

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wrattling Parish Council held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 7.30 pm  
(In view of the Covid-19 situation the meeting was held online.)

### **Councillors present:**

Cllrs Diana Curtis (Chairman), Neil Curtis, Dawn Fisk, Beverley Griffin, Tim Hayes, Terry Holloway (for part of meeting) and Margaret May.

### **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.

#### **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**

Cllrs Diana and Neil Curtis declared an interest in Items 7a(i) and 7a(ii) as they live near both sites. Cllr Hayes declared an interest in Item 12 because his wife is employed by one of the organisations which has provided quotations.

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

##### **3.1 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

AGREED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 should be approved.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Cycling:** County Cllr Mary Evans had been put in touch with a resident who wants better cycling facilities in the area.
- b) **Boundary Commission review:** The County and District Councillors had been asked to explain the likely impact which the proposed changes would have on the Parish.
- c) **Narrow pavement in School Road:** The Chairman had reported to the County Council's Highways Dept that white lines along the side of School Road needed re-painting because of a resident's concern that some vehicles mount the narrow pavement there. (County Cllr Evans said widening pavements is difficult, and obviously has the effect of narrowing the road. White-lining is more likely to be done in drier, warmer weather. She asked for a reference number so that she could follow it up.)
- d) **Grant-funding for white 'gates':** County Cllr Evans will cover this point later.
- e) **Local Plan consultation:** Chairman had not been able to attend virtual workshop yet but Clerk had circulated link to online exhibition. (see Agenda item 8)
- f) **Mobile Post Office:** Clerk was in touch with Post Office, who have asked for more information. (Cllr Fisk said the one which visits Thurlow comes from Finchingfield.)

DC  
(ref.  
no.)

Clerk

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- |    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| g) | <b>Damaged wall, School Road:</b> Letter drafted by Chairman and Clerk was agreed by Council, subject to the residents being addressed by name.   | Clerk |
| h) | <b>'The Village Link':</b> Recipients were to be asked whether they would prefer to receive it in print or online. (Agenda item 10)   |       |
| i) | <b>Neighbourhood Watch:</b> Cllr Griffin had tried to recruit someone to take on the Co-ordinator role but was unsuccessful. Agreed to seek volunteer via the e-mail tree.  | DF    |
| j) | <b>Village sign:</b> Painter had agreed with Cllr Griffin that he would paint the post free of charge, but says re-painting the sign itself is a task for a specialist. She said there was a problem with rust on the back of the sign. |       |

## 5. CO-OPTION TO PARISH COUNCIL

### To consider co-opting one person to join Parish Council

AGREED that Terry Holloway, the only candidate, should be co-opted onto the Parish Council.<sup>(prop DF, 2nd DC)</sup>

## 6. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

### a) **Suffolk County Council (SCC)**

County Cllr Evans' report covered:

- Grants: County Council grants were available to parishes.

*(Cllr Holloway joined the meeting during the next item, following his co-option.)*

County Cllr Evans' report (continued):

- White 'gates': She will provide County Council specification and details of private contractors. Verge needs to be wide. Some County Council funding may be available. Cllr Hayes said the VAS data showed that excessive speeding through the village was rare and questioned the cost-effectiveness of 'gates'. County Cllr Evans offered to pass on the VAS data to the Police, who may then carry out their own speed checks. She suggested that the Parish Council should submit VAS data to the Police routinely.
- Cycling: She said the Thurlows were interested in having a cycle route created from the Thurlows to Great Wrattling, which would open the way for a cycle route from Great Bradley through the Thurlows and Great Wrattling to Haverhill.
- Boundary Commission proposals: The proposed new county council division which would include Great Wrattling would also include some other rural parishes and part of Haverhill, taking effect in 2025.
- Quiet Lanes: Cllr May asked whether Great Wrattling's side roads might qualify as "Quiet Lanes". District Cllr Stevens said it might create an opportunity to create wildlife verges. County Cllr Evans invited the Parish Council to ask in due course about green initiatives.
- 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs: She said signs for Withersfield Road had been ordered.

*(County Cllr Evans left the meeting)*

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Holloway back onto the Parish Council.

### b) **West Suffolk Council (WSC)**

District Cllr Stevens' report covered:

- Boundary Commission proposals: It will not affect District Council's boundaries.
- Budget: Decision on District Council's 2021-22 budget will be made in New Year.

