

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wrattling Parish Council held in Thurlow Village Hall  
on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30 pm

## **Councillors present:**

Cllrs Terry Holloway (Chair), Neil Curtis, Dawn Fisk and Tim Hayes

## **Councillors absent:**

Cllrs Margaret May (Vice-Chair) and Barry Judge

## **In attendance:**

County Cllr Bobby Bennett (*for part of meeting*)

District Cllr Peter Stevens (*for part of meeting*)

Richard Bowler (Parish Clerk)

## **Public forum**

No members of the public were present.

# MINUTES

## **1. Apologies for absence**

To accept any apologies, with reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Judge and May (both out of parish).

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were approved. (prop DF, 2nd THa)

## **4. Matters arising**

To consider matters arising from previous meetings

- (a) Defibrillator: Cll Hayes said the equipment had been delivered and it was hoped that it would be installed in the disused telephone kiosk in April. Cllrs Fisk and Hayes will clean the kiosk beforehand.

DF/THa

(7.36 p.m. County Cllr Bobby Bennett joined the meeting)

- (b) West Suffolk Council Forum, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022: Cllr Holloway had attended the Forum (online), where he raised various highways issues and also spoke about speeding.

- (c) Heritage Trail: A date had yet to be fixed for Cllrs Hayes, Holloway and May to meet to discuss this project.

THo/  
MM/THa

- (d) 2021-22 AGAR: The Clerk said he would report back after agreeing dates with the Internal Auditor.

Clerk

- (e) Training: It was agreed that the Clerk would attend a SALC finance training course on 30<sup>th</sup> March at a cost of £30.

Clerk

## **5. Local authority reports**

- a) Suffolk County Council

County Cllr Bobby Bennett said she now had responsibility on the County Council for equality and communities.

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Issues raised with her included:

- the problem of pot-holes and the need for them to be repaired more quickly once they were reported
- the need for the rail at the side of the road at the ford, in The Street, to be repaired.
- whether there could be a 40 mph zone on the B1061 coming from the Thurlow direction, before traffic reaches the 30 mph signs
- several damaged road signs in the village, including chevrons near the Thurlow Road/Withersfield Road junction and 30 mph repeater signs outside Loveday Cottage and Pheasant Cottage in Withersfield Road.
- pavements which are in need of repair

*(7.56 p.m. County Cllr Bennett left the meeting)*

- b) West Suffolk District Council  
*(deferred to later in the meeting)*

## 6. Planning applications

Planning applications, District Council decisions, and appeals

### a) **Planning applications**

- (i) DC/22/0125/HH

Address: 1 Moor Pasture Way, Great Wrattling CB9 7HE

Application: Single-storey side extension

Applicants: Mr and Mrs Mark Robertshaw, 1 Moor Pasture Way

AGREED that the Parish Council would support the application.

- (ii) DC/22/0272/TCA

82 Thurlow Road, Great Wrattling CB9 7HG

One dead sycamore and one dead elm to be felled

Applicant: Robert Rush, 82 Thurlow Road

Noted *(the consultation period had already ended)*

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

- (i) DC/21/2375/TCA

Address: Waterfields, Dwelling, School Road, Great Wrattling CB9 7HA

Application: One sycamore, crown reduce by 3 metres on north side and crown reduction in height by 2 metres

Applicant: Gary Fox

District Council decision: No objections

Noted

- (ii) DC/22/0002/TCA

Address: Ash Tree House, Withersfield Road, Great Wrattling CB9 7HD

Application: a) one beech, overall crown reduction by 0.5 metre; b) 19 Leylandii, overall crown reduction by 1 metre; c) six conifers, overall crown reduction by 1.5 metres; d) one conifer, overall crown reduction by 4.5 metres

Applicant: Paul Allen, Ash Tree House, Withersfield Road

District Council decision: No objections

Noted

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## 7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To discuss arrangements for celebrations including plans for beacon, and Village Fete<sup>(THo, THa)</sup>

Cllr Holloway said the cost to the Parish Council of the beacon celebration on 2<sup>nd</sup> June would be c. £700, but £500 of this would be met by a grant from District Cllr Peter Stevens' Locality Budget. Residents would be invited to a barbecue at 8 p.m., with the beacon being lit at 9 p.m. Details will be circulated to residents via the e-mail tree.

DF

*(8.10 p.m. District Cllr Peter Stevens joined the meeting)*

Cllr Hayes, Chair of the Village Fete Committee, outlined plans for this year's fete on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

## 8. Highways

### a) Quiet Lanes project

To receive a report from Cllr May

Cllr May, who was not at the meeting, had said posts for the Quiet Lanes signs had been put up, with the Parish Council being asked to put the signs in place. This will be done by Cllrs Holloway and Judge.

THo/BJ

### b) Road repairs

To urge the County Council:

(i) to repair pot-holes in the village more quickly<sup>(DF)</sup>

(ii) to repair damage to road surface and address drainage issues in School Road<sup>(BJ)</sup>  
*(Covered earlier in the meeting under Item 5a)*

### c) Speeding

To discuss speeding in the village and the use of the VAS equipment

Cllr Holloway reported that at the Parish Council's request the posts outside Coronation Cottages which are used for the VAS signs have been moved to better positions.

### d) Construction traffic using B1061

To note District Cllr Peter Stevens' e-mails re: construction lorries

District Cllr Stevens said he had looked into the issue of construction lorries from the housing developments in north-east Haverhill using the B1061 through Great Wrating but unfortunately this route was one of those designated by the County Council as a lorry access route.

