

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wratting Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the Red Lion, School Road, Great Wratting CB9 7HA

Present: Cllrs Terry Holloway (Chair), Margaret May (Vice-Chair), Dawn Fisk, Tim Hayes and Barry Judge

Absent: none

In attendance: County Cllr Bobby Bennett (for part of meeting)  
District Cllr Peter Stevens (for part of meeting)  
Richard Bowler (Parish Clerk)

## Public forum

### Comments and observations from members of the public

No members of the public were present.

## MINUTES

### Actions

### 1. Apologies for absence

To accept any apologies, with reasons for absence

None

### 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 18th January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2023 were approved. (prop BJ, 2nd DF. MM abst.)

### 4. Matters arising

a) Defibrillator: Cllr Hayes had not yet been able to get a second quotation for painting the phone box.

THa

b) Waste bin, Moor Pasture Way: The Clerk reported that West Suffolk Council was not providing litter bins or dog waste bins at present. AGREED that the Parish Council should buy one from another supplier at a maximum cost of £500, plus £50 for installation. Cllr Judge will manage this project.

BJ

### 5. Local authority reports

#### a) Suffolk County Council

Comments made by County Cllr Bobby Bennett included:

- In October Milestone would replace Kier as the highways contractor
- The County Council was trying to streamline the way that 'small works' were dealt with
- Fees for road closures for street parties celebrating the Coronation were being waived
- A speed survey was being carried out in the village soon; depending on the speeds recorded it might be possible for a 40 mph buffer zone to be installed at the Thurlow end of the village.

Cllr May asked whether there could be a 40 mph limit in Withersfield Road.

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Clly Holloway said flooding in Withersfield Road was dangerous and also damaged the road surface. County Cllr Bennett said it was best to report it to the County Council again.

Clly Holloway said that 'skirting' work on the pavement in School Road had not yet been done; County Cllr Bennett said it was likely to be done very soon.

District Cllr Peter Stevens said that the Haverhill northern by-pass had been delayed until early 2024.

## 4. Matters arising (*continued*)

- c) Village communications: Cllr Fisk had set up a Facebook page for the Parish Council; the next step was to make it accessible by residents. DF
- d) Heritage Trail: The Working Group has not yet met THo
- e) Cost of living crisis: A District Council document had been circulated.
- f) Anaerobic digester: Agreed that the Parish Council would not make any comment until a planning application had been submitted. District Cllr Stevens said he had some concerns about potential traffic volumes and routes.
- g) Elections: (*To be discussed under Item 8*)
- h) Drains: District Cllr Stevens was thanked for arranging for a road-sweeper to be used in School Road, which had helped a little. He offered to request more frequent road-sweeping there. The Parish Council will monitor the situation in the spring. All
- i) Tree-planting: Following the successful completion of the tree-planting opposite the entrance to the Karro food processing plant, Cllr Judge was thanked for managing the project. There was some discussion as to whether the Parish Council should plant more trees.
- j) Dedham Vale & Stour Valley AONB: The Clerk reported that a grant may be available for the Heritage Trail project but, having spoken to the AONB about it, suggested that it would be helpful if the Parish Council first had an idea of what the project might cost and how the money would be spent.
- k) Police & Crime Commissioner's survey on proposal to increase precept: Details had been circulated via e-mail tree
- l) Coronation celebration: (*To be discussed under Item 9*)
- m) "Levelling-up" event (15th Feb 2023): There were no attendees from the Parish Council.

## 5. Local authority reports

- b) West Suffolk District Council  
Comments by District Cllr Peter Stevens included:
  - The District Council's 2023-24 Council Tax increase is the county's lowest.
  - Plans for a new recycling centre in Haverhill would be going ahead at some point.
  - He had received assurances that the hedges being removed when a pipeline was laid from Great Wrating to Hundon would be re-planted.
  - The District Council was still trying to get adequate screening provided at Anglian Water's site near the A143/B1061 junction in Little Wrating.

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

## 6. Planning applications

### Planning applications, District Council decisions, and appeals

#### a) Planning applications

##### (i) DC/23/0253/HEDGE

Address: Water pipeline between Great Wratting and Hundon

Application: Removal of hedgerows across 11 locations totalling 55m in length, associated with laying of a pipeline

Applicant: Anglian Water

AGREED that the Parish Council had no comment to make.

