

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wratting Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th September 2019 at 7 pm at Little Acorns Fostering, Rook Tree Barn, Withersfield Road, Great Wratting CB9 7HD

Councillors present: Cllr Terry Holloway (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Dawn Fisk, Cllr Beverley Griffin and Cllr Tim Hayes

In attendance:

Mary Evans, Suffolk County Councillor (for part of meeting)

Peter Stevens, West Suffolk Council (for part of meeting)

Richard Bowler (Parish Clerk)

In the absence of the Chairman the meeting was chaired by Cllr Holloway.

Public forum

There were no members of the public present.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Curtis (unwell), Cllr N Curtis (unwell) and Cllr May (out of parish).

2. RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

Reports from District and County Councillors

a) Peter Stevens, West Suffolk Council

- i) He had discussed the possibility of Great Wratting and Little Wratting forming a combined Parish Council with WSC's Monitoring Officer, who is instead trying to encourage the residents of Little Wratting to form their own Parish Council.
- ii) He said he could offer equipment for future litter-picks.
- iii) As part of the Stour Valley Project's celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Stour Valley Path it had been suggested that each village along the route could erect signage near its church, giving information about the village and its history. Funds were available for the promotion of the path. He also has funds available via his Locality Budget.
- iv) A Rural Task Force has been formed asking villages about future plans. Their ideas will feed into the Local Plan. There is a meeting in Kedington on 23 September to discuss it. (Cllr Griffin will represent the Parish Council.)
- v) It is hoped that a new parking enforcement regime will be in place throughout the district by early 2020.

b) Cllr Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council

- i) She warned that illegal hare-coursing had returned to the county, often taking place at night.
- ii) Pupils at Suffolk's schools had achieved good results in this year's national examinations.
- iii) Take-up of the MMR vaccination was falling nationally but Suffolk had bucked the trend.
- iv) A new scheme in which adults mentored children in care was being introduced in Suffolk.
- v) 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs for both ends of Withersfield Road, Great Wratting, had been ordered, as requested by the Parish Council. Asked about permanent signs which would tell drivers on the B1061 their speed she said it had been found that these could be counter-productive. The present system of VAS equipment being used for limited periods could be more effective in reducing speeding.

BG

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 17th July 2019 were approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a) Noticeboards

AGREED that Cllr Griffin will arrange for the noticeboards to be repainted professionally.

BG

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>b) 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs for Withersfield Road <i>(Discussed earlier in the meeting)</i></p>	
	<p>c) Standing Orders The Clerk was still reviewing Standing Orders and would report back soon.</p>	Clerk
	<p>d) Risk management policy Clerk to circulate a template for consideration by the Council.</p>	Clerk
	<p>e) Asset register to be updated Clerk to circulate current register to Councillors.</p>	Clerk
	<p>f) Village sign: need for re-thatching Clerk to obtain two quotations, with the work being done in the Spring.</p>	Clerk
	<p>g) Links with Little Wratting Agreed not to take this any further at present.</p>	
5.	<p><u>PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES</u> Draft objectives drawn up by Cllr Holloway are to be circulated with the minutes. Cllr Holloway asked Councillors to make any comments within three weeks so that the objectives can be agreed in the near future. It was felt that decisions regarding the Village Plan should be put to the next Annual Parish Meeting as they were a matter for all residents, while the objectives were a matter for the Parish Council.</p>	Clerk All
6.	<p><u>VILLAGE LINK</u> A report on the September Parish Council meeting is to be submitted as soon as possible after the meeting.</p>	Clerk/DF
7.	<p><u>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</u> Clerk to report on planning applications, District Council decisions, and appeals</p> <p>a) Planning applications</p> <p>i) DC/19/1505/HH Le Eadron, The Street, Great Wratting CB9 7HQ Detached double garage with living accommodation above. Applicants: David Ford and Carolyn Claxton The Parish Council noted the application and agreed that it had no objection to it.</p> <p>b) Planning decisions None</p> <p>c) Planning appeals None</p>	
8.	<p><u>HIGHWAYS</u></p> <p>a) VAS^(THo) Cllr Holloway reported that he was expecting the VAS equipment to be in use in Great Wratting in November.</p> <p>b) Parking near Withersfield Road/Thurlow Road junction The danger caused by vehicles parked close to this junction was discussed but it was agreed that no further action would be taken at this stage.</p>	THo
9.	<p><u>VILLAGE PLAN</u> <i>(Discussed earlier in the meeting - Item 5)</i></p>	
10.	<p><u>LITTER PICK</u></p> <p>a) Cllr Griffin to report on litter pick held on 14th September Cllr Griffin thanked all those who took part, especially Mr and Mrs Judge, whose collection included a carpet and a television. Cllr Griffin was thanked for organising it. It was agreed that litter picks would in future take place twice a year.</p>	

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

It was suggested that the Chairman should be asked to write to Karro Food Group asking them to deal with the litter on the verge outside their Little Wratting site. Concern was also expressed about the condition of the brick and flint wall bordering their site.

DC

11. **DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr Hayes had looked into the process for the Parish Council to buy the village's telephone kiosk from BT, with a view to installing a defibrillator in it. The total cost of a defibrillator, a storage cabinet and eight years' supply of pads and batteries would be about £1,980 (excl. VAT). This excluded the cost of installation.

AGREED that:

- i) the Parish Council should go ahead and install a defibrillator in the telephone kiosk, once the kiosk had been decommissioned;
- ii) the Parish Council would fund the project;
- iii) Cllr Hayes will manage the project;
- iv) a formal event to mark its installation would be organised.

THa

12. **FINANCE**

a) To receive the financial report, including bank balances, from the RFO

The RFO presented the financial report as at 31 August 2019, which was noted. It was mentioned that the healthy financial balance could enable the Parish Council to pay for white "gates" at the sides of roads leading into the village to encourage drivers to slow down. It could also pay for tree-planting.

b) To complete and approve the revised Accounting Statements 2018-19

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had pointed out an error in the Accounting Statements, which the Clerk was now working to correct. The corrected version would be brought to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Clerk

c) To receive invoices and to authorise payments

Payment of item (i) below was approved, subject to the Clerk receiving confirmation that the proposed insurance policy would cover theft or damage relating to a defibrillator and to the telephone kiosk. The Council opted for a three-year policy at a slightly reduced premium.

Clerk

Items (ii) to (iv) were approved.

	ref.	payee	details	amount
i	0241	Business Services at CAS Ltd	Annual insurance premium (1 Oct 2019 – 30 Sep 2020)	£260.68
ii	0242	HMRC	PAYE (qtr ending 5.10.19)	£134.00
iii	0243	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Jul 2019)	£178.57
iv	0244	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Aug 2019)	£178.57

13. **MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

a) Haverhill Town Council's invitation for Chairman to attend Freedom of Haverhill reception

This was noted.

14. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The following items are to be included in the agenda for the next meeting:

- Objectives
- The possibility of installing traffic-calming white "gates" at the sides of roads leading into the village
- Tree-planting
- Heritage trail, and Stour Valley Path 25th anniversary project
- Swimming and car-washing in the river

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16th October 2019

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

16. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Vice-Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.39 pm.

Signed

Date