

draft
WEST WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th November, 2023
at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Those present were: Cllrs., S. Chandler, L.Chandler, J.Harvey, P.O'Donovan , County Cllr .Batchelor, Dist.Cllr Harvey, 6 parishioners and the Parish Clerk,

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Parsons, Williams-Gray & Roberts.

2. **Declaration of interest:** None

3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023 were approved and signed as correct by Cllr. Simon Chandler, who chaired the meeting in place of Cllr Williams-Gray who was unable to attend.

4. Opportunity for Public Statement:

a) Colin McCall discussed the grass cutting of the recreation ground by Colin Miller. This has not yet been paid for by the Parish Council and he understood that several years ago it was agreed that the cost to the Council for doing this should go up by 5% each year and this has not happened over the last few years. He therefore had calculated that the cost this year should be £1045.00 plus £46 back payment of the 5%. **ACTION** Cllr S Chandler said he would look into the matter regarding the cost of cutting the rec. by the next meeting.

5. Electoral Matters:

a) *Election of Chairman and two representatives for the VHMC for 2023/24:* Tim Bonfield and Martin Davey agreed to continue as representatives of the Council on the Village Hall Management Committee. They were thanked for doing this.

The Clerk asked for any proposals for the position of Chairman but it was agreed that as three of the four Cllr s present were new they would like to attend a Training Course organised by CAPALC before committing themselves to putting up for Chairman or Vice Chairman. This was agreed and Cllr s S & L Chandler and Cllr . O'Donovan wished to take part in this training. The cost would be £75 per person.

b) *Councillors Workload Management:* Cllr S Chandler has set up email addresses for each councillor with a general one for contacting all the councillors and clerk. This seemed to be working well. Cllr O'Donovan asked about Planning Applications and how were these dealt with. The Clerk explained that most applications were straightforward and needed no comments but any contentious ones usually required having a Planning Meeting to discuss and agree or not. Cllr S Chandler thought it would be better to have 2 or 3 Cllr s. dealing with Planning. **ACTION** This will be discussed further.

c) *Co-option policy:* Cllr S Chandler has distributed a document setting out the policy for co-opting new councillors which he had distributed but so far had received no comments. **ACTION** It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. Mr McKenna from the floor said he was still not happy that elections were not held. He felt more effort should be made to get candidates when there is a vacancy in order to have a more diverse council. In reply to his comments Council agreed that at the appropriate time before the next district/council elections (May 2026) we would canvas all our parishioners via Challenge, website, posters etc. to encourage them to stand as a candidate for parish councillor. It was suggested that starting PC meetings earlier would encourage more participation by our parishioners.

ACTION It was agreed that the next meeting would start at 7.30pm

d) *CAPALC training:* This is discussed above.

6. Planning:

SCDC

23/03499	J Middleton	59 The Common	2 storey side exts single storey to each side.	14/9/23	05/10/23	Granted
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23/03492/H FUL	Ms A Hensen	83 High Street	Demo.existing single storey ext.store rom & replacement	22/9/23	13/10/23	
23/03493/L BC	Ms A Hansen	83 High Street	“ “ “	22/9/23	13/10/23	
CCC/22/05 7/FUL	Wilbraham	Mill Rd., Gt Wilbraham CB21 4HH	Contd. Mineral extraction & progressive land filling with inert waste etc.	11/10/23	25 th Oct.2023	
2/01331/CO NDA	Greenlock Self storage	Land to SW Grain Stores, Valley Farm Road.	Submission of details required by conditions 4.	18/10/23	Inform. only	

- 23/05596 – The Chestnuts – It is understood that exchange of contracts will be 14th November.
- 22/04689 – Boreham development: There is still concern about the polluted ground. It appears that work is being carried out on the site but have been informed that the development of the land will not take place for approx.. a year. How can the Council be sure that the necessary clearance of pollution is being carried out? County Cllr . Batchelor said contact the Planning Dept. and they will give details of whom to contact.
ACTION Cllr O’Donovan will communicate with the identified contact to find out their plans for monitoring the Borehams yard during the development project.
- Streetly Hall Farm proposed Anaerobic Biodigester – Cllr S Chandler said there was a Public Meeting being held in West Wickham Village Hall on Saturday 18th November which he intended to attend and will give a report at the next PC meeting. Posters have been put up on the notice boards.
ACTION Cllr S Chandler to attend public meeting about Anaerobic Biodigester.

7. Finance:

a) **Authorised payments:** The accounts had been distributed to all councillors.

a) **Authorised payments:**

£535.10 J.Richards Oct/Nov. salary less PAYE incl.£12 for 16 2nd class stamps (chq. 1268)

£780.00 William Knowlden Garden Services Inv.2303(chq.lost in post) & 2304 (chq. 1269)

£25.00 Royal British Legion for Remembrance Day wreath (chq. 1270).

b) **Monies received:** £6,555.00 2nd tranche of Precept from SCDC.

8. Maintenance.

a) *Grass cutting & overhanging hedges:* Billy Knowelden, who cuts the grass verges has asked to do one more cut in November and this was agreed. He also mentioned overhanging hedging on the right of the entrance to Hayters Close and one on Common Road opposite d’Abo’s driveway.

ACTION Cobby McCall said he would have a word with the owners, for which he was thanked.

b) *Potholes & poor condition of Common Road:* Martin Davey said all the pot holes had now been mended on Common Road following his complaints to Highways. The condition of Six Mile Bottom road is uncertain.

