

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wrattling Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at the Red Lion, School Road, Great Wrattling CB9 7HA.

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

Absent: Cllrs Terry Holloway (Chair) and Barry Judge

In attendance: 1 member of the public
Richard Bowler, Parish Clerk

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

MINUTES

ACTION

Acting Chair

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Hayes was elected to chair the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

To accept any apologies, with reasons for absence

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

2. **Members' declarations of interest**

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

As members of the Village Fete Committee, Cllrs Hayes and May declared an interest in Item 18(b).

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

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2023 were approved, subject to a minor amendment to Item 7(a).

4. **Matters arising**

a) Heritage Trail: As this project has not yet come to fruition it will be removed from the Action Reminders list for the time being. It will be considered again at a future date.

b) Speeding: It is not known whether Cllr Bobby Bennett has asked for more frequent use of speed cameras in the area, as requested by the Parish Council.

BB

c) District Council Community Chest: To look into the possibility of the Parish Council being eligible for a grant for VAS equipment. (*This item was deferred to the March meeting.*)

IW/
Clerk

d) Overgrown hedges, verges etc: It was reported that the hedges on both sides of the Stour Valley Path running south-easterly off The Street had been cut back, following letters being sent by the Parish Council.

e) Flooding: No report was available from County Cllr Bobby Bennett regarding the flooding problem in Withersfield Road.

BB

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- f) VAS equipment: County Cllr Bennett had been asked to say who Parish Council should contact at Suffolk CC to ensure that VAS equipment which PC buys meets SCC's requirements.

(In Cllr Bennett's absence this item was deferred to the March meeting.)

- g) Litter bins: District Cllr Wijenayaka to check: (i) would District Council install a bin near Coronation Cottages? (ii) would WSDC empty it? *(In Cllr Wijenayaka's absence this item was deferred to the March meeting.)*

Facebook: Cllr Fisk said there were now 35 members on the Parish Council's new Facebook page.

BB

IW/
Clerk

5. Local authority reports

- a) Suffolk County Council

(County Cllr Bobby Bennett was not at the meeting)

- b) West Suffolk District Council

(District Cllr Indy Wijenayaka was not at the meeting)

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: NMA(A)/21/1991

Address: Le Eadron, The Street, Great Wrattling CB9 7HQ

Applicant: Mr Robert Town, Le Eadron, The Street

Application: Non-material amendment to DC/21/1991/HH – to allow for changes to doors and windows from wood to very high quality UPVC wood grain effect and large windows/sliding doors on rear lounge and bedroom in aluminium

District Council decision: Approved

Noted

7. Highways

- a) To discuss the issue of the large numbers of HGVs using B1061 between the Karro crossroads and Newmarket^(BJ)

It was noted that this is of continuing concern.

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

This item was deferred to the budget-setting discussion at Item 18(b).

- c) To consider responding to Leader and Deputy Leader of West Suffolk Council re: Strategic Priorities 2024-28^(Tho)

It was agreed that the Parish Council was greatly encouraged by the reference in the summary of the District Council's strategic priorities document to reducing the impact of HGVs, which was felt to be of key importance for the village, but it was noted that there appeared to be nothing about this in the body of the report.

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- d) To discuss overgrown hedges on roadways^(BJ)
The Clerk is to write to the occupiers of a property in Withersfield Road where it was felt that a hedge on the roadside was causing safety concerns and needed cutting back.
- e) To consider request for the installation of roadside posts to prevent parking on the verge near The Drey in Withersfield Road^(Tho)
AGREED that as cars parked there did not appear to present any danger, and as the land on which they are parked does not belong to the Parish Council, it was not felt that there was sufficient reason to ask the County Council's Highways department to erect posts to prevent parking on the verge.
- f) To receive update on reinstatement of street sign in The Street^(DF)
The Clerk reported that the District Council said there was no way of fixing the old metal sign to posts so a new sign had been put up instead.

Clerk

8. Grit bins

- a) Refilling of grit bins^(DF)
Cllr Fisk said the grit bins were all about three-quarters full; the Clerk said the District Council would re-fill them when needed.
- b) Repositioning of grit bin by The Green^(DF)
AGREED that this would be done at the same time that the next litter-pick takes place.

9. Village clean-up/litter-pick

To consider proposal to have litter-pick in January, to avoid risk of litter on verges being shredded by mowers^(Tho)
Clerk to ask Thurlow Estate when they are likely to mow the verges.

Clerk

10. Litter and dog waste bins

- a) Dog-fouling on footpaths^(BJ)
(Deferred to next meeting)
- b) To discuss provision of dog waste bins^(BJ)
(Deferred to next meeting)
- c) To discuss cost of bins being emptied by District Council^(BJ)
(Deferred to next meeting)

11. To consider celebration of 80th anniversary of D-Day (6th Jun 2024)

AGREED that the Village Fete, which will be held very close to the anniversary, should have a D-Day theme, but that the beacon would not be lit.

12. To receive notification of Suffolk Spring Classic cycling event (Sunday 21st Apr 2024)

Noted

13. To receive invitation to West Suffolk District Council's Parish and Town Forum (Mildenhall, Monday 18th March 2024, 7 – 8.30 p.m.)

Cllr May will attend if she is able to.

MM

14. To receive invitation to Community Action Suffolk's virtual presentation on rural and community-led housing (Tues 13th Feb 2024, 11 a.m. – 12 noon)

Noted

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15. To consider responding to Police and Crime Commissioner’s precept survey
 AGREED that the Parish Council supported increasing police activity and would very much like to see more action by the police regarding speeding in the village.

16. Policies
To consider adopting 2020 Code of Conduct
 (Deferred to Parish Council’s Annual Meeting in May)

17. Administration
The lack of timely responses from the Clerk, namely provision of draft minutes and approved minutes to put on the website and noticeboard ^(DF)
 The Clerk was asked to circulate draft minutes and the action reminders list within 10 days of Parish Council meetings, and for approved minutes to be supplied to Cllr Fisk as soon as possible after meetings.

Clerk

18. Finance

a) To receive monthly financial reports (Nov + Dec 2023)
 These formed part of the draft budget document.

b) To agree 2024-25 budget
 The 2024-25 budget was agreed. (see Appendix A)

c) To agree 2024-25 precept request
 AGREED that the 2024-25 parish precept should be £7,280.

d) To authorise payment(s)
 The following payments were authorised. ^(prop MM, 2nd SK)

	ref	payee	Details	amount
18d(i)	0388	Richard Bowler	Clerk’s salary (Nov 2023)	£212.87
18d(ii)	0389	Richard Bowler	Clerk’s salary (Dec 2023)	£212.87
18d(iii)	0390	HMRC	PAYE (6 Oct 2023 - 5 Jan 2024)	£159.60
18d(iv)	0391	Great Wrattling PCC	Use of Red Lion as meeting venue on 17th Jan 2024	£30.00

19. To agree meeting dates

a) To confirm date of next meeting (20th Mar 2024)
 This was confirmed.

b) To consider changing date of Parish Council’s Annual Meeting ^(Tho)
 AGREED that the date of the Parish Council’s Annual Meeting would be changed to Wednesday 8th May.

20. Closure of meeting
 There being no further business the Acting Chair closed the meeting at 9.05 p.m.