

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wrattling Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at the Red Lion, School Road, Great Wrattling CB9 7HA.

Present: Cllrs Terry Holloway (Chair), Margaret May (Vice-Chair), Dawn Fisk and Stuart Kingsbury

Absent: Cllr Tim Hayes

In attendance: County Cllr Bobby Bennett (for part of meeting)
District Cllr Indy Wijenayaka (for part of meeting)
1 member of the public
Richard Bowler (Parish Clerk)

Public forum (15 minutes): Comments and observations from members of the public
(*Deferred to later in the meeting*)

MINUTES

ACTION

1. Apologies for absence

To accept any apologies, with reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Tim Hayes (out of parish).

Barry Judge

Cllr Holloway reported that Barry Judge had resigned from the Parish Council on 14 March. He praised Mr Judge for the work he had done for the village during his time on the Council. The remaining Parish Councillors agreed that they would like to mark his contribution with a gift, which Cllr Fisk will organise.

DF

2. Members' declarations of interest

To receive members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

3. Minutes of previous meeting(s)

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th January 2024

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th January 2024 were approved. (prop DF, 2nd MM. SK abst)

4. Matters arising

a) Speeding: County Cllr Bobby Bennett said she had asked the police whether speed cameras could be used more frequently in the area and was waiting for a response.

BB

b) Vehicle-activated signs: County Cllr Bennett suggested that the Parish Council could contact Clare Town Council about this as it had recently purchased VAS equipment.

Clerk

District Cllr Indy Wijenayaka said £500 may be available from his Locality Budget. He knew of other local parishes which were considering buying VAS equipment and suggested that if they combined their order they might get a discount.

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- c) Flooding: County Cllr Bennett was thanked for getting action taken to resolve the flooding problem in Withersfield Road but it was noted that there was still flooding in other parts of the village.
- d) Thurlow Estate: Cllr Holloway said Alison Provis had been appointed as the new Agent at Thurlow Estate.
- e) Litter bin: District Cllr Wijenayaka said if the District Council installs a litter and dog waste bin near the footpath opposite Coronation Cottages the Parish Council will have to pay for both the installation and for it to be emptied. The Clerk is to find out the costs.

Clerk

5. Local authority reports

a) Suffolk County Council

- i) To receive County Council report (e-mailed by County Cllr Bobby Bennett)

At the meeting, Cllr Bennett mentioned:

Mary Evans: A memorial service for Mary Evans, her predecessor, was being held on 9th April.

County Council responsibilities: She said her role on the County Council had changed and she was now Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services.

b) West Suffolk District Council

Cllr Wijenayaka's report included the following:

Suffolk Local Transport Plan: This was out for consultation.

Thermal imaging camera: The thermal imaging camera, which helps householders find where the main heat losses are in their homes, was now available for Great Wrattling residents to borrow. This will be publicised via the e-mail tree.

Anaerobic digester proposal: The County Council was awaiting answers from the applicants to various questions. The proposal may go to a public consultation.

Flooding: Cllr May mentioned that there had been more flooding, this time on Withersfield Road, below Moor Pasture Farm.

DF

Public forum

(The Parish Council meeting was then suspended and went into a public session, although none of the members of the public who had raised points were at the meeting.)

- a) A resident said Anglian Water, which recently had a compound at the top of The Street while they were carrying out work in the area, had apparently damaged verges there, and asked whether they would be carrying out remedial work. AGREED that the Clerk will ask Anglian Water what they plan to do about it, and whether they will be creating a compound on that site again
- b) Another resident was concerned about the state of verges in Moor Pasture Way. AGREED that the Clerk should write to all residents in Moor Pasture Way, explaining that concern had been expressed about the state of the verges there, asking them not to park on the verges and to put right any damage which may have been caused.

Clerk

Clerk

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It was also AGREED that the Clerk should write to the landlord of one property where a pile of bricks had been left outside.

Clerk

- c) Two residents were concerned about a message on a village Whatsapp group, concerning grass verges, dog mess and motorbikes. They suggested that the Parish Council should set up a separate Whatsapp group for Parish Council messages.

AGREED that people using the village Whatsapp group would be encouraged to also join the Parish Council's e-mail tree so that the Parish Council could use that means to communicate with them.

DF

- d) Clare Egloff had said she was standing down as the local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. Cllr Holloway said he would look for someone to take on the role.

THo

Public forum ended (*the Parish Council meeting resumed*)

4. Matters arising (*continued*)

- f) Overgrown hedge on roadway: The occupants of the property had not yet been contacted. Cllr Kingsbury will let the Clerk have the address.

SK
Clerk

- g) Village clean-up/litter-pick: Clerk had contacted Thurlow Estate about verge-cutting dates but had not had a response.

- h) West Suffolk District Council's Parish and Town Forum (Mildenhall, Monday 18th March 2024): No one had been able to attend.

- i) Production of minutes: Minutes of the January meeting were sent within 10 days of the meeting.

