

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Great Wrattling Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st October 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 and Margaret May.

Councillors absent:

None

In attendance:

Tim Barling, Agent for Thurlow Estate (for part of public session)
Richard Bowler (Parish Clerk)

5. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

b) West Suffolk Council

District Cllr Peter Stevens' report included the following points:

- He continues to keep a close eye on planning applications, including the current Rook Tree Farm application (agenda item 6a(i)).
- Local Plan: he hopes Great Wrattling will consider how it affects the parish and make its views known. There is also an opportunity to attend a forum on this topic.
- The District Council is supporting markets and helping to revive town centres.
- Resident parking arrangements in towns are to be reviewed.
- Waste services are operating normally, subject to staffing levels being maintained during second wave of COVID-19.
- Red Lion pub in Great Wrattling has been offered business grants; other help would be considered if needed.
- Council Tax review for next year has started.

(7.47 pm District Cllr Stevens left the meeting)

Public forum opened

Tim Barling (Agent, Thurlow Estate) discussed various agenda items and other topics, including:

Item 6a(i): Rook Tree Farm planning application: He said the previous application related to the change of use of an agricultural building, which can now be used for business. The more recent application related to changes to the building itself, including enclosing the front of it. The Estate's plan was to find a quiet, low-key usage (e.g. business or storage) which would not be a nuisance to neighbours. The building would probably be divided into two units. He responded to Councillors' concerns over the choice of roller doors, potential uses, noise and traffic. He also confirmed that the Estate would be happy to work with the Parish Council in putting up owl boxes on the building.

Wildlife policy: It was mentioned that the Parish Council was developing a wildlife policy and would like to work with Estate on it. Mr Barling said he would respond to the Council in due course regarding its tree-planting proposals, and pointed out that the Estate plants large numbers of trees and hedge plants. He also explained that the Government's agricultural policy was focusing increasingly on biodiversity. He said a new policy (ELMS), due to come into force in 2024, may bring changes, so some activities should be delayed until the policy's details are known.

Item 6a(ii): Hill Farm access: He said what was planned was a slight alteration to the existing consent.

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White 'gates': It would be helpful for the Estate to know where the Parish Council plans to erect them.

Hedge-cutting: In general, hedges are trimmed every two years, with supplementary planting where necessary.

Waymarking: Signage indicating rights of way, and 'Private' signs elsewhere, were intended to discourage people from straying off public footpaths. Asked about permissive paths he said there were sometimes problems in gaining support from various organisations.

Public forum ended

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 Item 6a(i) as they live near the site.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

3.1 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th September 2020

AGREED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th September 2020 should be approved. (prop DF, 2nd MM)

4. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Tree-planting**: Cllr Neil Curtis had not yet met Thurlow Estate to agree possible sites. After that meeting had taken place he hoped to discuss preferred tree varieties with the Estate and also sourcing. Cllr Griffin said she would be happy to apply for a grant from the Woodland Trust.
- b) **Wildflowers**: Cllr Griffin said County Highways' permission will be needed if wild flowers are to be sown on verges.

5. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

- a) **Suffolk County Council (SCC)**
County Cllr Mary Evans was unable to attend but had submitted a report in advance.
(Cllr Fisk will pass on contact details re: cycling to County Cllr Evans, as requested.)
- b) **West Suffolk Council (WSC)**
District Cllr Stevens gave his report earlier in the meeting.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

a) Planning applications

(i) DC/20/1601/FUL

Rook Tree Farm, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD

- (i) proposed insertion of roller shutter doors
- (ii) doors and windows
- (iii) parking

Applicant: Mr T Barling, Thurlow Estate

AGREED that the Parish Council, while taking note of the concerns of local residents, does not object to the application but has concerns in relation to noise which may be generated and to the extent to which additional traffic will result from the change of use of the premises. However it believes that it is better for an alternative use to be found for this former agricultural building rather than for it to be allowed to fall into disrepair, and it is reassured by the applicant's stated intention to find quiet uses for

DF

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the building. It believes that the operation of the roller door will be quieter by virtue of being operated electrically rather than manually. Also it is pleased to have heard from the applicant that an owl box, or boxes, will be provided, as it is thought that a barn owl may roost in the building.

- (ii) DC/20/1516/FUL
Hill Farm, Thurlow Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HG
New access
AGREED No objection
- (iii) DCON(A)/19/2205
Pheasant Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD
Application to discharge condition 3 (later approval of details) of application DC/19/2205/LB
AGREED No objection
- (iv) DC/20/1702/TCA
Pond Cottage, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD
Trees in a conservation area notification – 1 ash (A1 on plan) Fell
AGREED No objection

(9.13 pm: The Chairman left the meeting; in her absence Cllr May took over as Acting Chairman)

- (v) Application withdrawn
DC/20/1400/TCA
Hall Green Cottage, The Street, Great Wrating CB9 7HQ
Trees in a conservation area notification – 4 sycamore – pollard
Noted

b) Planning decisions

- (i) DC/20/1342/P3RPA
Rook Tree Farm, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD
Prior Approval Application – Change of use of agricultural building to use as business use (Class B1)
District Council decision: Prior approval required and granted
Noted
- (ii) DC/20/1100/HH
The Old Rectory, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD
Swimming pool
District Council decision: Permission granted
Noted
- (iii) DC/20/1198/HH
6 Coronation Cottages, School Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HB
2 outbuildings (retrospective)
District Council decision: permission granted
Noted

