

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wrating Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at the Red Lion, School Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HA.

Present: Cllrs Terry Holloway (Chair), Dawn Fisk and Barry Judge
Absent: Cllrs Margaret May (Vice-Chair), Stuart Kingsbury and Tim Hayes
In attendance: One member of the public
County Cllr Bobby Bennett (for part of meeting)
District Cllr Indy Wijenayaka (for part of meeting)
Richard Bowler (Clerk)

Public forum (15 minutes): Comments and observations from members of the public
None

MINUTES

Actions

1. **Apologies for absence**

To accept any apologies, with reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hayes (out of parish), Cllr Kingsbury (on business) and Cllr May (unwell).

2. **Members' declarations of interest**

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

None

3. **Minutes of previous meeting(s)**

a) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2023 were approved. ^(prop THo, 2nd BJ)

b) To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th October 2023

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 19th October 2023 were approved. ^(prop DF, 2nd BJ)

4. **Matters arising**

a) Village communications: Cllr Fisk said the Parish Council's new Facebook group had 34 members so far.

Social evenings: These will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in December, with a budget of £50 set aside for the second of them.

b) Heritage Trail: The Working Group has still not met to discuss the project

THo

c) Speeding: County Cllr Bobby Bennett is to be asked to request more frequent use of speed cameras in the area

Tho/BB

d) Drains in School Road: *(this item will be discussed later in the agenda)*

e) Home insulation surveys: *(deferred)*

f) Red Lion pub: No progress yet re: application for Red Lion to become Asset of Community Value, after discussing idea with the owner

THa

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- g) Insurance: Clerk said best quotation was from Ansvar Insurance. (*see Item 13c*)
- h) District Council Community Chest: Cllr Holloway said the Parish Council could apply for a grant to pay for VAS equipment. He suggests getting two, at a cost of £2,500 each. District Cllr Wijenayaka agreed to look into it.
- i) Joint villages meeting with County Council highways officers: Cllr May had circulated minutes.
- j) Code of Conduct: Clerk has circulated the 2022 Code of Conduct.
- k) Anaerobic digester, Withersfield: No one at today's meeting had attended the public meeting about it in Withersfield on 12th October.
- l) Overgrown hedges, verges etc: Clerk had written to two households about overgrown hedges encroaching onto a footpath, and had received a reply from one. Will write to the second one again if the hedge has not been cut back.
Residents had been sent a note via the e-mail tree about overgrown verges.

IW

Clerk

5. Local authority reports

- a) Suffolk County Council
(*deferred until later in the meeting*)
- b) West Suffolk District Council
District Cllr Indy Wijenayaka's report contained the following points:
 - He thanked the Parish Council for commenting on the proposal for an anaerobic digester to be installed on the edge of Haverhill. He reported on an exhibition put on by the company behind the scheme. He said there was a proposal for another anaerobic digester to be built at West Wickham.
 - A thermal imaging camera, which householders can use to find out where most heat is lost in their homes, would be available to Great Wrattling residents between 19th December and 15th January.
 - Funding was available for street lighting to be upgraded to LED.
 - He encouraged the Parish Council to respond to the District Council's consultation about grass-cutting.
 - "Young chefs" funded places were available for 14-16-year-olds to attend a 6-week course at West Suffolk College.
The Parish Council will circulate the details via the e-mail tree.
- a) Suffolk County Council
 - County Cllr Bobby Bennett said that the County Council was consulting about:
 - a) 2024-25 budget-setting process
 - b) libraries
 - She is asking anyone whose home was flooded recently to notify the county council.

Clerk
DF

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6. Planning applications

Planning applications, District Council decisions, and appeals

a) Planning applications

None

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

(i) Ref: DC/23/0587/HH

Address: The Old Post Office, The Street, Great Wrating CB9 7HQ

Applicant: Mr Philip Jordan (*agent*)

Application: Two single-storey side extensions; conversion of existing carport and store to form annexe; detached carport

District Council decision: Permission granted

Noted

(ii) Ref: DC/23/0588/LB

Address: The Old Post Office, The Street, Great Wrating CB9 7HQ

Applicant: Mr Philip Jordan (*agent*)

Application: Listed building consent - two single-storey side extensions; conversion of existing carport and store to form annexe

District Council decision: Consent approved

Noted

7. Highways

a) To discuss flooding^(THo)

Cllr Holloway said Great Wrating had been lucky in the recent flooding, which could have been a lot worse. He was not aware of any flooding inside properties although in one case it was only thanks to volunteers that it had been prevented.

