

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wrating Parish Council held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 7.30 pm  
(In view of the Covid-19 situation the meeting was held online.)

## **Councillors present:**

Cllrs Terry Holloway (Chairman), Margaret May (Vice-Chairman), Neil Curtis, Dawn Fisk, Tim Hayes (for part of meeting) and Barry Judge.

## **Councillors absent:**

None

## **In attendance:**

County Cllr Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council (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**

Cllr Hayes (for first part of the meeting)

### **2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Cllrs Curtis, Fisk, Hayes, Holloway, Judge and May declared an interest in Item 7, as they live on or near one of the two roads for which Quiet Lanes status is proposed.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

**To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

The Chairman said the 2021-22 budget which was agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 needed to be amended because the figure for the Clerk's salary covered only nine months rather than 12. The total of "fixed costs" therefore needed to be increased by £650 to a total of £4030. The Clerk is to circulate a revised budget with the minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved. (prop DF, 2nd MM)

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

**To consider matters arising from previous meetings**

- a) **Gift for retiring Chairman:** Cllr Fisk had bought a tree which Cllr Holloway had presented to Diana Curtis, the former Chairman. Mrs Curtis had written to thank the Parish Council.
- b) **Mobile Post Office:** The Clerk had contacted the operators of the mobile Post Office which visits Thurlow. They said the request for it to also visit Great Wrating had been forwarded to Post Office Ltd, who decide where it stops.
- c) **Litter/dog waste bin at junction of Moor Pasture Way and Withersfield Road:** The Chairman said that as dog waste was becoming a problem in the village he had asked the District Council what action residents could take if they see people who do not clean up after their dog. Also residents had been asked via the e-mail tree to clean up after their dogs.  
Cllr Judge said a resident had raised concerns about the positioning of the bin requested for Moor Pasture Way. The resident was also worried that it would not be emptied

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frequently enough. The Chairman said he had told the resident that the bin would be emptied every two weeks, and the Clerk had replied to him about the siting of the bin.

d) **Footpath link to Haverhill:** *(to be discussed later in the meeting)*

e) **Haverhill-Cambridge transport links:** County Cllr Evans had arranged a meeting of District and Parish Councillors with officers from Suffolk County Council. The meeting heard about planned changes to the A1307 which might make it more likely that some drivers would choose to “rat-run” through villages such as Great Wratting. Traffic-calming measures could be introduced to discourage them.

f) **White “gates” at village entrances:** County Cllr Evans is still hoping that the County Council may be able to contribute to the cost of white “gates” but she is not confident that they are the best solution to Great Wratting’s traffic problems.

ME

g) **VAS signs:** Cllr Evans has been following up with County Council officers a request made by the Clerk some time ago for the posts used for the VAS signs to be moved to better locations.

ME

h) **Construction of roundabout on A143:** Cllr Evans was thanked for getting signs put up to discourage drivers from diverting through Great Wratting during the construction of a roundabout as part of the major development to the north of Haverhill. She said the developers would be required to meet the cost of any damage caused to verges etc as a result of additional traffic going via the village.

i) **Damaged verge in Withersfield Road:** Cllr Holloway said the verge in Withersfield Road was damaged recently by contractors, who had agreed to repair the damage once they get a permit to close the road.

j) **Repairs to railings at the ford:** The meeting was told that temporary barriers had been removed and the ford was now open again.

k) **Village Sign repairs and repainting:** Cllr Judge is trying to find someone who will repair and repaint the sign.  
District Cllr Peter Stevens was thanked for making a grant of £500 to the Parish Council from his Locality Budget for this work.

BJ

l) **Village Plan and Parish Council objectives:** These are now on the Parish Council website.

## 5. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

a) **Suffolk County Council**

County Cllr Mary Evans added to her written report by saying:

- The County Council was looking at ways of helping people in Suffolk living with dementia, as well as their families and carers, by making the county more dementia-friendly.
- Covid-19 response in Suffolk is going well.