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- (iv) DC/20/1413/TCA
The Drey, Withersfield Road, Great Wrating CB9 7HD
1 willow (T1 on plan) – Pollard to 5 metres above ground level
District Council decision: No objection

Noted
- (v) DC/20/1421/TCA
Old Post Office, The Street, Great Wrating CB9 7HQ
Trees in a Conservation Area Notification: 1 oak – crown lift over garage by 2 metres; 1 silver birch – fell; 1 maple – crown lift to remove hanging branches to 3 metres; 1 sycamore, 1 lime – pollard
District Council decision: No objection

Noted

- c) **Planning appeals**
None

7. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW**

To consider responding to the Boundary Commission's consultation on its draft recommendations for new local government divisions

AGREED The Clerk is to seek clarification from the County and District Councillors and report back.

Clerk

8. **REVIEW OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

To consider issues raised at the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th October 2020, including the following, and to take action as appropriate:

- 30 mph 'repeater' signs in The Street:

AGREED No action

(9.23 pm The Chairman rejoined the meeting)

REVIEW OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING *(continued)*

- Possible support for 'Red Lion' public house:

AGREED No action

- Concerns over narrow pavement and traffic issues in School Road:

AGREED Chairman to report via County Council Highways Dept's website

DC

- Speed monitoring systems:

AGREED No action at present

- Cycling facilities:

AGREED: Cllr Fisk will pass on cycling contact details to County Cllr Evans, as requested

DF

- White 'gates' – funding; 'gates' in The Street:

AGREED: Deferred to next meeting. Clerk to ask County Cllr Evans re: possible grant-funding (which she mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting)

Clerk

- Local Plan:

AGREED: Chairman will attend virtual consultation and report back to Parish Council

DC

- Need for mobile Post Office in the village

AGREED: Deferred to next meeting. Clerk to report on response from Post Office (he had already contacted them)

Clerk

- Damaged wall in School Road

AGREED: Chairman + Clerk to draft letter to occupants informing them about residents' concerns

DC/
Clerk

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ‘Village Link’ distribution (possible reduction in number of printed copies) <u>AGREED:</u> Cllr Fisk said that when November issue is published residents will be asked whether they prefer to receive the magazine in print or read it online. Clerk gave present costings. – Village Plan – need to consider young people <u>AGREED:</u> Cllr Fisk said residents had been asked to let the Clerk have their views on the Village Plan. To be discussed at next meeting. – Need for community centre <u>AGREED:</u> Not to pursue the idea of the Parish Council creating a community centre or village hall in the village – Neighbourhood Watch <u>AGREED:</u> To defer to next meeting. Cllr Griffin to approach a potential candidate about taking on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. – Village Fete/options for community activity <u>AGREED:</u> The Parish Council fully supports the Village Fete and will monitor the situation in relation to its aspirations to help the community. If necessary in the future it will assist the Village Fete organisers, depending on how the pandemic develops. 	<p>DF</p> <p>BG</p>
9.	<p><u>TREE-PLANTING</u> To receive update on tree-planting project Discussed earlier in the meeting.</p>	
10.	<p><u>WILDLIFE/FLOWERS</u> To discuss proposals regarding wildlife and flowers for the parish^(BG) Discussed earlier in the meeting.</p>	
11.	<p><u>STANDING ORDERS / FINANCIAL REGULATIONS</u> To receive an update on the review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations^(THa) Deferred to next meeting.</p>	
12.	<p><u>HERITAGE TRAIL</u> To receive update on Heritage Trail project Deferred</p>	
13.	<p><u>TELEPHONE KIOSK/DEFIBRILLATOR</u> To receive update on defibrillator project^(THa) Deferred</p>	
14.	<p><u>VILLAGE SIGN</u> To arrange for Village Sign refurbishment to be completed Cllr Griffin has arranged for the post to be painted. The painter will let her know whether the sign itself needs re-painting.</p>	<p>BG</p>
15.	<p><u>RESIGNATION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR</u> Clerk to report The Clerk said the vacancy was being advertised. If an election is not called the Parish Council can co-opt someone. <u>AGREED</u> that the plan to co-opt should be publicised on the Parish Council website and noticeboard.</p>	
16.	<p><u>FINANCE</u> a) To receive monthly financial report The Clerk presented the financial report.</p>	

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

AGREED that the following payments should be made. (prop DC; 2nd BG)

	ref	payee	details	amount
16(b)(i)	0272	Richard Bowler	Clerk's salary (Sep 2020)	£178.37
16(b)(ii)	0273	HMRC	PAYE (6 Jul – 5 Oct 2020)	£134.00
16(b)(iii)	0274	The Village Link	"The Village Link" (Nov 2019 – Oct 2020)	£510.00

CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05 pm.

Signed

Date