

Minutes of 2019 Great Wilbraham Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Thursday 18th April in the Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Stephen Bartlett (Chairman), Roddy Tippen, Chris Hanson and Claire Jackman
District Councillor County Councillor John Williams
Members of the public: Approximately 30 parishioners were in attendance.
The clerk, Natalie Mulvey was in attendance

1. **Welcome** – S Bartlett welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** – S Ramus
3. **An introduction to the Parish Council: Stephen Bartlett**

S Bartlett introduced members of the Parish Council and the clerk.

4. **Parish Council: Finance report – Natalie Mulvey**

The clerk presented a summary of the Parish Council's finances for 2018 – 2019. The information detailed funds held at the end of the financial year totalling £53,000, which includes a sum of £7,900 Section 106 money. Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act contributions can be sought from developers towards the cost of providing community and social infrastructure. The Parish Council started the financial year with £12,900 and has used £5,000 to support the playground equipment project. It is important to note that this money can only be spent on public open space or the provision of community facility. The Parish Council also invested in £4,000 to support the speed awareness campaign with the purchase of a mobile speeding device, which is the same as the one demonstrated at the APM last year. The Speed Awareness group will give some feedback on their work later this evening. The Parish Council's finances are in good shape with a precept of £26,400 being set for 2019/20. The precept was set slightly higher this year due to significant expenditure anticipated to support further initiatives help reduce speeding and a focus on the maintenance of the village including tree work. The same independent internal auditor as last year has been appointed for the 2018/2019 and the audit is scheduled to take place at the end of May. Following this, the annual return will be submitted for external audit by PKF Littlejohn. A copy of the annual return and audits will be displayed on the noticeboard and website.

5. **Great Wilbraham Report on the last year from the Parish Council, Community Groups and the Village Charities.**

S Bartlett thanked the community groups for providing reports which will be included under the APM section of the www.wilbrahams.co.uk website.

- Cllr Cone District report for APM 2019
- Cllr Daunton & Cllr Williams District report for APM 2019
- County Councillor report for APM 2019
- Great Wilbraham Anne Ward and the Benstead Charities report 2019
- GWPC Speeding Awareness Campaign report 2019
- Great Wilbraham Common Rights Holders report 2019
- Warbler report for APM 2019
- Great Wilbraham Primary School report for APM 2019
- Scrabble Group report for APM 2019
- Weenie Warblers report for APM 2019
- St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust report to APM 2019
- St Nicholas report to APM 2019
- Well-brahams report for the APM 2019

- Wilbrahams' WI APM report 2019
- Wilbraham River Protection Society report 2019
- Wilbrahams' Hall Social Club report 2019

S Bartlett reported on the change in District Councillors for Great Wilbraham, Graham Cone, Claire Daunton and John Williams were elected at the last May elections.

S Fordham read a report for Great Wilbraham Anne Ward and the Great Wilbraham Benstead Charities and presented the book for signature by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

S Bartlett gave some highlights from the reports and invited members of the community groups to talk to residents about their activities.

M Gienke presented some information on the Warbler. He thanked the advertisers, contributors and readers for their support and comments. M Gienke advised that the cost to the Parish Council's over the year was £0.07 per copy.

S Fordham talked through some of her report on the Weenie Warblers. The group is going well, and they will be open throughout the school holidays. There is a sponsored activity hunt and a Weenie Warblers social evening once a week to make sure that people who go back to work can stay in contact.

T Ryan reported on the work of St Nicholas Trust. The churchyard is maintained by a group of volunteers and an open gardens event is scheduled for Sunday 9th June in Little Wilbraham. L Carr reported on the work of the church bell ringers.

J Bray reported on the Well-brahams, which has been formed to support mental health and wellbeing in the village. They meet on the first Tuesday of every month. They have arranged several talks with more to follow. The group are currently focussing on youth and their mental health. They would welcome parent support to keep the youth group running, and hope to organise a garden project. One of the key principles is that everything is free.

T Ryan reported on the Neighbourhood Watch. Membership is steady, and they continue to circulate information.

