



PARISH COUNCIL OF Walsham le Willows

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 commencing at 7.00 p.m. **Online via Zoom due to Coronavirus restrictions. Members of the public were able to join the meeting to observe or make representations by using the following credentials:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86478512697?pwd=MzdjM3M2NWJVbHZSc0k0akdrYVZrZz09>

Meeting ID: 864 7851 2697 Passcode: 943414

[Pending formal approval at the next meeting, these minutes have been informally approved by Parish Councillors as a true record. If any corrections are required these will be minuted at the next meeting prior to formal approval]

PRESENT Cllrs. Arbon, Bartholomew, Belson, Ellis, Kinnair, Mecrow & Roberts. Cllr Meyer for the District.

1 FIRST BUSINESS

1.1 **Acceptance of apologies** – none received

1.2 **The minutes of the meetings** held on 10th November 2020 and 24th November 2020 (budget meeting) were unanimously approved.

1.3 **To receive pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests** - None

1.4 **To consider applications for dispensation** – None

1.5 **Public Open Forum (including County and District Reports)**

Cllr Fleming was not in attendance. Cllr Meyer referred to his report which had been circulated and invited questions. The full report can be found on the village website at: <https://www.walsham-le-willows.org/explore/governance-community/parish-council/>

Cllr Belson asked Cllr Meyer about CIFCO the investment vehicle set up by BMSDC to generate income from property investments in relation to press reports of some local authorities declaring themselves bankrupt or in serious financial trouble following the use of these investment vehicles. Cllr Meyer robustly defended the investment company (he declared he also sits on the board as an unpaid member) because unlike some others, it does not invest in properties to help with regenerating its own area but instead avoids such high risk investments in favour of safer investments that have contributed to a surplus on the MSDC budget this year in the worst downturn for 300 years. Cllr Meyer advised that the Chairman and two other executive directors are remunerated with others, including himself, unpaid. He also advised that the proceeds of such investment vehicles can be spent across the council's budget unlike the funding received to the housing budget.

Cllr Meyer had to leave the meeting early and so was asked to address actions and questions on the agenda items 2, 4.4 and 4.9.

Agenda item 2 Cllr Meyer advised he had 'called in' the planning **application 2434 Holmwood**, a request so that it goes to full planning committee. This request could still be refused by the senior planner. Cllr Meyer had done some valuable research on the

regulations on fire risk and parking which seem to suggest that the application might be excluded on that basis and make it harder to refuse the call-in request.

Regarding **application 1357/17 (Wattisfield Road)** the Clerk asked if Cllr Meyer had heard anything back about the re-siting of the 30mph zone under the existing development. He had not but will continue to pursue. Cllr Belson asked if it might be possible when the Broad Meadow site comes up for development that the Parish Council request that the developer of that site pay for the re-siting of the 30mph signage. Cllr Meyer thought probably not but that it might be worth raising this at the appropriate time. Cllr Mecrow was of the opinion that the Parish Council should continue to pursue this alongside the existing development of the site on the western side. Cllr Mecrow also noted that the yellow signage to The Acorns have not been taken down as promised by the enforcement team. Strong emails from the Clerk to the Enforcement Officer asking for the timescales given for this to be completed have yet again gone unacknowledged. A complaint was again submitted about lack of transparent communication from MSDC planning dept. Clerk advised that conclusion from correspondence received was that practically, no enforcement action is likely. **Agenda item 4.4 200 Club** Cllr Meyer indicated discussions had taken place with the organiser and the enforcement team on this and that he was waiting to hear the outcome. **and Agenda item 4.9 Greening & Re-wilding agendas** Cllr Meyer advised that he had no more information but was sure this was about small scale projects within the district who are developing a wildlife network map to identify where the gaps are. There was a discussion about the plethora of initiatives that seem related to this agenda and may or not be related to each other. The general feeling was that everyone seems to be confused as to whether there is any connection between them all as there does not seem to be any co-ordination between all the agencies. Cllr Mecrow noted that the 'DEFRA Magic Maps' showed a large proportion of the parish as covered by mid-tier and higher level tier environmental schemes established and maintained by local landowners. Cllr Bartholomew asked if the Wildwood group were interested in expansion projects. Cllr Belson replied that there is a feeling that people would like to move on to developing new sites and that the Old Town Trust would be the obvious people to go to. The Old Town Trust are interested in joining up areas of land with hedging and trees. In response to question from Cllr Ellis the Clerk advised no contact received from on this. **ACTION** Clerk to contact Old Town Trust Secretary to ask for maps with indication of where this might happen.

Cllr Meyer asked how the **Food Bank** was going. Cllr Ellis advised six people had been helped so far and this is expected to grow as more referral agencies come on board. There had been a great response from surrounding villages and gaps in supplies were being filled by using cash donations. Cllr Bartholomew thanked Cllr Meyer for contact at MSDC re grant funding for the project and an application for racking and scales will be submitted in due course. Cllr Arbon offered the supply of some industrial racking if required.