Cllr Evans, who is not standing for re-election at the County Council elections in May, was thanked by the Chairman for her work for Great Wratting as its County Councillor for the past eight years.

*(Cllr Hayes joined the meeting.)*

b) **West Suffolk District Council**

District Cllr Peter Stevens’ report included the following points:

- He stressed the need for villages affected by the A1307 traffic issues working together on the problem of drivers diverting via rural roads.

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- Some grants were still available for businesses hit by Covid-19.
- The issue of increased homelessness was being addressed by the District Council.
- He will be pleased to support the Quiet Lanes initiative.
- He said it would be helpful for the villages wanting a path to be created to Haverhill to draw up an indicative map which could then be discussed with landowners.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING (*continued*)

### To consider matters arising from previous meetings (*continued*)

- m) **Defibrillator:** Cllr Hayes said the delay in BT handing over the decommissioned telephone kiosk was the result of a delay in a contract being returned to them. The Clerk confirmed that this was now being addressed.

Clerk

## 6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Clerk to report on planning applications, District Council decisions, and appeals

#### a) Planning applications

None

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

The following District Council planning decisions were noted:

##### (i) DC/20/2256/LB

Wheel Cottage, 66 The Street, Great Wrating CB9 7HQ

Application for listed building consent - replacement of five windows to front, one window to side and one window to rear elevations with double-glazed windows.

Applicant: Mr Tim Hayes, Wheel Cottage, 66 The Street, Great Wrating

District Council decision: Approved

##### (ii) DC/21/0126/TCA

Ash Tree House, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD

Trees in a conservation area notification - one Beech (one on plan) reduce height by one metre; 19 Leylandii (two on plan), six Pine (three on plan), four Conifers (four on plan) - reduce height by two metres; four Conifers (five on plan) - fell

Applicant: Mr Paul Allen, Ash Tree House

District Council decision: No objection

##### (iii) DC/21/0173/TCA

Paradise Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD

Tree in a conservation area notification - Ash tree, diseased and dead upper canopy. Remove.

Applicant: Joe Acheson

District Council decision: No objection

#### c) Planning appeals

None

## 7. QUIET LANES INITIATIVE

#### a) To review results of public consultation

Cllr May said the public meeting held earlier in the evening went well and those people who attended were supportive, although some concern was expressed that Quiet Lanes status would not solve the issue of speeding.

#### b) To approve submission

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should continue to work on the project, should endorse the submission and move on to the next stage. <sup>(prop MM, 2nd DF)</sup>