ACTION Cllr S Chandler said he would photograph and report on SCDC website all potholes on Six Mile Bottom Road up to the parish boundary.

c) *The Kissing Gate out of the Church graveyard:* The Council has been asked if something can be done about removing this gate as it is very inaccessible for prams, push chairs or bikes. Cobby McCall said that at present this gate was redundant as electric fencing has been erected to keep the horses in. However the rent has been increased and if not accepted the sheds now used for the horses would be used for keeping stock cattle and the gate would be needed. What was needed was an automatic slam gate.

ACTION Cobby McCall will ask the Footpath Officer at SCDC whether this was a possibility.

9. Correspondence:

A request has been made by a resident for adult fitness equipment on the Play area. This was discussed and it was agreed it would be very costly and on observing other recreation areas where such equipment was available, it did not seem to get much use. Mr McKenna said there is adult

fitness equipment at Balsham by the football field.

ACTION Cllr S Chandler will contact the interested resident to tell them about the Balsham equipment so that a) they could try it out and b) could find out how often it is used. He will also inform the resident about sources of funding used for the childrens play equipment, and suggest there could be a similar project for adult fitness equipment (led by them) if they could demonstrate support from other parishioners.

10. Village Hall:

a) *Update on Land Registration re ownership of Village Hall:*

Cllr S Chandler has been looking into this and has had direct contact with the Land Registration office and has been told that it is allowed to put just “the Parish Council” as the owners rather than giving Councillor names, which are soon out of date.

ACTION Cllr S Chandler will proceed with this.

b) *Update regarding boundaries between Village Hall and proposed Boreham development:*

The Land Registry document outlines the boundary in red but there is a query over whether or not this is correct and will have to be checked.

ACTION Cllr J Harvey will check the architect’s plans for Boreham’s yard development to identify the boundary.

A letter has been written but not yet posted to I & S Groundworks Ltd. asking if they have any plans for work to be done by the boundaries.

ACTION Letter will be sent by The Parish Clerk.

11. Recreation ground & Pavilion: Cllr Parsons was unable to attend the Meeting and had nothing new to report. However item b) Conifers behind the Pavilion have now been cut down by Colin Miller who will send an invoice for the work (**ACTION**).

12. Traffic Issues & Speed Restriction Equipment:

a) *Speed Indicator Signs re data collecting:* Martin Davey and Tim Bonfield, who look after the SIDs had been told that their data was no longer being monitored by the Police. The Parish Clerk wrote to the Police Commission Office asking why this should be so and received a reply saying that it was due to lack of time. The West Wrattling Speedwatch team have been asked by Cambridgeshire Police to participate in a trial using our mobile vehicle activated sign data (MVAS – the static white speed signs) – not Speedwatch data – to see how the Police can make best use of it. The West Wrattling team is one of only four teams asked to participate in the trial across Cambridgeshire.

b) *Update of 20mph speed limit application:* This was turned down but can be re-applied for next year. As the score was very close to the villages chosen it is hoped it will go through.

c) *Re-submission of LHI application for gates by Martin Davey:* He has gone through the documents which have changed since last year and has opted for the “non complex under £10,000” option. This could either be for gates or another MVAS sign, the former costing an estimated £8000 for 3 sets of gates (based on £7000 for 2 sets or £9000 for 4 sets) and the extra MVAS sign £5700. The closing date for 2024/2025 is 14th January and he has requested help from the Parish Council to make this application.

ACTION Martin’s report on the 2023/24 bid (dated 09/11/23) and his recommendations will be reviewed by all councillors, who will respond to Martin by the end of the week.

We were told by Cllr Batchelor that the online reporting form (not **email**) is the best way now to report matters such as this and potholes. The regular meeting with Highways that used to be held was stopped due to poor attendance.

d) *Footpath along Six Mile Bottom Road:* A letter had been received from Justin Pilmer requesting a footpath along the Six Mile Bottom Road continuing from the short length of path built when the affordable houses were put up. There are several children having to catch the school bus at the junction meaning they have to walk along a very busy and dangerous road. He was keen to help re fundraising, etc. This has been discussed before but the cost was prohibitive. The Highways Officer should be contacted as he would know the requirements and who to

contact. Paul McKenna suggested getting in touch with the Education Dept. pointing out the fact that children have to walk along this busy dangerous road in order to catch the school bus.

Sisse McCall said she could provide a list of the children involved.

ACTION Cllr Batchelor will give the Cllr L Chandler and Parish Clerk the contact email address. Cllr L Chandler will follow up.

e) *30mph rondels*: These need repainting and was told by Cllr Batchelor to email Bradley of Highways. He also said it is probably to make individual complaints about this.

13. Play area:

Cllr L Chandler had nothing new to report.

14. Website: The Parish Clerk asked how they would like their names displayed on the noticeboards as members of the Parish Council. They opted for their names and their parish council email addresses (e.g., wwparishcouncil6@gmail.com) NOT personal email addresses.

16. Report by County Cllr Batchelor– distributed on website and to Cllr s.

a) Cllr Batchelor reported that the Acorn Biodigester (Haverhill) application is now live so comments can still be made. He also spoke of the Streetly End Farm Anaerobic Biodigester proposed planning application to Cambridge County Council, saying there was a public meeting being held in West Wickham Village Hall to take questions and answers on Sat.18th November 3-5pm.

b) Cllr Batchelor reported that land between Balsham and Fulbourn is being considered for a possible solar park.

17. Any other business: None

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th January at 7.30pm.

Cllr S Chandler.....