1.6 **County and District Reports** – see above, in future will be included under Public Open Forum

2 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DISCUSSED** (plus any received after the publication of this agenda)

Application 1357/17 – Wattisfield Road Development – Non-adherence to agreed transport plan despite previous complaints from Parish Councillors, District Councillor, Clerk

and parishioners. Decide next steps regarding outcome of discussion with Paul Scarff and Clerk's summary of that discussion circulated by email. See 1.5 above

AND correspondence re road and pavement narrowing The three emails received were discussed and it was felt that there is nothing that had not been addressed at some point in the process by either the Parish Council, parishioners, or the core group of Wattisfield Road residents who commissioned a traffic consultant the resulting report being endorsed by the Parish Council. It was felt that the summary published in the Observer by Trevor Pollard gave a good overview of the position. The powers of the Parish Council in this are limited but all interventions discussed and agreed in meetings have been documented and actioned throughout. **ACTION** Clerk to respond to parishioners.

APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/20/05280 Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1(Lime)- Repollard to previous points. **Location:** Maltings House, The Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AZ **THE PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORTED THIS APPLICATION**

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/20/05225 Proposal: Planning Application. Erection of workshop building **Location:** Land To The Rear Of R And D Construction Depot, Summer Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AJ **THE PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORTED THIS APPLICATION WITH THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:**

Lighting – Planning should stipulate any external light locations to ensure no further light pollution.

Noise – Planning should stipulate conditions regarding any additional noise from the development.

Refuse – Planning should stipulate that refuse is to be removed from the site and not disposed or burnt on site.

3 PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning)

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/20/04323 Proposal: Householder application - Erection of single storey side and two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing rear extensions). Demolition of garage on South boundary. **Location:** East Cottage, Badwell Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BT **MSDC GRANTED THIS APPLICATION**

Application. No: DC/20/04541 For works to trees in a Conservation Area -Reduce canopy by 3m to 1No Beech Tree due to close proximity to dwelling and driveways. **Location:** Riverside Cottage The Street Walsham Le Willows Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AZ **MSDC DID NOT WISH TO OBJECT**

APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DETERMINATION - DC/20/04714 Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a Building for Agricultural or Forestry use. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of bulk grain store. **Location:** Four Ashes Farm, Badwell Road, Walsham Le Willows, Suffolk **MSDC DETERMINED THAT FORMAL APPLICATION IS NOT REQUIRED**

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposal: Discharge of Condition Application for 1352/17- Condition 4 (Materials)

Location: Land West Of, Wattisfield Road, Walsham Le Willows, Suffolk

THIS HAS BEEN NOTED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/20/05031

Proposal: Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - 1no Willow - Reduce by 50% 2no Beech - Reduce by up to 25% cutting to growth points. **Location:** Fernside, Finningham Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BQ

MSDC DID NOT WISH TO OBJECT

APPEAL DECISION Application DC/19/05103 Location 44 Townhouse Road Walsham Le Willows Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BP **Proposal** Householder Planning Application- Erection of two storey rear extension with ground floor bay window **APPEAL REFUSED BY SECRETARY OF STATE**

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Development & Neighbourhood Plan** - Cllr Belson reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Group would like the Parish Council to respond to the Local Plan Consultation although he thought that of the two areas the Parish Council were only able to comment on one of the criteria under 'Soundness of Proposals' which is about 'Meeting the Needs of the Local Area'. Having reviewed the document submitted by the Neighbourhood Plan Group and found it helpful, the Parish Council felt that the response needed to the Local Plan needed to be quite concise and proscribed. **ACTION** Cllr Belson to provide text for response to the Local Plan Consultation. Clerk to upload.

The Parish Council expressed thanks to James Bailey for assisting the Neighbourhood Plan Group with the submitted paper on a proposed approach to the Broad Meadow site. It was agreed this was a helpful contribution that will be especially useful as the neighbourhood plan process progresses to seeking the views of parishioners prior to a referendum.

The Clerk advised that Suzi Steer is attending the Local Plan Virtual meeting on Wednesday on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Group. **ACTION** Clerk to email NPG.

4.2 **Streetlighting conversion update** – The Clerk noted the current Christmas switch off timings for streetlamps and asked if there were any changes required. It was agreed that no changes were required to the current plan. **ACTION** Clerk to submit request to the Highways Streetlighting Team. The Parish Council also decided that phase III of the upgrades should go ahead based on a quote of £6088.52. The Clerk has already asked if the lamp outside the Memorial Hall entrance could be prioritised as this is not working at all.

4.3 **Community Council & Foodbank** – discussed under 1.5 above

4.4 **200 Club** - discussed under 1.5 above

4.5 **Finningham Road blind bend – traffic speed** – Clerk advised that Cllr Fleming was waiting to hear from Highways and also that we would have to be patient. Clerk advised that data from Summer Road SID was download earlier in the day. The Causeway SID had a dead battery. **ACTION** Cllr Roberts advised that he would charge tomorrow. The Clerk advised that the traffic survey may be extended after review of the data.

4.6 **Hedge and debris on The Causeway** - Clerk advised that Cllr Fleming was waiting to hear from Highways and that we would have to be patient. But the fact that a report had been closed again does not bode well.

