

WRESTLINGWORTH AND COCKAYNE HATLEY PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES of the Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on 13th September 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Chairman Cllr R Barratt, Vice-Chairman Cllr S Williams, Cllr N Dodgson, Cllr J Kirkpatrick, Cllr F Dewey, Cllr K Puddephatt, C Dear (Clerk), CBC Cllr A Zerny & 3 members of the public

Apologies: CBC Cllr T Wye

Open Forum: None

Covid-19

Cllr Barratt said that he was no longer posting Covid-19 notices on social media and it was agreed that this item would be removed from the agenda.

Ethics and Standards Code

Cllr Puddephatt declared an interest in a planning application.

Cllr Barratt declared an interest in the Schools consultation.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2021, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

All matters arising from the last meeting have been dealt with and/or will be discussed at the meeting this evening. Cllr Williams said that she had responded to Schools Consultation on behalf of the Parish Council and suggested they worked with the diocese to try to find a solution. The School Governing body met last week and based on the consultation options, they decided to vote for keeping the school open as that is now an available option.

Chairman's Report

- 1) Submitted two versions of Annual Return for the CIC, both of which have been rejected due to format of the dormant accounts. Awaiting response from Companies House from last query as to which format they require.
- 2) Had numerous conversations with four residents and a business owner about requests to have Village Noticeboard relocated as it is suddenly considered to be causing an obstruction (see AOB).
- 3) Provided information to resident regarding Fix My Street website so they can log concern about a blocked footpath
- 4) Commenced plan for Parish Tidy Up at end of September. The Parish Council agreed to fund the hire of the skip. The location of which was discussed and it was agreed that the skip should go on the green area by Alexander Road.
- 5) Secured slot at the CAA Open Forum to voice concerns over flight path proposals. The script for the session was agreed at meeting and will be published on website and also on Facebook.
- 6) Published on Social Media updates from builder on Potton Road site.

Clerk's Report

- Forwarded relevant emails to Parish Councillors and deal with general queries
- Completed agenda, budget and financial statement for September's meeting
- Reconciled bank statement with income and expenditure and transferred £4K to cover September and October's outgoings
- SAGE – transactions added to end of August
- Updated parish website with copy of draft minutes and agenda
- Completed weekly checks of defibrillator/housing in Wrestlingworth with no issues to date
- Updated our copy of the electoral register
- Sent planning applications to Cllr Williams
- Liaised with Mazars regarding clarification of the Annual return. After receiving confirmation from the external auditors I put a copy of the Annual Return and conclusion notice on to the parish council website.
- Completed VAT return for 3 months to end of July

Councillor vacancy – A candidate was interviewed for the vacancy and they subsequently decided not to proceed.

Portfolios

COCKAYNE HATLEY – Cllr Puddephatt informed the Council:

- 'Two wires' (for speed monitoring) had previously been installed in Cockayne Hatley by CBC. The results showed an average speed of 17 mph so therefore CBC do not consider there is need for reducing the speed limit or other speed restrictions in the village.
- The new bus service has started. Some of the residents commented on the new service, some negative (due to the narrow village road and the pot-holes) but most were positive. The pot-holes have been reported to Highways. Over the years the verges have crept over the road resulting in a narrower road so Highways will visit and see if it is practical to return the road back to its original width. Cllr Puddephatt reported that people are now using the new bus service both from within the village and from outside the area.

PLAY AREA – Cllr Dewey informed the Council that:

- The cost to sure up the climbing wall will be £280 (Joe Bibby) – Councillors agreed to have the work done – Cllr Dewey to arrange. **ACTION FD**
- The garage door was due to be replaced on 13 September – Cllr Dewey to confirm. **ACTION FD**
- Cllr Dewey has not yet received quotes for new signs, he will chase up and include a new sign for garage stating that nothing of value is stored there. **ACTION FD**

WEBSITE & MILLENNIUM GARDEN – Cllr Kirkpatrick informed the Council that:

- The climbing plants at the Millennium Garden are to be cut back during the Parish Tidy Up day. Clerk to inform Mr and Mrs Dickens **ACTION CD**
- Website spam blocker – clerk confirms that it works.
- Website – bus times and CAA open forum script to be added to website **ACTION JK**

HIGHWAYS – Cllr Dodgson updated the Council on:

- Repairs to the road surface at Church Lane and High Street now looks promising as they have white lines around them.
- Cllr Dodgson reported problems at the T Junction when drivers travelling down Potton Road do not give way to cars on the High Street. This may be due to the lack of white lines at the junction. The junction is due to have repairs done towards the end of the year. Cllr Dodgson agreed to contact Highways to report that there have been numerous near-misses and ask to re-instate white lines, possibly a solid white line. **ACTION ND**
- Cllr Barratt to chase up with CBC on traffic calming measures at the T-Junction in relation to the Potton Road Development. **ACTION RB**

Potton Road Development

The top-soil has not been moved and the lease is yet to be agreed. Cllr Barratt to follow up. **ACTION RB**

Planning

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

Finance

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

The Financial statement (**Appendix B**) was reviewed.

