

Wreningham Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Margaret Preston Room, Wreningham
Village Hall on Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Cllr M Hill (Chairman), Cllr K Morris, Cllr S Lidington, Cllr J Lambourne

Parish Clerk Anne Rayner
District Councillor Vivienne Clifford-Jackson
8 members of the public

1 To consider apologies for absence – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Moon and Glaves.

2 To receive declarations of interest – None to report.

3 Open Forum, including reports from District & County Councillors – District Councillor Vivienne Clifford-Jackson was present and provided the following report:

Since the meeting of 9th July I have attended meetings/events on 22 days out of a possible 70 (including weekends and holidays), which totals 100 hours. This doesn't include emails and phone calls. Some are all day or half day meetings like Cabinet, Development Management (planning), interviewing directors, or sitting on the Community Action Fund (CAF) panel this week. It has all been interesting, informative and stimulating. It's a really good experience to feel one is contributing to the future of over 130,000 residents. Some of the work is strategic like merging services between two councils, others is learning like the training on homelessness, some is quasi judicial like planning with very serious implications. PCs and individual residents and their events, like open garden and festivals is the really enjoyable grass roots work. South Norfolk is fast approaching the budget round and the next strategic housing plan which will probably be published on the 20th September. Feedback from residents is vital when we are making these decisions which affect the District for the next 20 years.

We have pressures from our demographics and the lack of government funding. BREXIT means we are unsure about staffing and funding locally where EU citizens are involved. (A third of Norfolk's care staff are from the EU, the loss of them would mean extra strain on our existing highly pressured care sector).

On the planning committee I have been impressed by the professionalism of the staff, but also that councillors do not always agree with officer recommendation and usually at least one decision is overruled by the panel. The balance has to be struck between what is right for individuals, communities and what finances we have available in the case of appeals.

I would like to know from parish councils and residents:

1. Do you want all the councillors (three District and one County) to attend all meetings?
2. What do you want reported and do you want it in writing?
3. Would you like to invite any of the directors or staff from SNC to come and explain any policies or decisions? They are more than willing.
4. Is there any training or help we can assist with?
5. Would you like an informal meeting as it is quite difficult to have a discussion at a PC meeting?
6. Do you meet with the local clergy/PCC to share issues and resources?

The Chairman thanked Cllr Clifford- Jackson for her report and confirmed that he would construct a post on the village website, based around the questions asked, and would ask residents and Councillors to consider a response. **Action MH.**

A member of the public present asked if anything can be done regarding people parking inconsiderately on the roads, including blocking access to other properties. This matter was discussed at some length and it was agreed that an item would be included in the next Mardle, reminding everyone that we have some very narrow roads and it is important for a good sense of community to remain considerate and neighbourly.

Whilst discussing Highways, the matter of speeding was raised again and the parish council agreed that they would approach Highways to ask about the possibility of any of the existing 30mph limit roads in the village being decreased to 20mph. **Action AR.**

4 To approve the minutes of the last meetings (9 July & 27 August) – The minutes were approved without alteration and signed as correct by the Chairman.

5 Administrative Issues

- **Clerk interviews** – The Chairman confirmed that three people are to be interviewed for the clerk's position. The interviews will take place on Monday 23 September.
- **Review grant awarding policy and Standing Orders** – Both policies were reviewed and it was agreed that neither needed any amendment.

6 Planning

- **Planning applications received – None to report**
- **Planning decisions – None to report**
- **Planning comments submitted between meetings – None to report**

7 Village Maintenance and Highways

- **Parish Partnership Scheme 2020 / 21** – The deadline for bids closes on 6 December 2019, so if anyone has any ideas for parish partnership projects, please let the clerk know. Projects can include small lengths of formal footways, trod paths, improvements to public rights of way, flashing speed signs etc.
- **Noticeboard** – It was agreed not to send the noticeboard back for a new lock fitting but that duplicate keys would be cut to ensure that there will be enough sets necessary, plus a spare in case a set were to get lost.
- **Tree planting** – The Chairman gave some background on the recent concerns raised regarding trees, including the ash dieback problem and further problems relating to beech and oak trees. There seems to be little steer from the County or District Councils as to what parishes can do to help the situation but tree supplies and grants are available from organisations such as the Woodland Trust. It was agreed that the parish council's tree policy would be considered at the next meeting and revised, if appropriate.
- **Annual play inspection** – A quote of £130 +VAT has been received from The Play Inspection Company in respect of the annual play inspection. The parish council agreed to ask for the inspection to take place. **Action AR.**

8 Finance

- **To receive the financial report** – Circulated prior to the meeting and approved.
- **To approve the following payments:**

Chq no	Amount	Payee	Notes
100272	£ 424.96	A Rayner	Salary Aug & Sep
100273	£ 27.32	A Rayner	Expenses – printer ink
100274	£ 104.40	Community Heartbeat Trust	Replacement Defibrillator pads
100275	£ 186.96	S Michlmayr & Son	Church Clock Service
100276	£ 120.00	The Acorn Workshop	Locks / keys
100277	£ 500.00	G Lawn	Contribution to mower
100278	£2778.23	Wreningham Village Hall	Contribution to refurbishment

All payments were unanimously approved. The Village Hall payment was a request from CIL funds which had been previously agreed. It was also decided that the contribution to the mower in respect of the grass cutting be taken from CIL funds.

9 To consider correspondence

- **NALC initiative – Community, well being & environment** – The clerk gave some information on this new NALC initiative, which aims to bring some teams of Councillors from throughout the county to cover issues including housing, loneliness and community care, electricity and finally trees, hedges and open spaces. Councillor Lidington agreed that she would look at the material provided.

10 Date of next meeting – 12 November 2019

The application by the Village Hall Committee for funds to support their improvements to the hall arrived too late to be included in the formal agenda, it having already been published. Hence no formal discussion or decision of this in the meeting. An informal discussion was held and a member of the Village Hall Committee will be invited to the next meeting to present their latest request for funds from the CIL money.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.