

# WATERINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Wateringbury Village Hall Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr Patrick Gregson (Chair)  
Cllr Michael Wells (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Richard Tripp  
Cllr Linda Simons  
Cllr Frances Fielding  
Cllr Geraint Owen  
Cllr Sarah Hudson (Borough and County Councillor)

Steve Hill – Clerk  
Mark Little – Village Warden  
Mrs Christine Byron – Rostrum Correspondent  
Naomi Houghton - PCSO  
Public – 11

### **22/070 Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **22/071 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **22/072 Announcements**

- a. The Chair introduced the new Clerk, whose commencement of service was the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. The Chair also thanked and praised the outgoing Clerk for her many years of dedicated service to the role and passed on the many good wishes from the community and then presented her with a retirement gift and flowers.
- b. The Parish has been informed that James Woolley of Nepicar Groundcare Ltd wish to transfer their ground maintenance responsibilities to a new contractor. The Parish Council had no knowledge of this change and will need to investigate any concerns of such a transfer.

**AP1: Clerk to contact Nepicar Groundcare Ltd.**

### **22/073 Report from County Councillor & Borough Councillor**

Sarah Hudson reported that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council will reallocate funding from Kent County Council to help vulnerable residents which will mirror the energy rebate scheme. New round of Business grants of £500,000 to go to predominantly rural businesses and retail centres. Garden waste collection date to change to balance out the rounds, customer who subscribe should have received an email.

New election bill going through House of Commons which will bring changes to voting next May, where ID will be required to vote, you will need a voter authority certificate and if you are a postal voter this now must be renewed every three years, and not five.

Cllr Hudson also explained that Kent County Council will be identifying ways to make cuts to services to enable them to meet their reduction of £75M to the Budget.

### **22/074 Police Briefing**

From e-watch – Between Midnight 5<sup>th</sup> November to 23.00 on the 6<sup>th</sup> in Old Road somebody broke into an Oast House and other outbuildings on a farm. Between 22.30 and 08.00 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November a white Ford camper van was stolen from Cobbs Close.

From Kent Police Web site - Three thefts in September, no further details.

**22/075 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

The minutes were **agreed** by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

Proposed by Cllr Wells and seconded by Cllr Tripp.

**22/076 Matters Arising (for information only)****Action from 01-11-22**

Action Points	Actions	Clerk or Cllr	Completed or Agenda Item 06-12-22
	Damage to Village Hall Wall – Claim submitted to Motor Insurance Bureau and repairs to wall have been completed	Clerk	Completed
	Warden requested assistance on how to call up CCTV recordings	Clerk	Ongoing

**22/077 Minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The minutes were **agreed** by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.

Proposed by Cllr Fielding and seconded by Cllr Owen.

**22/078 Reports from Committees & Representatives on other bodies:****78.1 Finance and General Purposes**

Cllr Fielding has made an application for a new play area funding with two requests, one to Communities foundation action fund for the total cost of £57,833 and one to “National Lottery Awards for All” where a further bid of circa £8,000 has been requested. WPC would like to thank all third-party contributions from the Village Hall, NS Flooring, Bijou Nurseries, Ovenmeister UK, WSRA and the Football and Cricket Club. **Application decision expected in March 2023.**

**78.2 Highways – report on Kent County Council meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November**

Cllr Wells and Cllr Fielding met on the 24<sup>th</sup> November with Emma Tilbury of KCC and she informed the PC that they have set up three teams to deal with the improvement issues and they will be responding back individually. No conclusive responses received to date.

WPC were informed that the traffic light infrastructure has a faulty system that is within the carriageway, making it difficult to replace without causing major expense and disruption to traffic. They also said that their studies have shown that rephrasing the lights will not help with peak time traffic problems. The jumping of red lights is a matter for the police to enforce and camera equipment would have to be discussed with the Police and the Medway Safety Camera Partnership. WPC stated they were disappointed with the KCC view on the 20mph Bow Road proposal and at the meeting they agreed to relook at the proposal.

**78.3 Speedwatch**

Report received - Red Hill being the road with the highest number of offenders, information will be passed to the Police and letters will be sent to offending drivers. Speedwatch team thanked for their time and effort.

**78.4 Wateringbury Sports & Recreational Association**

There are only two current trustees, WSRA are trying to increase to four/five members, at least two new trustees need to be recruited to remain representative. In addition, a management committee must be expanded to ensure the fields are being managed correctly. This committee should be represented by a wider group of interested parties such as the Football club, Cricket club the local housing association and a member of the Parish Council. The WPC have requested that additional trustees are recruited to bring the total number up to 4, 5 ideally by the end of January 2023.

