

WARNFORD PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the AGM held remotely on 4th May 2021 at 7pm

The meeting was held on TEAMS under the control of the Chair.

The documents referred to had been posted on the Warnford website and were shown on the screen during the meeting.

Chair: Mark Rogers

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Lucy Hutchinson

1. The Chair explained the procedures for the remote meeting.

2. Apologies: There were apologies from 8 parishioners.

3. Minutes of the 12 November 2020 meeting: proposed by Derek Chapman and seconded by Phil Chadder, these were approved and then signed.

4. Chair's report: The Chair thanked those who had helped with parish matters, including Andrew Baynes, Cllr Lumby, Justine Lago, Pauline Swan, Derek Chapman and the Clerk. He explained that it not been viable to pursue the Hampshire Broadband initiative discussed at the previous meeting.

After concern was raised over the state of the watercress beds, he had contacted Vitacress and discussed the issue. It was later suggested that he made direct contact with the Vitacress Conservation Trust, regarding the long-term objectives of the beds.

He plans to arrange more defibrillator training.

The possible memorial to those killed in the Glider crash is currently on hold but will be pursued.

He noted the sad loss of Dave Compton, who had been the unofficial guardian of Old Winchester Hill for so long.

5. Finance:

a) Receipts & Payments accounts year to 31.03.21: The Clerk spoke to these, proposed by Peter Short and seconded by Peter Mosse, these were approved.

b) Annual Governance and Accountability Return: The Clerk spoke to this.

Certificate of Exemption: proposed by Derek Chapman and seconded by Peter Short, this was approved.

Internal Audit Report: this was received and noted, Jane Crawshaw was thanked for her work.

Annual Governance Statement: proposed by Stephen Short and seconded by Derek Chapman, this was approved.

Accounting Statements 2020/21: These were signed and dated by the Chair before being put to the meeting. Proposed by Derek Chapman and seconded by Stephen Short, these were approved.

The Chair informed the meeting that the commencement date for the exercise of public rights was 14 June 2021.

c) Grant application (£200 for 2021/22) by the Parish News: In the discussion on this concern was expressed over the printing costs, although the Parish News is posted on the village website, the value of having a paper copy was recognised. The Rector will pursue, in the Parish News, the suggestion of asking parishioners if they would like an online rather than a hard copy. The meeting voted in favour of granting the £200 for 2021/22.

d) Defibrillator costs (new battery £211.20 and new pads £84.60): proposed by Peter Short and seconded by Phil Chadder, these were approved.

e) Contribution of £20 requested by Corhampton & Meonstoke PC towards the costs of signs on the Meon Valley Trail: proposed by Kit Power and seconded by Peter Mosse, this was approved.

The Clerk said that the meeting had approved over £500 expenditure for this year which had not been in the budget. This means that the overall expenditure this year would exceed the Precept by over £200 but as WPM has over £1200 in the bank, that was not an issue.

6. Elections: As there were no other candidates, the Chair and the Clerk/RFO were re-elected unopposed.

The meeting confirmed Karen Cornelius as its representative on the Village Hall Committee and Jeremy Barber as its representative on the Touchet Trust.

7. Planning: The Chair encouraged parishioners to give him their views on planning applications so they can be taken into account when preparing the Parish response (which goes to the Planning Authority). The Clerk spoke to the Planning schedule.

The Chair referred to the application made by Loomies, although not in Warnford, it may well impact on the village by leading to an increase in the number of motorcyclists on the A32. Cllr. Lumby said that the main planning ground of opposition was that the proposed containers would be unsightly at an important junction. Many objections have been lodged.

8. Highways/Rights of Way: Derek Chapman covered the following:

a) the River Lane bridge which was damaged by a large vehicle has just been repaired, having bollards there might prevent this happening again. Cllr. Huxstep suggested asking Hampshire Highways (HH) about this, and asking them to survey it to see if it should have a maximum weight limit. This will be pursued. It may also be worth seeing if commercial sat nav systems can be changed to avoid using River Lane.

b) the dangers of the A32/Hayden Lane junction and of traffic speeding on Wheely Down Road. Cllr. Lumby said both (as well as the Rooksgrove Farm junction) had been submitted in response to HH's request for suggestions for road improvements, there has been no response so far.

c) Rights of Way: these had been used much more due to the pandemic, the local landowners continue to ask people to stick to the paths.

d) Sheepbridge: this has been made into a BMX type playground, with damage done to the ancient monument. Historic England may put it on the 'Heritage at risk' list. Efforts are being made to find a way of restoring it but one cannot fill in the holes made etc. without official consent.

e) A request was made for more 'fingers' for the finger posts on the Monarch's Way near Lower Peake Farm, Derek Chapman will ask for some.

9. The Playground: Stephen Short reported that the new signs were now up and thanked the Chair for his input, Alan Bassil for doing the lettering free of charge and Phil Chadder for putting up the signs. The ash trees are being monitored and it is hoped that none will need to be removed in the immediate future.

10. The Village Hall: Derek Chapman said the Hall was now open. Thanks to grants from WCC, its finances are on a sound footing.

11. Cllr Huxstep's report: This will be on the website shortly. The Chair thanked him for all his help and contributions.

12. Cllr. Lumby's report: in addition to his written report, he thanked the Chair and the Clerk for all their work on Whitewool Farm application, the South Downs head of Planning had admitted that the planners could have done better and had learnt lessons from it.

Motorbikes on the A32: much is going on, including working with the Police trialling acoustic cameras, pressing local MPs to seek a change in the law to increase the penalties for noisy motorbikes and the use of SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices). Seeking a reduction in the speed limit between the villages was discussed, Cllr. Lumby is involved in seeking a reduction at Beauworth and that process may help with formulating an approach to seeking a reduction on the A32.

13. SIDs: The Chair reported that the Parish had been asked if it would like to use SIDs, this would probably cost £50 /sign for a two week period. First one would need to check that there are suitable places to position the signs. He asked the meeting to approve a budget of £200 for SIDs, so that if Warnford can have them, they could be used in the summer/autumn rather than having to wait for the November meeting for approval. He will keep the village posted on developments, and check if any grants might be available. The meeting voted to allow expenditure of up to £200 on SIDs.

14.A.O.B. The Clerk raised the following:

- a) the recent unpleasant/scam calls made by people pretending to be from the Police;
- b) there will be a large cycling event through the village around the middle of the day on 3 July, information will be posted on the website;
- c) although it had not been possible to have any VE Day commemoration events, a booklet was being produced with Memories of WW2 and would be available later in the year; and
- d) As it was his last meeting as our HCC Cllr., she thanked Cllr. Huxstep for all his help over the years, and particularly in relation to obtaining the TRO on the Green Lanes.

15. Date of next meeting: tbc

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.