

**MINUTES OF THE WARNFORD PARISH MEETING AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup>  
May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Warnford Village Hall**

**Chair:** Lucy Hutchinson, Acting Chair items 1-4.

Toby Drought, Chair items 5-11.

**Clerk/RFO:** Lucy Hutchinson

In addition to the Chair and Clerk there were 23 in attendance plus Warnford's two WCC Councillors, its HCC Councillor, two local police and a representative from Vitacress.

The papers referred to had been posted on the parish website in advance.

**1.Apologies:** nine were received.

**2.Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 meeting:** proposed by Kim Rowlatt and seconded by Stephen Short, these were approved and signed.

**3.Financial**

**-Accounts for the year to 31 March 2025:** proposed by Clare Swinstead and seconded by Kim Rowlatt, these were approved.

**-AGAR 2024/5.** Lucy took the meeting through these papers.

The Certificate of Exemption was approved.

The Annual Internal Audit report was received and noted, and Jane Crawshaw thanked for her work on this.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved.

The Accounting Statements were approved.

Lucy confirmed that the commencement date for the exercise of public rights is 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**Fee to ICO:** Lucy said this had been £40pa for many years but had now been increased to £52 or £47 if paid by Direct Debit, in view of this she had set up a Direct debit, this was approved/ratified.

#### **4. Elections**

**Chair:** Toby Drought was elected unopposed.

**Clerk/RFO:** Lucy Hutchinson was re-elected unopposed.

**WPM's rep. on the Village Hall Committee:** Karen Cornelius was re-elected unopposed.

#### **5. HCC (Malcolm Wallace) and WCC (Neil Bolton and Jerry Pett) Councillors:**

They gave a joint presentation on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, the latter being very much Treasury driven and presenting many difficult issues.

**6. Police:** PC Jack Marriner, our new Local Beat Bobby, and PCSO Owen Reeves introduced themselves. Their contact details will be on the parish website, but they stressed that 999/101 should be used for emergencies.

**7. The Watercress beds:** Daniel Crabb, Hampshire Manager for Vitacress, introduced himself and took questions. The Himalayan balsam should be removed in the next few weeks. Natural England are doing water vole surveys. The beds are probably uneconomic at the moment, some consideration is being given to having them as 'nature reserves' but there is no decision as yet. The Meeting

supported this approach and offered to help where it could to progress this.

**8. Planning:** Lucy took the Meeting through the planning schedule.

**9. Village Hall:** Kim Rowlatt, on behalf of the Hall Chair, Billy Bennett, thanked the Hall committee for all its work. It was looking at ways of saving money and hoped villagers would use the Hall and also encourage others to do so. A website is being worked on, to increase marketing etc. and perhaps take bookings. In the discussion offers were made to advertise the Hall, fliers would help to do this, and people were encouraged to support the monthly Makers' Market.

**10. A.O. B.**

**The Playground:** Stephen Short said it would have some significant expenses in the next ten years and asked for fundraising ideas. Bonfires/BBQ have been very popular but do not raise much money, Cllr. Bolton suggested applying for grants sooner rather than later as these are likely to dry up in the current economic climate.

Lucy thanked those who help with Parish matters, including Andrew Baynes and Harriet Henry (website) Phil Chadder (Parish Lengthsman), and Pauline Swan and David Corbett (defibrillator).

**11. Date of next meeting:** This will be in November 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm