

# GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wrating Parish Council held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7 pm  
at Little Acorns Fostering, Rook Tree Barn, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD

### **Councillors present:**

Cllrs Diana Curtis (Chairman), Terry Holloway (Vice-Chairman), Neil Curtis, Dawn Fisk, Beverley Griffin and Margaret May.

### **In attendance:**

County Cllr Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council (for part of meeting)  
District Cllr Peter Stevens, West Suffolk District Council (for part of meeting)  
Richard Bowler (Parish Clerk)

### **Public forum:**

There were no members of the public present.

- |   |   |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b><br><b>To accept any apologies with reasons for absence</b><br>Apologies were received from Cllr Hayes.  |                      |
| 2.  | <b><u>MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b><br><b>To receive members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda</b><br>Cllr Holloway, as a friend of the occupants of Pheasant Cottage, declared an interest in Items 6(a)(i) and 6(a)(ii).   |                      |
| 3.  | <b><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)</u></b><br><b>To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b><br>The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved.  |                      |
| 4.  | <b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b><br><b>a) Information sheet for new residents<sup>(THa)</sup>:</b> Various amendments had been suggested to Cllr Holloway.<br><b>b) VE Day 2020<sup>(THo)</sup>:</b> To be discussed later in the meeting.<br><b>c) 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign, Withersfield Road:</b> The Chairman was waiting for a response from County Cllr Mary Evans about this.   | THa<br><br><br>DC/ME |
| <i>(County Cllr M Evans joined the meeting)</i> |   |                      |
|   | <b>d) Dog waste bin, Moor Pasture Way/Withersfield Road junction<sup>(Clerk)</sup>:</b> District Cllr Stevens said the District Council now charged for new bins.<br><b>e) Anglian Water pumping station: concerns about screening, light pollution etc<sup>(Clerk)</sup>:</b> Anglian Water's response was awaited.<br><b>f) Haverhill Area Forum, 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020<sup>(MM)</sup>:</b> Cllr May, who attended the Forum meeting, said the discussion was disappointing and lacked clarity. |                      |
| 5.  | <b><u>LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS</u></b><br><b>a) Suffolk County Council</b><br>County Cllr Mary Evans' report included the following points:<br>i) Her offer to arrange a joint meeting of Parish Councillors from Great Wrating and Withersfield was welcomed. One of the main topics will be the County Council's review of HGV routes.   | ME                   |

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- ii) The problem of drug abuse in Suffolk, and the 'county lines' issue.
- iii) The introduction by the County Council of a stricter regime for road repairs, with improved signage for road closures.
- iv) Street lights in Suffolk are to be converted to LED.
- v) The 'Women's Tour' cycle event begins in Haverhill on 13<sup>th</sup> June.
- vi) Children's centres are to become 'family hubs', and children's homes are being reviewed.

Cllr N Curtis mentioned that the 'Slow' sign at the Withersfield Road junction was becoming badly worn.

## b) **West Suffolk Council**

District Cllr Peter Stevens' report included the following points:

- i) The new recycling centre in Bury St Edmunds is now open. Haverhill's recycling centre may be upgraded or moved to a new site.
- ii) The District Council becomes responsible for enforcing parking restrictions from 6<sup>th</sup> April. Higher charges are being introduced in car parks but Haverhill will have one 'free parking' afternoon each week.
- iii) A market towns summit will be held in the Spring to see how town centres can be improved.
- iv) Litter picks: the District Council can supply equipment.
- v) He has funds available for Parish Councils from his Locality Budget. (Cllr Evans mentioned that she also had grant funds available.)
- vi) Visits to churches along the Stour Valley Path: Mark Hardy was the person to contact; The Dedham Vale 'Area of Natural Beauty' organisation has funds available. (Cllr Holloway will contact Mark Hardy.)

THo

(8.02 pm Cllr Evans left the meeting)

(8.05 pm Cllr Stevens left the meeting.)

## 6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

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

- (i) DC/19/2205/LB  
Pheasant Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wrattling CB9 7HD  
Application for Listed Buildings consent - Insertion of 1 thatched dormer window on rear elevation  
Applicant: Mr Mark Waller, Pheasant Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wrattling  
  
AGREED that the Parish Council would support this application.
- (ii) DC/19/2206/HH  
Pheasant Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wrattling CB9 7HD  
Householder Planning Application - Insertion of 1 thatched dormer window on rear elevation  
Applicant: Mr Mark Waller, Pheasant Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wrattling  
  
AGREED that the Parish Council would support this application.

