

WRESTLINGWORTH AND COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council Meeting held at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall on 18 June 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman Cllr Barratt, Vice-Chairman Cllr S Williams, Cllr A Dagless, Cllr N Dodgson, Cllr J Kirkpatrick, Cllr G Whale, Catherine Dear (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: CBC Cllrs Zerny & Gurney and Dave Moore (Chequers Public House).

Open Forum

Mr and Mrs Goodwin talked about their concerns regarding the capability of the drainage systems which were unable to cope with the heavy rainfall on 1st June in Wrestlingworth. There was flooding of the foul sewer where overflow came up and joined surface water eventually ending up in the brook. Flood surface water came from Braggs Lane as a torrent, crossing over the High Street and entering the driveway for Nos 67 and 69 High St. The volume and flow were too high for the professionally installed drive drainage system to cope and it would appear that the drains in Braggs Lane were also blocked. The inability of the village drainage system to cope was also evidenced by the fact the brook level was not particularly high. It was noted that the highway drain at 67 and 69 in the High St. is unable to cope with the volume and that even in light rainfall situations, the drain is ineffective due to its position and level as it higher than the road level opposite the driveway and that most of the drains in the High Street are unable to cope even with moderate rainfall. The Goodwins informed the Council that some months ago, CBC/Highways sent out drain clearance teams, however Mr Goodwin observed minimal meaningful activity and indeed the drain by his driveway was not cleared. He then challenged the team to be told 'we can't because the cover is welded down!'. It may have been looked at later – but at any point in time a quick inspection shows it is never clear.

The Goodwins also expressed concern regarding the lack of action resulting from the report commissioned by CBC regarding controlling building and hard surfacing of normally soakaway land. In their opinion, the situation is still highly unsatisfactory and environmentally potentially disastrous. Over the years many ponds and drainage ditches have been filled in often with the permission of Central Beds. These were put in by previous generations as they understood the drainage needs and sought to resolve the issue. Cllr Barratt informed the Goodwins that the recommendation from the report regarding the re-building of the pond at the top of Hatley Road was deemed too expensive and not of value.

Mr Goodwin said that he would send some video clips of the recent incident to the Chairman. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be in contact with CBC Cllr Adam Zerny to progress an effective outcome to this issue. Cllr Barratt also agreed to talk to Anglian Water regarding maintenance of the foul sewers as this is now a serious environmental issue. **ACTION RB**

Flooding issues at Randall's Close were also discussed. It would appear that there is a gully missing which should have been installed by the developers when the new houses were built. Cllr Dodgson agreed to write to Paul Salmon to get an update on the situation to include the adoption of the road from the developers. **ACTION ND**

Concern over the elm tree in what was Woodcraft's Meadow was expressed and Cllr Barratt agreed to contact Pat Longland regarding the possibility of putting a Tree Preservation Order on the elm. **ACTION RB**

Ethics and Standards Code

No declarations of interest to report.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st May 2018, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising & Chairman's report

Cllr Barratt reported that since the last meeting he had:-

- Reported that the Give Way signs at the crossroads are obscured by vegetation and asked them to be cleared as a matter of urgency in light of the recent traffic accident
- Reported a fallen tree blocking the footpath alongside the Slade
- Followed up with CBC on whether the results of the Housing Needs Survey were available.
- Met with Cllrs Williams and Kirkpatrick to consider design options for a new website.

RES/Housing Needs Survey

See Chairman's report above. Cllr Williams agreed to chase this up with BRCC.

Portfolios

COCKAYNE HATLEY – Cllr Dagless reported that he had met with the Residents Association to agree the plan of action reported at the last meeting but is yet to write to the Co-Op with our concerns and proposals to take matters forward. **ACTION AD**

PLAY AREA – Cllr Kirkpatrick reported no current issues though a ROSPA inspection is due before the end of the month, so matters may arise from that.

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Dodgson reported that there was still no progress on the RMF work on the High Street but that repairs to the crossroads was scheduled for the end of the month (June). Cllr's Barratt and Dodgson agreed to chase CBC. **ACTION ND & RB**

Cllr Dodgson also reported that one member of the parish had been trained for Speed-watch and that there was one more resident to be trained. It was suggested the Memorial Hall be used for training sessions to include volunteers from neighbouring areas.