##### (ii) DC/23/0407/TCA

Address: Hall Green Cottage, The Street, Great Wratting CB9 7HQ

Application: To fell one yew

Applicants: Dr and Mrs Selby

AGREED that the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

#### b) Planning decisions (made by District Council) – *for information*

##### (i) DC/22/1723/FUL

Address: Foxfield House, School Road, Great Wratting CB9 7HA

Applicant: Mr Gary Fox

Proposal: One detached cart lodge

District Council decision: Permission granted

Noted

##### (ii) DC/22/2197/P3RPA

Address: Great Wratting Hall, The Street, Great Wratting CB9 7HQ

Applicant: Thurlow Estate Farms Ltd

Proposal: Prior approval application – change of use of agricultural building to flexible use B8 (storage and distribution)

District Council decision: Prior approval is not required

Noted

##### (iii) DC/22/2213/P3RPA

Address: Great Wratting Hall, The Street, Great Wratting CB9 7HQ

Applicant: Thurlow Estate Farms Ltd

Proposal: Prior approval application – change of use of agricultural building to flexible use B8 (storage and distribution)

District Council decision: Prior approval required and granted

Noted

## 7. Highways

#### (i) Update on various highways issues

Cllr Holloway said that after raising concerns with Suffolk County Cllr Paul West, the County Council member for 'Operational Highways', he had received a disappointing response. He was pleased that Matt Hancock MP had been supportive. AGREED that he would draft a summary of County Cllr West's response, to be circulated to residents via the e-mail tree. He will also draft a reply.

THo  
/DF

#### (ii) 30 mph signs unreadable<sup>(DF)</sup>

It was reported that several '30 mph' signs in the village needed attention. The Clerk will report this to County Highways.

Clerk

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Holloway said there had been problems once again with motorcyclists using tracks on Thurlow Estate land. He said the advice to residents if it happened again was to ring 999.

## 8. **Parish Council and District Council elections** (4<sup>th</sup> May 2023)

### Update on polling station

The Clerk confirmed that the polling station for Great Wrating voters would be in Great Thurlow and that they would need to show photographic evidence of their identity.

He reminded Councillors that during the pre-election period, starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the Parish Council needed to observe the statutory guidance on publicity.

## 9. **King's Coronation** (6<sup>th</sup> May 2023)

*(deferred to later in meeting)*

## 10. **SALC Area Forum** (2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023)

The Clerk, who 'attended' this virtual meeting of Parish Councillors, Clerks and West Suffolk Council representatives, said the main points were:

- grants were available for activities marking the King's Coronation
- the relationship between the District Council and Parish Councils was being reviewed, but no details were given
- a conference involving Suffolk's three local authority tiers was planned for July
- parishes interested in having affordable housing provided should contact the District Council

## 11. **Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project**

Invitation from Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project to webinar on setting up a wildlife group (5<sup>th</sup> April, 6.30 – 7.30 pm)

No Parish Councillors were available to attend.

*(Cllr Hayes left the meeting)*

## 9. **King's Coronation** (6<sup>th</sup> May 2023)

### To agree details of event in the village

*(deferred from earlier in the meeting)*

Arrangements for an event in the field opposite the church on the evening of the King's coronation were agreed. Cllr Holloway reported that the jazz band would cost £375. As only £250 had been in the original budget it was AGREED that the additional £125 would be spent on this. <sup>(prop BJ, 2nd DF)</sup>

*(Cllr Hayes rejoined the meeting)*

## 12. **Litter pick**

### To discuss arrangements for Spring litter-pick

AGREED that this will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 10 a.m. AGREED that up to £50 could be spent on refreshments for participants. <sup>(prop THa, 2nd THo)</sup>

## 13. **Finance**

### a) Letter of thanks from Great Wrating Parochial Church Council

Noted

### b) To receive monthly financial reports (Jan + Feb 2023)

Noted

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

c) To authorise payment(s)

The following payments were authorised. <sup>(prop THa, 2nd THo)</sup>

	ref	payee	details	amount
13(c)(i)	0353	Assington Fruits Ltd	10 trees + accessories (retrospective authorisation of payment made on 8.2.23)	£319.00
13(c)(ii)	0354	SALC	Payroll service (1 Oct 2022 - 31 Mar 2023)	£54.00
13(c)(iii)	0355	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Jan 2023)	£178.57
13(c)(iv)	0356	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Feb 2023)	£178.57
13(c)(v)	0357	HMRC	PAYE (6 Oct 2022 – 5 Jan 2023)	£133.80
13(c)(vi)	0358	V Barrett [Cambridge Jazz Co]	Jazz band performing at Coronation event (6 May 2023)	£375.00
13(c)(vii)	0359	Great Wratting PCC	Donation in lieu of payment to Red Lion for meeting venue	£30.00

## 14. Staff matters

To consider adoption of new Terms of Employment and objectives for Clerk, and to consider reviewing salary

AGREED that new Terms of Employment and objectives for the Clerk would be adopted. In addition, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 the Clerk's salary would be adjusted in line with guidance from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, and set at a rate equivalent to that for SCP10 on the national salary scales published in November 2022. This would be reviewed annually. <sup>(prop THo, 2nd THa)</sup>

## 15. Confirmation of date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting, which is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## 16. Closure of meeting

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.55 p.m.