6. Planning applications

Planning applications, District Council decisions, and appeals

- a) Planning applications

- (i) DC/24/0327/TCA

Address: Dell View, Withersfield Road, Great Wrattling

Application: Trees in a Conservation Area notification: one rowan to be pollarded to a minimum of five metres above ground level

Applicant: Mr Colin Cliff, Dell View

AGREED to support the application.

7. Highways

- a) To discuss speeding issues

- i) To discuss the problem of speeding on roads in the village

Cllr Fisk was concerned about lorries. It was mentioned that the Parish Council could ask for a 20 mph limit in the village but that this might be expensive.

- ii) To discuss the purchase of vehicle-activated speed signs^(THo)

It was felt that if these could be bought as part of a bulk order when other Parish Councils bought theirs it might be cheaper. A decision was deferred, pending a meeting in Withersfield.

- b) To receive response from County Council re: HGVs using B1061^(Clerk)

The Clerk said the County Council said that the B1061 was an arterial route between local towns and villages and as it is a B-road it is unlikely that a weight restriction would be imposed. However, it added that the Parish Council could

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ask the County Council to carry out traffic surveys, which would provide more information about the impact of HGVs on the village, but the Parish Council would have to pay for this.

- c) To discuss the problem of pot-holes on roads in the parish^(THo)
AGREED that people should continue to report pot-holes, preferably via the County Council website.
- d) To discuss the issue of flooding on roads in the parish^(THo)
Cllr May had already mentioned the problems of flooding in Withersfield Road. There was also a problem in School Road. Cllr Holloway will discuss the issue with Thurlow Estate.

THo

8. Off-road motorcyclists

To discuss the issue of off-road motorcyclists^(THo)

Several residents had expressed concern about motorcyclists going through the village, often using tracks. Cllrs Hayes and May said when they had encountered motorcyclists the riders had been courteous.

The advice from the Police was that when members of the public encountered motorcyclists who caused concern they should ring 999.

9. Village clean-up

a) To discuss the village clean-up^(THo)

AGREED this would be on Saturday 13th April, with volunteers meeting in the Red Lion car park at 10 a.m. They will be offered refreshments in the pub at the end of the litter-pick.

b) Litter and dog waste bins^(Tho/BJ)

i) Dog-fouling on footpaths^(BJ)

ii) To discuss provision of dog waste bins^(BJ)

iii) To discuss cost of District Council emptying bins^(BJ)

These points were discussed earlier in the meeting.

10. Red Lion public house

To discuss complaints about appearance of surroundings of Red Lion public house, including inflatable marquee^(Tho)

Cllrs Holloway and May had both been in touch with the complainant. The Parish Council was told that the existing marquee was being partially removed and that the inflatable marquee would be added to what remained of it.

AGREED that Parish Councillors were satisfied with reassurances they had been given that it would be tidy by late Spring.

11. Correspondence received

a) To receive invitation from Stour Valley / Dedham Vale National Landscape to event at RSPB Flatford on Tuesday 21st May (6-8 pm) about communities improving wildlife habitat

Cllr May will go if possible.

MM

b) To receive details from West Suffolk District Council of 'bin days' over Easter period

To be forwarded to Cllr Fisk for onward communication to residents.

Clerk
DF

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12. Annual Meeting of Parish Council

To agree date, and to discuss arrangements for, Annual Meeting of Parish Council^(Tho)

AGREED that the date of the Parish Council's Annual Meeting will be brought forward to Tuesday 7th May, at 7.30 p.m.

13. Annual Parish Meeting

To discuss arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting, 22nd May 2024^(Tho)

CONFIRMED that the Annual Parish Meeting will be on 22nd May, at 7.30 for 8 p.m., at the Red Lion. No reports will be requested from village groups. Topics covered will include the Chair's report (Tho), Thurlow Estate matters, village/community get-togethers, highways issues (MM), communications with residents (DF), and village litter-picks/clean-ups (Tho). A report will be issued afterwards.

All

14. Finance

a) To receive monthly financial reports (Jan + Feb 2024)

Noted

b) To agree to pay grant of £306 to Village Fete Committee to pay for bouncy castle for 2023 fete

AGREED that a grant of £306 would be made to the Village Fete Committee for the 2023 fete. Also, a grant of up to £500 will be made towards the cost of hiring a bouncy castle for this year's fete.

c) To receive notification of £500 Locality Budget grant from District Cllr Indy Wijenayaka for VAS equipment

Noted

d) To authorise payment(s)

The following payments were authorised. (prop Tho, 2nd MM)

	ref	payee	details	amount
14d(i)	0392	Great Wrattling Village Fete Committee	Grant to pay for bouncy castle for 2023 fete	£306.00
14d(ii)	0393	The Village Link	95 copies of <i>The Village Link</i> per month (Feb-Sep + Nov 2023)	£589.00
14d(iii)	0394	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Jan 2024)	£212.87
14d(iv)	0395	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Feb 2024)	£212.87
14d(v)	0396	Great Wrattling PCC	Use of Red Lion as meeting venue on 20th Mar 2024	£30.00

15. Closure of meeting

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.33 p.m.