WEBSITE – Cllr Kirkpatrick reported that an alternative website provider has been found though they were proving rather elusive at the moment so would give them a week or so and then search for an alternative. Cllr Kirkpatrick added that he would bring the final proposal to Council before signing off. **ACTION JK**

Planning

The current Planning applications were discussed. **(Appendix C)**

Cllr Williams informed the Council that a 'no comment' would be appropriate for 5 High Street, 9 Braggs Lane and 3 The Slade. **ACTION SW**

The proposed Tefalonica radio based station at Tadlow Road was discussed and all agreed that it could only be of benefit to the parish. Cllr Whale said that he would ask for coverage information and also for signal strength for Cockayne Hatley. **ACTION GW**

Finance

Councillors approved the payment of invoices **(Appendix A)**.

The Financial statement **(Appendix B)** was discussed briefly with slight concern over the amount spent on grass cutting considering the short time into the grass cutting period. It was noted that the clerk was awaiting Alan Walden's return from holiday in order for the Annual Return to be sent off by deadline of 3 July. **ACTION CD**

The grants were discussed and it was noted that the Youth Club was yet to present a revised request for a grant which had provisionally been approved awaiting accounts.

Correspondence

No correspondence has been received.

Any Other Business

Acknowledging the vacancy on the parish council Cllr Barratt would advertise this through an email to parishioners and Cllr Williams would include in the Village Link copy. The Clerk said that she would put a notice on the notice board first thing Tuesday morning. **ACTION CD SW & RB**

It was pointed out to the Council that since the removal of the tree on the High Street near to No.71, weeds and thick undergrowth is starting to block part of the path leading from the High Street to Victoria Close. Clerk agreed to speak to owners of No.71 to ascertain ownership of land and then ask our grass cutting contractors to cut back undergrowth when appropriate. The Council agreed. **ACTION CD**

The family of Derek Walker have agreed the design of the bench and installation but are now considering plaque wording. It was also agreed that soil removal would also be requested from Sovereign Equipment. **ACTION CD**

Cllr Barratt expressed concern over the amount of loose tiles on the barn at the end of Church Lane with the possibility of someone walking underneath and being injured by a falling tile. The Clerk agreed to write to the owners asking for action to be taken to secure or remove the tiles. **ACTION CD**

The issue of low hanging trees also at the end of Church Lane was also discussed and Cllr Dodgson agreed to write to Highways at CBC to ask for them to be cut back. **ACTION ND**

The Parish Council recognised the sad news of the passing of our ex-Chairman John Beal. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and friends.

Cllr Williams gave her apologies in advance for the next meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13th August at St John's Church, Cockayne Hatley at 7.30pm.

Appendix A

Financial Report – June 2018

The following accounts are to be paid and I need to request the council's endorsement.

June	E-on Electricity supply D/Debit		169.07
June	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		403.13
June	Clerk's expenses (Telephone, Internet, Stamps, stationery)		12.58
June	Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall		14.00
June	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit		18.00
June	D J Granger – Grounds maintenance		1,218.82
June	S106 from CBC – Co-Op land at Cockayne Hatley	258.78	
June	BATPC		172.00
June	Grant – Wrestlingworth Lower School		500.00
June	Grant – Parish Walking and Wildlife		150.00
June	Grant – Village Link		150.00

Appendix B

WRESTLINGWORTH & COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL**FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 31 MAY 2018**