**AP2: Cllr Tripp to advertise and recruit new members to the WSRA committee.**

There are plans to increase the number of football teams playing at the weekend which will increase traffic and parking, which could have a detrimental effect to residents. The WPC stated that the increased usage of the playing field is the root cause of increased traffic and parking concerns and therefore needs to be addressed by the WSRA committee. The lease for the field does state that the access road should be always kept clear.

**AP3: Cllr Tripp to address this concern with WSRA and the sports groups involved.**

Overflow Car Park – Cllr **agreed** that the carpark surface needs to be addressed, and the advice of a qualified expert should be obtained, to ensure the best course of action. A preliminary budget of not more than £2000 has been set for a solution – proposed by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr Simons.

**AP4: Cllr Gregson to obtain at least two independent contractor quotations.**

**78.5 T&M Area Committee of KALC** – Next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> December Cllr Wells to attend.

**78.5 Parish Partnership Panel** – Not discussed at meeting.

**78.6 Cemetery** – Carpark transfer deed is completed.

**78.7 Allotments** – List of allotment holders and sizes received, but due to email problems has not been distributed, will be re-distributed when resolved.

**78.8 Village Wardens** – Duty sheets have been received no major issues reported.

## 22/079 Finance

a. Financial statement and bank reconciliation were **received** and **accepted**.

Account	Balance as of 30/11/22
NW Current Account	£ 200.00
NW Business Reserve Account	£ 156,755.34

b. The following Payments made out of and at this meeting were **agreed**. Payments made by Direct Debit unless specified otherwise.

### Payments made out of meeting by DD

Cheque No:	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
DD	EE Ltd – CCTV Mobile	23.75	4.75	28.50	--
DD	Castle Water Ltd	24.49	4.90	29.39	--
DD	Kent County Council Commserv	90.93	18.19	109.12	--
DD	Veolia ES UK	136.09	27.22	163.31	--
DD	Onecom – Nov 2022	40.99	8.20	49.19	--

\* VAT to be reclaimed.

### Payments for authorising at meeting

Cheque No:	Details	Amount	VAT*	Total	Auth
4138	Clerks Salary + Expenses	1546.96		1546.96	MW & RT
4139	J Ibbs – Warden Nov 2022	197.60		197.60	MW & RT
4140	M Little -Warden Nov 2022	228.00		228.00	MW & RT

4141	HMRC – PAYE + NIC	1566.61		1566.61	MW & RT
4142	Richard Wilson Long – Cemetery Car Park	1653.00	330.00	1983.60	MW & RT
4142	Bax Thomas French Ltd – Cemetery Car Park	119.34	23.87	143.21	MW & RT
4142	Brachers -Cemetery Car Park	1000.00	200.00	1200.00	MW & RT
4143	Nepicar Groundcare Ltd – SI-351	12928.00	2585.60	15513.60	MW & RT
4144	KALC - AGM	4.17	0.83	5.00	MW & RT
4145	iNetdigital – Clerk Email Account	6.95	1.39	8.34	MW & RT

\* VAT to be reclaimed

Cllrs Wells and Tripp **agreed** to authorise the above payments.

c. Other financial matters discussed:

- i. Cllrs **agreed** to make available a maximum of £2000 from reserves towards resurfacing upper playing field car park.

## 22/080 Public Discussion

Geoff King of the Football Club supported the need to improve the carpark repairs and informed the Council that every effort is made to encourage sensible parking by visiting teams.

Public – Gentleman pointed out he had spoken to Cllr Tripp and offered to join the WSRA committee, he also felt that £2000 to repair parking surface was insufficient – comments noted.

Lesley Monk – The Tenant of Drayhorse Meadows and owner of livery business said she was experiencing difficulties with people climbing over her gate and cars parking in the access track causing problems to her staff to access the fields. The water meter has been covered with the recent deployment of gravel making it impossible to read the meter and therefore not getting water bills. She stated that business has been lost due to poor access for her clients and their Horse boxes and she was considering not renewing her lease with WPC.

**AP5: Cllr Gregson to follow up visibility of the water meter and ensure CCTV covers the gate area.**

Steve Farndon – Member of Cricket Club and willing to join the WSRA as a committee member and will follow up with Cllr Richard Tripp.

Public – Gentleman pointed out that the WSRA constitution states that members from many Wateringbury community groups may be represented on the committee and that the AGM should have been advertised locally via the Rostrum to inform people of the date.

Naomi Houghton – Wateringbury’s newly assigned PCSO introduced herself and said her role is only guaranteed until June, due to Kent Police change in strategy on PCSO deployment, but a beat PC will be assigned to the area.

Sara Hudson (speaking as the public) – Could WPC provide Christmas decorations in the future on the street lampposts. The Cllrs **agreed** this would be a nice gesture and Sara volunteered to investigate the cost and the licencing required with Kent County Council to present to WPC for consideration.

## 22/081 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.

## 22/082 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm

Signed..... Date.....