4.7 **Fishponds Lane & Betty's Bridge Footpaths** – The Clerk reported that Mr Martineau has advised that he has not given permission for horse riders to use the path by Betty's Bridge. He is happy for a new gate to be erected that does not impede the path for people on foot. **ACTION** clerk to include in request for gates at Fishponds Lane.

- 4.8 **Maintenance of Assets: Actions**
- Clerk **Parish Council Shed** - pending
 - Cllr Ellis **village sign** – pending; work will now be completed in the new year.
 - Cllr Roberts/Ellis **Bus Shelter Grove Park** – pending **ACTION** Cllr Arbon offered to measure up replacement Perspex then Clerk to contact Ipswich plastics for a quote.
 - Cllr Roberts **SIDs** It was decided to seek a firm quote for upgrading the SID on the Causeway to solar. **ACTION** clerk
- 4.9 **Greening and re-wilding agenda - Establishing / Improving Wildlife Corridors** –Clerk noted email from Sicon Foundation. Suzi Steer has contacted them as representative of Neighbourhood Plan group. It was noted that the Clerk has submitted requests for trees at Staples Close and hedge planting to fill gaps in eastern boundary of play area. Otherwise see as discussed under 1.5 above.
- 4.10 **Village Maintenance volunteers** Clerk reported, and had circulated details, of one expression of interest from Gareth Rees. The Parish Council were grateful for this interest and Cllr Arbon is aware of a few more volunteers that might come forward as lockdown starts to lift in the new year. **ACTION** Clerk to send a copy of the ROSPA report to ask if there is anything in that report that could be tackled immediately.
- 4.11 **Streetsweeper role** Clerk reported, and had circulated details, of one expression of interest from Jake Herrington. **ACTION** Clerk to arrange a socially distanced outdoor meeting with Jake and Cllr Arbon on a Sunday to discuss the tasks and logistics. And to hopefully agree a two-month trial period and start date. **ACTION** Clerk to enquire of previous streetsweeper as to the whereabouts of the equipment.
- 4.12 **Play Area**
- **Play Council/Parish Council governance relationship** – The Clerk advised that Ian Campbell had been asked to go ahead and draw up the new lease on the terms proposed and as circulated to Councillors. Ian has confirmed this will be instructed.
 - **Overhanging Trees** – The Clerk confirmed that the January date the contractor had advised for this work had been confirmed to the contractor following the on-site meeting with Cllr Belson.
 - **Emptying of Bins and Equipment** – Clerk noted need to get another key. It was suggested that combination locks be used instead. **ACTION** Clerk to source.
- 4.13 **Stream Clearance Concerns** It was noted, as has been reported under AOB at the last meeting, that it had been decided a letter to the organiser was no longer required as the cutting of the second bank had been stopped.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

None

6 REPORTS

- 6.1 **Clerk's report & financial report to 30th November 2020 & request for payments.** The summary of payments has been signed digitally against invoices, or otherwise authorised, by Councillors Bartholomew and Kinnair pending wet signature at later date.

#	Payee	Amount	Description
1	David Murray	£350.00	Closed Churchyard Grass cutting
2	David Murray	£22.89	Fuel for mower
3	SCC	£702.00	Traffic Survey

4	CGM	£180.00	Grass cutting at Play Area Sept and Oct
5	Kevin Boardley	£14.39	Reimbursement for online conferencing subscription
6	HRMC	£132.40	PAYE
7	Parish Council Employee	£495.50	Wages
8	Parish Online	£42.00	Subscription for mapping tool

#	Payments In	Ref	Amount	Description
1	Street cleaning Grant Received		£376.96	Q2 20/21

6.1 Problem Reports SCC nothing more to report. Cllr Mecrow advised that he would obtain an image of the damaged signage on Wattisfield Road and send to Clerk so that this can be reported to Highways. **ACTION** Cllr Mecrow and Clerk.

6.2 Budget 2021/22 – The budget was reviewed at the meeting on 24th November but not set as the Clerk had not received the Band D Tax Base information. The Clerk advised that in the light of the most recent email from MSDC the setting of the budget and the precept should be postponed as suggested until 12th January by which time we will have been advised of any late revisions to the tax base.

Clerk advised attendance at free virtual meeting on precept on 9th December.

Clerk advised that payments for donations will be presented at next meeting.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies notice for Observer and next Annual Meeting of the Parish was discussed and Clerk to revise draft and re-circulate.

The Parish Council decided that no response would be submitted to the CIL consultation.

6.3 'Parish Council News' – was discussed and it was decided to go with the Wattisfield Road situation and related planning process as the next subject. **ACTION** Clerk to draft and circulate.

6.4 Internal Control Report – The Clerk noted the proposed amendments to the internal control report for November and asked for guidance. It was agreed that the Clerk should highlight and report variances in budget to end of December at next meeting. **ACTION** Clerk

7 FOOTPATHS & TREES

7.1 Footpath Warden - Cllr Belson reported that he is liaising with the Ramblers Association about the definitive map of footpaths in Walsham.

7.2 Tree Warden – Cllr Belson – Nothing to report.

8 OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

None

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN (No decisions made under AOB)

None

Meeting ended at 21:45

Kevin Boardley, Proper Officer, Clerk to Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council