E Brunner Chairman of the Memorial Hall Trustees read their report. S Bartlett thanked the trustees for the great facilities they provide and the events they organise in them.

S Bartlett thanked the volunteers for the valuable work they do to support residents of the village.

- 6. To discuss the Village Trees and Grass Cutting – go wild or be urbane and manicured?** – It has been proposed to the Chairman that the verges be cut back less, and more flowers be allowed to grow. S Bartlett asked the audience for their thoughts on the idea. A member of the audience stated their support but raised a concern over some areas where residents needed to walk. Some residents felt if the verges were left to grow, the village would be untidy and could attract more rubbish. The village triangle was highlighted as the grass cutting in this area did not keep it tidy. However, some residents preferred the village grass to be cut as it is currently being done, ensuring it looks neat and tidy. A question was raised as to whether large gardens could be used to increase the wild areas. It was proposed that there should be a mix of approaches and a good balance was needed throughout the village.
- 7. To review progress on the items considered at the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting**
 - **Traffic calming – what is our Speed Awareness Device telling us?** A McFarquhar talked everyone through the report. The speeding awareness device (SAD) has been placed at six different sites and data has been collected from five of the locations. There has been little evidence of vehicles

exceeding 40mph at any of the SAD locations. A McFarquhar asked residents to propose new locations at the end of the meeting. He reported that the data can be used to support a local highway initiative application for additional traffic calming measures in the village. A resident questioned whether the evidence could be used to fine any speeding drivers, the response was no.

- **Parking near the Church and school update?** – S Bartlett reported that there had been some discussion at the District Council around the issue of parking enforcement. Work has been initiated at Great Shelford to support them with their parking problems. Discussions covered the possible solutions to the lack of parking enforcement. Proposals to extend the Cambridge City CPE operation are taking place. The Police & Crime Commissioner has been asked for the police to look at how to improve parking enforcement including the possibility of employing additional staff funded potentially by parish councils in the most affected areas. This initiative will be carefully monitored.
- **Affordable Homes – what if, if anything, should we do?** S Bartlett opened the discussion on actions the Parish Council had taken in the past including the housing survey. The Parish Council would like residents to consider the village's viability. A resident advised that the primary school is over subscribed. S Bartlett invited comments on whether the audience supported the need and whether they felt the village had space for affordable housing. A resident asked if there were any developers looking at the village, S Bartlett advised he was not aware of any. Residents reported that they wanted more specific information to make a judgement. A resident talked everyone through the process when Squires Field was built, where 6 of 15 houses are considered affordable. The discussion included concern over the number of smaller houses that have been extended to larger homes creating a need to replace the smaller house stock. Whether there would be any benefits in services provided for new houses. Whether villages needed grow organically. Could the Parish Allotment be used for a few affordable houses? A resident offered to circulate a questionnaire to gauge the view of the whole village. S Bartlett reported there were now more options for formulating the village vision. An objection was raised to any development in the village as it was surrounded by green belt land.
- **Our well-being – can we become a more caring community?** S Fordham reported that the community is doing well to ensure it is looking after its residents. The coffee mornings held by the Social Club and Church in the summer have been a great success in getting everyone out. The Memorial Hall is booked every night of the week, however, there is availability for clubs during the day. There are many activities taking place, but the Well-brahams would welcome any proposals for new events.
- **Cycle ways – an update on the lack of progress** - S Bartlett reported that Lucy Frazer MP had visited the village to discuss cycleways. It was understood that the Greenways initiative had identified seven or eight cycleways and until these had been finalised little progress would be made with the Wilbrahams. The Parish Council will continue the work with Robert McCubbin but progress would depend on funding patterns. A resident asked for the Parish Council to be more transparent and communicate their work better. The lack of public transport in the village was discussed and a resident asked whether a community shuttle bus could be considered.
- **Dog fouling – any further thoughts?**

There were mixed opinions on the increased signage in the village. There were strong views both for and against the use of this deterrent.

9. Any other business

A concern was raised over the height of leylandii trees in Church Close.

The meeting closed at 9.43pm

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