Electricity price increase – Clerk to contact Octopus, Opus and Ovo for new quotes **ACTION CD**

Correspondence

None other than the climbing plant at the Millennium Garden discussed above.

Any Other Business

- **Luton Airport Proposed flight path** – The previously circulated script for Cllr Barratt to deliver at the CAA Public Forum was approved by Councillors. **ACTION RB**
- **The registration of the Cheques Public House as an asset of community value** (as it is the last pub in the village) expired on 12 September. Although Councillors were in favour of re-registration, the requirements for registration have since changed and Councillors consider it be too onerous a task to complete. As the last time the pub was put on the market there was no interest from the village to take it on, individually or as a community, the Council agreed not to re-register the pub.
- **Dog Fouling signs** – Cllr Barratt informed the meeting that he had been approached by a resident regarding amount of dog mess on paths, pavements and fields requesting signs with a £1,000 penalty notification. Council decided against incurring further cost on additional signs as they were basically ineffective.
- **Village Notice Board** – 4 people have contacted Cllr Barratt requesting that we relocate the noticeboard due to restricted visibility when vehicles exit Butcher's Lane. Cllr Barratt has visited the area and noticed that a large shrub on side of the brook (belonging to the old butcher's shop) is restricting access and needs pruning back. The owner of the shrub has agreed to have it cut back. Cllr Barratt has also observed that cars have started

parking very close to the junction of Butcher's Lane and the High Street. Owners of these cars will be asked to park more sensibly to resolve the problem and the owners of the hairdressers will advise their customers accordingly. As the noticeboard has been in its current location for over 50 years the Council is reluctant to have it moved. **ACTION RB**

- Cllr Barratt informed the Council that he had received some advance notice that owners of Cockayne Estate are considering closing all permissive footpaths due to dog mess, walkers straying off onto farm headlands including conservation areas and their own staff being abused by walkers. Cllr Barratt added that he will talk to the estate manager to try to discuss keeping the paths open. **ACTION RB**
- Village Link – It was agreed to publicise the new bus route and the CAA open forum. **ACTION SW**

The meeting closed at 9pm

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.30pm at Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall

Appendix A

Payments for approval – September 2021

The following accounts are to be paid and the clerk requested the council's endorsement.

August	E-on Electricity supply D/Debit		208.74
September	E-on Electricity supply D/Debit		208.74
July	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		447.85
August	Clerk's Salary D/Debit		447.85
July & August	Clerk's expenses (Telephone, Internet, Stamps, stationery)		30.66
August	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit		21.60
September	SAGE – accounting software D/Debit		21.60
July & August	D J Granger – grass cutting x3		1828.23
September	CPRE – Affiliation fee		36.00
August	Mazars – external auditor's fee		240.00
August	Town & Parish Council Websites		140.00
July	Access Garage Doors - Deposit for door replacement		390.06
September	Access Garage Doors – 30% booking fee		234.04
August	Memorial Hall Hire (meeting room)		2.00

Appendix B

Planning Applications as at 10th September 2021 for PC Meeting 13th September 2021

Application No. and Date	Location	Works Proposed	PC Comment
CB/21/02238/FULL 25.05.21	65 High Street, Wrestlingworth	Two storey front and side extension	Object: Proposed finishes to the front would have a detrimental impact on the street scene. Two storey side extension would have an overbearing impact on no. 67 High Street
CB/TRE/21/00322 29.06.21	29 High Street, Wrestlingworth	Works to TPO ash tree: remove 3 overhanging branches	No comment
CB/TRE/21/00347 07.07.21	87 High Street, Wrestlingworth	Work to TPO ash tree: sectional fell to ground level	No comment
CB/21/03174/FULL 08.07.21	3 The Slade, Wrestlingworth	Single storey rear extension, new enclosed porch, partial garage conversion	No comment
CB/21/03242/FULL 14.07.21	25 Village Road, Cockayne Hatley	Rear loft extension behind existing roof ridge. New solar panel array on front roof	No comment
CB/TCA/21/00401 31.08.21	Wrestlingworth Lower School	Works to three trees in conservation area	No comment
CB/21/02408/FULL 06.09.21	Grange Farm, Tadlow Road, Wrestlingworth	Resubmission of application granted in 2018 for single and two storey side and rear extension	No comment

