

GREAT WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Great Wrattling Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th 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 and Margaret May.

Councillors absent:

None

In attendance:

District Cllr Peter Stevens, West Suffolk Council (for part of the 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

None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th November 2020

Deferred to 20th January 2021.

4. LOCAL PLAN

To consider a response to West Suffolk Council's Local Plan consultation

District Cllr Stevens explained that the District Council was identifying villages where sustainable development might be appropriate, while recognising that in smaller villages such as Great Wrattling development might not be appropriate. Landowners had been asked to put forward potential sites for residential development.

After a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council welcomed the fact that West Suffolk Council was inviting community engagement in relation to the Local Plan process. Also, the Parish Council was pleased that Great Wrattling was being classified as "Countryside", which suggested that it would not be considered for development.

It agreed to draw West Suffolk Council's attention to its concerns regarding traffic, as it fears that the very large residential developments now taking shape on the north-west fringes of Haverhill will greatly increase local traffic volumes long before adequate infrastructure is brought up to a level which would cope with it. This would result in the main road through Great Wrattling being used as an alternative route by drivers wanting to get from Haverhill to Cambridge, particularly in peak hours, which is why the Parish Council believes it is imperative that the proposed Haverhill north-west relief road is completed as soon as possible.

However, the Parish Council does not believe that the relief road alone will be sufficient to encourage more drivers to use the A1307 to go to the Cambridge area until a solution is found to the problem of the bottleneck at Linton. The Parish Council agreed to urge West Suffolk Council to

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work with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire County Councils to get that route improved as it believes that while the bottleneck remains traffic will still use village roads, such as those in Great Wrattling, as “rat-runs”.

The Parish Council agreed that it would also call for better local bus services and a light railway service to be considered as more sustainable forms of transport which would help to reduce the number of vehicles on roads throughout West Suffolk.

Lastly, it agreed to point out that the two minor roads which lead into Great Wrattling (The Street and Withersfield Road) were already used as alternative routes by people whose journeys start outside the parish and who want to avoid using main roads in the area.

5. VILLAGE PLAN

To review a draft of the Great Wrattling Village Plan

Cllr Holloway felt that the Village Plan needed to be general in its nature, with the Parish Council’s agreed objectives being more specific about action which needed to be taken. He also said there should be more in the Village Plan regarding the Parish Council’s approach to planning.

The Chairman wanted to see more said about conservation, and that part of the village which lies within the Conservation Area. She suggested that further discussion of the Village Plan should take place over the next two Parish Council meetings, which in turn would help the Parish Council to develop its future objectives.

Cllr Holloway suggested that at the Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council should present a review of what it had achieved, measured against its objectives, and then list its objectives for the following year.

Cllr Hayes suggested that the Parish Council should express its interest to the County Council in the village’s minor roads becoming “Quiet Lanes”. Cllr May volunteered to handle this, consulting the rest of the Parish Council as necessary.

Further discussion was deferred to the Parish Council’s January meeting.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

MM

Signed

Date