	<u>Year to 31 May 18</u>		<u>Year to</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>March 18</u>
			<u>Actual</u>
Income			
Precept	20,984.00	20,984.00	20,030.00
Interest	5.11	15.00	17.88
Grass Cutting Contribution		380.00	380.33
VAT refund to March 18			275.92
Tree cutting contribution			
Total Income	20,989.11	21,379.00	20,704.13
Operational Expenses			
Accountants fees & Sage	30.00	500.00	510.00
Affiliation Fees		300.00	294.00
Amenity Field lease		120.00	
British Legion		25.00	25.00
Church Clock Maintenance		325.00	250.00
Churchyard Maintenance		1,000.00	
Clerk's expenses		350.00	303.18
Clerk's salary	806.26	4,692.00	4,616.54
Election expenses		375.00	
Electricity - street lighting	292.51	1,800.00	1,656.02
Electricity/lighting - maint	375.00	400.00	268.75
General Maintenance		500.00	590.00
Grants (see below)		1,500.00	2,300.00
Normal Grass and Hedge cutting	2,031.37	8,000.00	6,404.90
Other grounds & tree work		1,000.00	
Insurance	810.70	850.00	795.11
Memorial Hall Hire	28.00	150.00	79.00
Millennium Garden		100.00	0.00
Lousy Bush sign			
Cockayne Hatley sign		590.00	
Parish Tidy Up		500.00	235.00
Playing field Maintenance		1,000.00	538.00
Playing field lease		360.00	
Training expenses		200.00	83.00
Web site		500.00	69.90

Vat expensed and not yet recovered	501.89	0.00	
	4,875.73	25,137.00	19,018.40
Operating surplus/deficit	16,113.38	-3,758.00	1,685.73
Projects			
Allotment lease and set up		2,500.00	
Speed reduction measures		10,000.00	
Neighbourhood Plan	10.00	0.00	76.95
Cockayne Hatley land & set up	230.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
Project Grants received			
Neighbourhood Plan		0.00	-3,290.00
Net Project costs	240.00	15,500.00	-2,213.05
Overall surplus/deficit	15,873.38	-19,258.00	3,898.78
RESERVES			
Bank brought forward	29,180.75	30,619.94	
(Deficit)/Surplus for period	15,873.38	-19,258.00	
Bank carried forward	45,054.13	11,361.94	
VAT refund due			
Total	45,054.13		
GRANTS PAID IN YEAR			
Youth Club	400.00		800.00
Village Link	150.00		150.00
Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall			1,000.00
St Johns Church			
Parish Walking & Wildlife	150.00		
Lower School	500.00		350.00
TBA			
	<u>1,200.00</u>		<u>2,300.00</u>
IMPORTANT NOTES			
1Grass cutting varies according to number of cuts required and amount of hedge cutting			
2Current account - 31/05/18		1,813.70	
Deposit account - 31/05/18		43,373.19	
		<u>45,186.89</u>	

Appendix C

Planning Applications as at 17th June 2018

Application No. and Date	Location	Works Proposed	PC Comment	Status
CB/17/03027/FULL 23.08.17 06.04.18	7 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth ditto	Construction of new 4 bed house Revised floor plans and elevations	Does not conform to NP. Concerns re: on street parking. Previous comments reiterated	Approved 10.05.18
CB/18/00772/FULL 16.03.18	1 Randalls Close, Wrestlingworth	Lounge extension	No comment	Awaiting decision
CB/EN/18/0147 Enforcement Case 27.03.18	Home Farm Wrestlingworth (Construction of 3 dwellings on paddock)	Alleged non-compliance with approved plans	Concern about soil removal prior to building and subsequent height of buildings. See on next page CB/18/1500/VO C	Case closed 22.05.18 pending outcome of app. to vary levels of plots 1 and 2
CB/18/01444/FULL 23.04.18	8 High Street Wrestlingworth	Single storey rear extension	No comment	Approved 23.05.18
CB/18/01500/VOC 03.05.18	Home Farm Wrestlingworth (Construction of 3 dwellings on paddock)	Construction of retaining wall on perimeter of site against school playing field	Concern about soil removal prior to building and potential erosion of school playing field	

Application No. and Date	Location	Works Proposed	PC Comment	Status
CB/18/01509/FULL 03.05.18	Land adjacent to 21 Village Road C/Hat	Retrospective change of use to garden following purchase June 2017	No comment	
CB/18/01815/FULL 25.05.18	5 High Street, Wrestlingworth	Two storey wrap around side and rear extension, part single storey side and rear extensions		
CB/18/01971/FULL 05.06.18	9 Braggs Lane, Wrestlingworth	Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new single storey side extension. New boundary walling/fencing of western and northern boundaries. Alterations to existing first floor windows.		
CB/TRE/18/00185 07.06.18	3 The Slade, Wrestlingworth	Works to tree protected by TPO: prune 1 lime situated in back garden		