge residents to notify the Police if they saw Estate tracks being used by motorcyclists.

## Permissive paths

Cllr Holloway referred to a joint request which had been made, unsuccessfully, by Withersfield and Great Wratting Parish Councils for Thurlow Estate to allow some routes on its land to become permissive paths. He said Great Wratting was really only interested in a route linking the two villages and asked whether it would be worth the Parish Council applying again, this time for just one. Mr Barling said it could by all means apply again but it would be a family decision.

## West Suffolk District Council report

District Cllr Peter Stevens gave a report.

- He mentioned the District Council's Local plan, but stressed that no sites in the village had been earmarked for building.
- He spoke about traffic problems, and especially lorries, saying that the major housing developments on the edge of Haverhill would put an extra load on the B1061 through the village. At present it was designated by the County Council as a "strategic lorry route" but needed to be declassified.
- He stressed the need to get the relevant County Councillor to look at the Thurlow Road issue. He also referred to the problems created by the recent road closure.

## Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Church, Great Wratting

Simon Corbett, one of the church wardens, had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend.

A report from the PCC said the Village Fete was key in raising funds for the church. Residents were asked to support the fete and also to join the Parish Giving Scheme.

## Heritage Trail and footpaths

Cllr Holloway explained the background, asked whether people supported the idea and called for volunteers.

One resident warned of the danger from traffic which visitors would face walking round the village.

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

It was mentioned that in some places hedges which were overhanging pavements needed to be cut back. Cllr Holloway said this was going to be looked at.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Clare Egloff, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, had sent her apologies as she was not able to attend.

Cllr Holloway read her report. As a general point, people were urged to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious.

## Defibrillator

Cllr Tim Hayes said the defibrillator had now been installed in the decommissioned phone box, and explained how residents should use it.

## Highways

Cllr Margaret May said The Street and Withersfield Road had been designated as “Quiet Lanes”. Signs were in place in The Street and those for Withersfield Road would be put up soon. A PR campaign would publicise the scheme county-wide.

She urged residents to report highways issues online via the County Council reporting tool.

A resident called for a sign to warn drivers where pedestrians crossed School Road to reach the public footpath.

It was mentioned that a “Dangerous bend” sign which was knocked down had still not been replaced.

## Village Fete

Cllr Hayes, Chair of the Village Fete Committee, outlined plans for the fete and called for volunteers to help.

## Other issues raised by residents included:

- It was suggested that village communications could be improved by setting up a WhatsApp group
- Some newcomers were left off the e-mail tree distribution
- It was suggested that new residents should be welcomed in person. It was pointed out that the Parish Council relied on residents informing it when newcomers moved into the village.

## Neil Curtis

In his absence Neil Curtis, who stepped down from the Parish Council in March, was thanked by Cllr Holloway for his contribution to the Council’s work.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

Richard Bowler  
Clerk to Great Wrating Parish Council