MM/  
Clerk

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8.	<p><b>TREE-PLANTING</b></p> <p><b>To receive update on tree-planting project</b></p> <p>Cllr Curtis said Thurlow Estate was broadly supportive of the scheme but wanted a formal agreement that the Parish Council would meet all future costs. Subject to an agreement, the tree-planting could start in the autumn.</p> <p>Cllr May spoke about the “Queen’s Green Canopy” tree-planting project which will mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year, and for which funds may be available.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Curtis should continue to discuss the proposal with Thurlow Estate.</p>	NC
9.	<p><b>PERMISSIVE PATHS</b></p> <p><b>To consider provision of permissive paths in the parish</b></p> <p>Cllr May proposed asking Thurlow Estate whether a permissive path can be created across its land as part of a pedestrian route between Great Wratting and Withersfield.</p> <p>District Cllr Stevens suggested that it would be best for both Parish Councils to make a joint approach to Thurlow Estate.</p> <p>AGREED that Cllr Holloway would contact the Chairman of Withersfield Parish Council about a joint approach.</p>	THo
10.	<p><b>LITTER-PICK</b></p> <p><b>To discuss plans for litter-picks</b></p> <p>Cllr Curtis suggested a litter-pick later in the autumn would be more useful, as otherwise a lot of litter was concealed by long grass. This was agreed, although an earlier litter-pick might be held as well, depending on Covid-19 restrictions.</p>	
11.	<p><b>HERITAGE TRAIL</b></p> <p><b>To receive update on Heritage Trail project</b></p> <p>The Chairman had had discussions with various interested parties. Options included linking a Great Wratting heritage trail with the Stour Valley and Dedham Vale walks and other local walks. The heritage trail would use QR codes to help people find their way and learn more about points of interest along the route. As agreed, he will work on the project with Cllrs May and Hayes. Some residents had also agreed to help. The cost to the Parish Council is expected to be c.£420, but Cllr Holloway was confident that some of this could be raised through sponsorship.</p> <p>Cllr Stevens said he would be pleased to contribute to the scheme from his 2021-22 Locality Budget and asked for costings to be forwarded to him in due course.</p>	THo/ MM/ THa  Clerk
12.	<p><b>ADOPTION OF POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>To consider adopting additional policies</b></p> <p>Deferred to next meeting.</p>	
13.	<p><b>VILLAGE COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p><b>To consider communications for those residents without internet access</b></p> <p>It was mentioned that although the majority of residents receive Parish Council news and other information via the village e-mail “tree” some residents did not have internet access.</p> <p>AGREED that Cllr Fisk will ask e-mail tree users to share information with any neighbours who do not use the internet.</p>	DF
14.	<p><b>COMMUNITY BROADBAND</b></p> <p><b>To consider a community broadband scheme</b></p> <p>Cllr Hayes said there was an opportunity for internet speeds in the village to be improved, using “fibre to the property” technology.</p> <p>AGREED that residents will be asked whether they would be interested in knowing the likely cost. There would be no obligation for residents to go ahead.</p>	THa/ DF

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15. MEMORIAL BENCH  
To consider the provision of a bench as a memorial to George Sykes  
The Parish Council will consult the family about the idea of a memorial bench being provided in memory of George Sykes, former landlord of the Red Lion pub in Great Wrattling.  
Cllr Fisk will liaise with the family, after which Cllr Judge will take things forward.

16. EMERGENCY PLAN  
To consider the need for an emergency plan for the parish  
After a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would not draw up an emergency plan.

17. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (26<sup>th</sup> May 2021)  
To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting  
Cllr Curtis will ask whether the meeting could take place in the main body of the church rather than the church room, to allow space for social distancing.

18. CO-OPTION TO PARISH COUNCIL  
To discuss possibility of co-opting resident  
Deferred to next meeting.

19. LEAD COUNCILLORS  
To consider appointing lead Councillors for the Parish Council’s principal activities  
AGREED that individual Parish Councillors would have responsibility for specific areas of the Council’s work. They are:

- o planning – Cllr Holloway
- o environment and wildlife – Cllr Curtis
- o communications – Cllr Fisk
- o highways – Cllr May
- o regulations, compliance and standards – Cllr Hayes
- o various – Cllr Judge

Cllr Fisk will put the list on the Parish Council website.

20. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS  
To consider changing the frequency of Parish Council meetings  
AGREED that in future the Parish Council’s Ordinary meetings will take place every two months, rather than every month.  
Cllr Holloway will ask the County and District Councillors for monthly reports to continue to be sent to the Parish Council.

21. FINANCE  
a) To revise 2021-22 budget  
AGREED that £650 should be added to the budget as the sum allowed for the Clerk’s salary when the budget was agreed at the February meeting was incorrect.  
The Clerk will circulate the revised budget.  
b) To receive monthly financial report  
The Clerk’s financial report for the month ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 was received.  
c) To authorise payments  
The payments below were authorised.

	ref	payee	details	amount
21(c)(i)	0282	Dawn Fisk	Gift for ex-Cllr Diana Curtis	£39.39
21(c)(ii)	0283	Richard Bowler	Clerk’s salary (February 2021)	£178.57
21(c)(iii)	0284	SALC	Payroll service (1 Oct 2020 - 31 Mar 2021)	£54.00

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## **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.47 pm.