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

None

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

None

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## 7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- a) **Update on Neighbourhood Watch scheme<sup>(DC)</sup>**  
The Chairman said it was difficult for Claire Egloff, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, to attend a Parish Council meeting but she was happy to meet Councillors at a different time. A Working Group may be formed for this purpose. Cllr Fisk is to discuss with Claire Egloff the possibility of (i) including information about Neighbourhood Watch in the Parish Council's welcome letter given to new residents, and distributing 'Neighbourhood Watch' stickers door-to-door throughout the parish.
- b) **Request from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association for suggested £50 donation**  
Deferred while more information sought.

DF

## 8. HIGHWAYS

- a) **'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign**  
This was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- b) **Possible joint meeting with Withersfield Parish Council to discuss mutual traffic problems**  
This was agreed earlier in the meeting.
- c) **VAS<sup>(THo)</sup>**  
Cllr Holloway had nothing to report.
- d) **Safety blackspots, flooding, soft verges, verges below road level<sup>(THo)</sup>**  
Cllr Holloway spoke about various highways issues in the parish, including flooding in The Street and in Withersfield Road. Council members were asked to let him know about highways issues which concern them; he will then send a list of suggestions to the County Council's Highways Dept.
- e) **White "gates" at village entrances<sup>(Clerk)</sup>**  
The Clerk reported on his discussions with other Parish Councils and with manufacturers. Because of the potentially high cost, more information from other Parish Councils is needed.
- f) **Other highways matters**  
The Clerk had consulted the District Council about the poor condition of the road signs at Moor Pasture Way. As a result, all or parts of them may now be replaced.

All  
THo

## 9. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) **Potential alternative to village e-mail 'tree' (nextdoor.co.uk)**  
Cllr Fisk said the nextdoor.co.uk website did not appear to be helpful because much of the content was irrelevant to Great Wrating.
- 'The Village Link'**  
Cllr Fisk said door-to-door deliveries of 'The Village Link' had resumed as it was now being published earlier.

## 10. LITTER-PICK<sup>(BG)</sup>

AGREED that the next litter-pick would be on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

BG

Cllr Griffin reported that in view of the quotation received for re-thatching the Village Sign she would seek competitive quotes.

BG

## 11. TREE-PLANTING

It was agreed that the possibility of planting an avenue of trees somewhere in the parish as a way of marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE-Day would be investigated.

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**12. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S LOCALITY BUDGET**

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**13. HERITAGE TRAIL**

Cllr Holloway said he would contact Mark Hardy and report back. He will discuss a possible route with Cllr Hayes.

THo

**14. WALL AT KARRO SITE**

Chairman to write to Karro about the condition of the wall on the edge of the Karro site, at the side of the B1061.

DC

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

**a) Police: Invitation to meeting with Insp Danny Cooper, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7.30 pm, Stansfield Village Hall**

Cllr May, who attended the meeting, said:

- i) The Police say that anyone suspecting drug abuse should let them know about the pattern of behaviour of those they believe are involved;
- ii) Suspected hare-coursing should be reported via a '999' call;
- iii) Anyone concerned about the behaviour of hunt saboteurs could call the police, but video evidence would be needed;
- iv) Claire Egloff is concerned about drugs in schools. An ex-police officer now works with schools on drugs issues.

**16. FINANCE**

**a) To receive monthly financial report <sup>(Clerk)</sup>**

The Clerk presented the monthly financial report.

**b) To receive update on the 2018-19 AGAR submission <sup>(Clerk)</sup>**

The Clerk reported that he was due to meet the Internal Auditor shortly to finalise the AGAR.

**c) To receive invoices and to authorise payments**

The following payment was authorised:

	ref	payee	details	amount
16(c)(i)	0253	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Jan 2020)	£178.57

**17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**Councillors to suggest items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting**

Council members to tell the Clerk about items they want included.

It was agreed that good wishes would be sent to Anne Roberts on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

18th March 2020

**19. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.26 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....