Appendix C**FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT 31 August 2021 WITH BUDGET TO March 2022**

	<u>Year to 31 March 2022</u>			<u>2020/2021</u>	<u>Note</u>
	<u>Actual to 30 Aug 2021</u>	<u>Budget for year</u>	<u>Expected outturn</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
Income					
Precept	24,210.00	24,200.00	24,210.00	23,610.00	
Interest	1.54	5.00	2.00	10.22	
Grass Cutting Contribution		380.00	380.00	380.33	
Insurance Claim re Churchyard	463.25				
VAT refund to March 21	88.52	88.52	88.52	288.72	
Total Income	24,763.31	24,673.52	24,680.52	24,289.27	
Operational Expenses					
Accountants fees & Sage	210.00	500.00	500.00	516.00	
Affiliation Fees	172.00	320.00	320.00	317.00	
Amenity Field lease		120.00	120.00		
British Legion		25.00	25.00	19.00	
Church Clock Maintenance		250.00	250.00	274.00	
Churchyard Maintenance		250.00	250.00		
Clerk's expenses	186.17	300.00	300.00	330.64	
Clerk's salary	2,239.25	5,600.00	5,600.00	5,373.70	
Defibrillator maintenance		300.00	300.00	300.00	
Election expenses		65.00	65.00		
Electricity - street lighting	981.16	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,340.68	
Electricity/lighting - maintenance	107.50	500.00	500.00	1,061.25	
General Maintenance		500.00	500.00		
GDPR Data Protection		35.00	35.00	35.00	
Grants (see below)	370.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Normal Grass and Hedge cutting	3,047.04	7,000.00	7,000.00	5,198.40	
Other grounds & tree work		450.00	450.00	1,150.00	
Insurance	875.66	900.00	900.00	858.18	
Memorial Hall Hire		90.00	90.00	14.00	
Millennium Garden		100.00	100.00		
Parish Tidy Up		250.00	250.00		
Playing field Maintenance	805.05	750.00	750.00	107.00	
Playing field lease		360.00	360.00		
Training expenses		100.00	100.00		
Web site		300.00	300.00	300.00	
Vat expensed and not yet recovered	13.54				

Total Operational Expenses	9,007.37	23,065.00	23,065.00	19,694.85
Operating surplus/deficit	15,755.94	1,608.52		4,594.42
Projects & rent arrears				
Allotment lease and set up		2,500.00		
Speed reduction measures				6,574.00
Amenity lease arrears		360.00		
Play Area maintenance	5,174.11	5,174.11		1,293.53
Playing field lease arrears		2,880.00		
Cockayne Hatley land & set up		3,000.00		
Net Project costs	5,174.11	13,914.11		7867.53
Overall surplus/deficit	10,581.83	-12,305.59		-3,273.11
RESERVES				
Bank brought forward	26,934.52	26,934.52		30,207.63
(Deficit)/Surplus for period	10,581.83	-12,305.59		-3,273.11
Bank carried forward	37,516.35	14,628.93		26,934.52
VAT refund due	13.54			88.52
Total	37,529.89			27,023.04
GRANTS PAID IN YEAR				
Village Link	250.00			150.00
Magpas				200.00
Wrestlingworth Goodwill Fund				1,000.00
History Society	120.00			
Lower School				150.00
	<u>370.00</u>			1,500.00
Bank balances				
Current account - 31/08/2021	4,157.48		Current account 30/04/2020	1,143.23
Deposit account - 31/08/2021	33,358.87		Deposit account 30/04/2020	25,791.29
	37,516.35			26,934.52

NOTES TO BUDGET

- 1 2.5% increase
The old lease expired September 2016 with annual rent of £120. It has not yet been renewed by CBC and no rent paid.
- 2 yet been renewed by CBC and no rent paid.
- 3 The old lease expired March 2011 with annual rent of £360. It has not yet been renewed by CBC and no rent paid. The last email on this from CBC dated 19 Nov 18, we were seeking a reduction and time to pay. No invoice from CBC to date.
- 4 Estimated costs