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- Parking: Civil parking enforcement was not likely to affect Great Wratting. Haverhill residents have been offered free parking in car parks, if permits are displayed.
- Business grants: Grants are being paid to businesses hit by COVID-19.
- Homelessness: With the Covid-19 lockdown increasing the numbers of homeless people, the District Council is identifying accommodation for them.
- Local Plan: He encouraged Parish Councillors to take part in consultation. He does not think any of the potential building sites are in Great Wratting. He offered to put forward any concerns which the Parish Council had.
- Height of river: Following flooding in the Thurlows he had checked the height of the water in the River Stour through the village and found that it was high but not causing problems. He said any concerns about the river should be addressed to the Environment Agency.

PS

*(District Cllr Stevens left the meeting)*

## 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

#### a) **Planning applications**

##### (i) DC/20/1864/CLE

Annexe The Drey, Withersfield Road, Great Wratting CB9 7HD

Application for lawful development certificate for existing use or development – one annexe

Applicant: Mrs Davidona De Winton, The Drey, Withersfield Road, Great Wratting

AGREED to object to the application. (prop THa, 2nd NC)

##### (ii) DC/20/1925/TCA

Sperrywell Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wratting CB9 7HD

1 ash (circled blue on map) fell

Applicant: 'Manock'

AGREED that the Council has no objection

#### b) **Planning decisions**

##### (i) DC/20/1702/TCA

Pond Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wratting CB9 7HD

Trees in a conservation area notification – 1 ash (A1 on plan) Overall crown reduction by up to 4 metres to previous pruning points

Applicants: Mr and Mrs Richardson

District Council decision: No objections

Noted

#### c) **Planning appeals**

None

## 8. LOCAL PLAN

### **To consider the Local Plan**

The Chairman said she was attending a virtual workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> November and would report back. The Council agreed to hold an Extraordinary Meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the Local Plan.

DF

## 9. BOUNDARY COMMISSION

### **To consider Boundary Commission proposals**

Noted

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- 10. VILLAGE LINK**  
**To consider distribution of “The Village Link”**  
 Residents had been asked in a survey whether they would prefer to receive a paper copy of “The Village Link” or look at it online, but relatively few had responded.  
 AGREED to continue to distribute paper copies, with Cllr Fisk taking on responsibility for distribution in Great Wrating. DF
- 11. STANDING ORDERS / FINANCIAL REGULATIONS/CODE OF CONDUCT/OTHER POLICIES**  
**To receive an update on the review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and consideration of Code of Conduct and other policies** <sup>(THa/Clerk)</sup>  
 THa had examples of other parish councils’ policies. He suggested that after getting the relevant councils’ consents he would adapt the policies for Great Wrating.  
 AGREED unanimously that the draft Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct should be adopted. <sup>(prop MM, 2nd XDC)</sup> THa
- 12. TELEPHONE KIOSK/DEFIBRILLATOR**  
**To receive update on defibrillator project** <sup>(THa)</sup>  
 THa had received three quotations for a defibrillator, which will be fitted in the village’s decommissioned telephone kiosk. AGREED to accept the quotation from Defib Store Ltd for £1,885.52 (incl. VAT). <sup>(prop DF, 2nd BG)</sup> THa
- 13. VILLAGE PLAN**  
**To consider the Village Plan**  
 Deferred to meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- 14. HIGHWAYS**  
**To receive VAS data**  
 Cllr Holloway was thanked for circulating VAS data, which he had also sent to the Police.  
 AGREED that VAS data would be circulated to residents via the e-mail tree. DF
- To discuss proposals for white ‘gates’ at village entrances**  
 Cllr Holloway will wait to hear from County Cllr Evans about possible savings on white ‘gates’. THo
- 15. FINANCE**  
 a) **To receive monthly financial report**  
 The Clerk presented the financial report for October 2020.
- b) **To authorise payments**  
 AGREED that the following payment should be made. <sup>(prop DC; 2nd THa)</sup>
- |          | ref  | payee          | details                   | amount  |
|----------|------|----------------|---------------------------|---------|
| 15(b)(i) | 0275 | Richard Bowler | Clerk’s salary (Oct 2020) | £178.57 |
- CLOSURE OF MEETING**  
 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.49 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....