He praised Thurlow Estate for its response.

He noted that in the neighbouring parish of Little Wrating there had been flooding at Karro Foods.

He said flooding was an ongoing problem in Withersfield Road. County Cllr Bennett said she would report this to the Highways department and urged Parish Council members to keep reporting issues. Cllr Holloway said the fact that very little street-cleaning was carried out by the District Council was a big problem, as debris gets washed into drains, saying there was a need for the County Council to clear blocked drains and for the District Council to clean the streets.

Cllr Fisk said both the depth measures at the ford in The Street were damaged and needed repair.

b) To receive e-mail from Little Thurlow resident re: Thurlow Road, Great Wrating

The Clerk reported that a Little Thurlow resident had contacted the Parish Council about a “near miss” he had recently with a lorry in the narrow section of Thurlow Road, Great Wrating. He had contacted the company operating the lorry who said their drivers would be instructed to restrict their speed to 20 mph through the villages.

BB
All

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County Cllr Bennett said companies operating fleets of lorries might be supposed to follow specific routes.

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

County Cllr Bennett was asked who the Parish Council should contact to ensure that any VAS equipment it bought was compatible with the County Council's requirements.

County Cllr Bennett said she might be able to make a contribution from her Locality Budget towards the cost of VAS equipment.

BB

8. **Village clean-up/litter-pick**^(THo)

(This item was deferred until later in the meeting)

9. **Litter and dog waste bins**

- a) To discuss provision of dog waste bins^(DF)

- b) To discuss provision of litter bin in School Road^(THo)

Cllr Holloway said a litter/dog waste bin was needed in School Road, near the end of the footpath. District Cllr Wijenayaka was asked whether West Suffolk District Council could install a bin near Coronation Cottages, and whether the District Council would empty it.

IW

8. **Village clean-up/litter-pick**^(THo)

AGREED that there would be a litter-pick on 9th December, starting at 10 a.m. at the Red Lion, with refreshments at 12 noon at the Red Lion afterwards.

There will be another litter-pick on 23rd March.

10. **Invitation to Civic Carol Service**

To receive invitation to West Suffolk Civic Carol Service, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds (Monday 4th Dec 2023, 7 pm)

AGREED that Cllr Holloway will attend with a guest.

Tho

11. **Footpaths**

To receive Slow Ways' e-mail about a national walking network

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Slow Ways, which is creating a national walking network. He will circulate their e-mail.

Clerk

12. **Thurlow Estate matters**^(THo)

- a) Cllr Holloway praised the Estate for its response to the recent flooding.

- b) He continues to talk to Andrew Crossley about Estate matters which affect the parish.

13. **Finance**

- a) To receive monthly financial reports (Sep + Oct 2023)

Noted

- b) To receive External Auditor's report

Noted

- c) To accept quotation for renewal of insurance policy

The Clerk reported that the best quotation was from Ansvar Insurance, through Community Action Suffolk (CAS), at an annual premium of £411.27.

AGREED that this quotation would be accepted. ^(prop Tho, 2nd BJ)

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d) To authorise payment(s)

The following payments were authorised. (prop THo, 2nd DF)

	ref	payee	details	amount
13d(i)	0380	SALC	Payroll service (1 Apr - 30 Sep 2023)	£54.00
13d(ii)	0381	Business Services at CAS Ltd	Insurance premium (17 Nov 2023 – 17 Nov 2024)	£411.27
13d(iii)	0382	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Sep 2023)	£212.87
13d(iv)	0383	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Oct 2023)	£212.87
13d(v)	0384	Richard Bowler	Clerk's expenses (Q3, 2023): shared Zoom fee for virtual meeting with Internal Auditor, 26 Jul 2023 (50% of £15.59)	£7.79
13d(vi)	0385	HMRC	PAYE (6 Jul - 5 Oct 2023)	£71.89
13d(vii)	0386	Great Wratting PCC	Use of Red Lion as meeting venue (19 th Oct and 15 th Nov 2023)	£60.00
13d(viii)	0387	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit 2022-23	£378.00

14. Confirmation of date of next meeting (17 Jan 2024)

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 17th January 2024.

15. Closure of meeting

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.07 p.m.