## 5. Local authority reports *(continued)*

### b) West Suffolk District Council

Points mentioned by District Cllr Peter Stevens included:

- Road-sweeping: Cllr Stevens said roads in the village should be swept twice a year but it would be done more often if there was a serious problem. Cllr Holloway said that unless it was done frequently rubbish accumulated in the drains, which could lead to flooding. He said The Street, in particular, needed sweeping. Cllr Stevens said he would report it to the District Council's officers.
- Local Plan: No areas in Great Wrating had been earmarked for development as part of the Local Plan. The Western Relief Road to the north-west of Haverhill would probably be built in the next 18 months. A second consultation on the Local Plan would take place soon.
- Parking on verges: Cllr Holloway asked whether the District Council could do anything about the issue of vehicles being parked on verges outside some properties in Moor Pasture Way. Cllr Stevens will investigate. The Clerk was

PS

PS

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<p>asked to write to some residents saying that the Parish Council was concerned that the verge was being damaged by vehicles being parked there.</p>	Clerk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <u>Water treatment works</u>: Cllr Stevens also agreed to follow up the issue of inadequate screening at the new water treatment works near the A143 crossroads in Little Wrattling, where some of the newly-planted trees had died and had not been replaced.</li> <li>– <u>High Point Prison</u>: Cllr Stevens mentioned the proposed extension of High Point Prison and the impact this was likely to have on traffic through villages in the area.</li> </ul>	PS
<p><b>8. Highways (continued)</b></p> <p>e) <u>Other Highways issues</u>  <u>To discuss various highways issue, including</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) proposed speed limit between the Thurlows and Great Bradley</li> <li>b) road-sweeping</li> <li>c) condition of pavements in the village</li> <li>d) condition of verges outside 1 to 6 Moor Pasture Way<sup>(BJ)</sup>  <i>(These points were covered in Item 5b)</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. Environment &amp; Wildlife</b></p> <p>a) <u>Storm damage</u>  <u>To discuss debris and litter resulting from recent storms</u><sup>(NC)</sup>  Cllr Holloway was concerned that trees and branches which had fallen into a ditch to the north of Withersfield Road were unsightly and a potential fire hazard, being near several thatched cottages. He will raise the issue with Thurlow Estate.</p> <p>b) <u>Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree-Planting</u>  <u>To receive an update</u><sup>(NC)</sup>  Cllr Curtis said that after he and Cllr Holloway had looked at various potential sites in the village for tree-planting they had agreed that roadside avenues on some or all the village entrances, as suggested by residents, would be attractive. However, following a discussion with Tim Barling, Agent for Thurlow Estate, he was now recommending that the Parish Council should revert to its original plan to plant trees along the public footpath round the edge of the field behind the church. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>	THo
<p><i>(9.13 p.m. District Cllr Stevens left the meeting)</i></p> <p>c) <u>Bird species project</u>  <u>To discuss proposals</u><sup>(NC)</sup>  Cllr Curtis said five households were taking part in this project and were reporting sightings. The results will be published in the Village Link and reported to the Annual Parish Meeting.</p> <p>No action had been taken yet on seeking advice from other local authorities, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and residents on ways to improve wildlife habitats in the village, or asking Suffolk Wildlife Trust for ideas for an event related to wildlife which would involve young people.</p>	
<p><b>10. Litter pick</b>  <u>To arrange a date for a Spring Litter Pick</u><sup>(NC)</sup></p>	

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AGREED that the Spring Litter Pick would be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, with volunteers meeting at the Red Lion. Details will be publicised via the e-mail tree.

DF

## 11. Ukraine invasion

To discuss any local response

It was felt that there was nothing the Parish Council could do to help refugees.

## 12. E-mail tree

a) To clarify terms of reference for the use of the e-mail tree<sup>(THa)</sup>

AGREED that Cllr Fisk will draft guidelines on the terms of reference for the use of the e-mail tree. These will be discussed at the Parish Council's annual meeting in May.

DF

b) To discuss potential sponsorship of e-mail tree<sup>(THo)</sup>

AGREED after a discussion that sponsorship of the e-mail tree would not be appropriate. Village communications will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk was asked to find out whether information on the number of 'hits' on the Parish Council website was available.

Clerk

## 13. Annual Parish Meeting

To discuss arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting were discussed. Highways and the Quiet Lanes Project will be on the agenda. In Cllr Fisk's absence refreshments will be served by Cllr Holloway.

THo

## 14. Finance

a) To receive monthly financial reports (Jan + Feb 2022)

The financial reports were noted.

b) To note offer of £500 grant from District Cllr Peter Stevens' Locality Budget for Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The offer was noted.

c) To authorise payment(s)

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

	ref	payee	details	amount
14(c)(i)	0320	The Village Link	91 copies of "The Village Link" per month (Feb 2021 – Jan 2022)	£510.00
14(c)(ii)	0321	SALC	Payroll service (1 Oct 2021 – 31 Mar 2022)	£54.00
14(c)(iii)	0323	Thurlow Village Hall	Hire of hall (16th Mar 2022)	£30.00
14(c)(iv)	0324	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Jan 2022)	£178.57
14(c)(v)	0325	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Feb 2022)	£178.57

## 15. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next meeting, which is the Parish Council's Annual Meeting, will be held in Withersfield Village Hall on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022, at 7.30 p.m.

## 16. Closure of meeting

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