**MINUTES OF GREAT WILBRAHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MEETING NUMBER 9**

Held at Wilbraham’s Memorial Hall on 16th March 2023.

**Present**: Councillor Hilary Burton; Councillor Christine Page; Councillor James Harmer; Councillor Jens Kolind; County Councillor Claire Daunton: Tree Warden Nigel Start (Items 172 & 173)

3 members of the public.

**Members: 4 (Quorum 3)**

The Meeting opened at 7.30pm

**165. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Sam Dhaliwal; District Councillors John Williams and Graham Cone

**166. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**167. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The application for a 20mph speed limit in the village, which had to be submitted to the County Council by 30th April, was discussed briefly. A survey by the Parish Council of residents’ opinions was essential and concern was voiced that unless this was initiated shortly there would be insufficient time to distribute a letter and questionnaire, collect the responses and collate and analyse the data.

**168. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2023**

It was proposed by Councillor Harmer seconded by Councillor Page and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2023 should be approved and signed.

**169.** **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**

The District Councillors were not present at the meeting, but reports had been received from both Councillor Williams and Councillor Cone. County Councillor Daunton had provided a report that was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. She addressed the meeting, highlighting a number of matters:

* The 20mph speed limit programme. The finance available for 2023-2024 would limit the number of successful applications to 8. Those not selected for implementation would be rolled over for consideration in subsequent years. The support of local residents and the County Councillor was imperative, but the demonstration of ‘need’ was of paramount importance.
* Active Travel. The County Council had submitted a bid to Whitehall for £3m to fund local initiatives, including a village connectivity project that would benefit both Great and Little Wilbraham.
* Solar Farm. The next consultation meetings would take place on 6th and 25th April. Three issues were highlighted: the availability of funding for local communities, potential for disruption caused by cabling work and the impact of the development on traffic. The Traffic Management plan was being rewritten.

In discussion, three further issues were raised:

* ‘Road Narrows’ sign. The sign advising traffic approaching the school from the direction of Little Wilbraham was obscured by both an overgrown hedge and ivy. It was agreed that the ivy would be cut back. *Action: Councillor Harmer*

The landowner would be contacted and asked to cut back the hedge. *Action: Clerk*

* Ditch clearance. Meads were contracted to look after the Orchard area, so should be tasked with clearing the ditch when necessary. *Action: Councillor Harmer*
* Potholes. The County Council now had 6 teams working on the repair of potholes. The current situation across the County was the result of years of underfunding, with the underlying foundations on many roads in poor condition.

**170. MATTERS ARISING, CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLORS AND CLERK REPORTS, INCLUDING CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.**

A number of matters were highlighted during the discussion of correspondence received by the Parish Council:

* The recent RTA on Rectory Farm Road
* The requirement to purchase new pads for the defibrillator
* Grass cutting
* Parking on pavements and grass verges

It was resolved that the TWG would review the photographic evidence available to support an application by the Council for bollards to be erected to prevent parking on verges. The Council would, in addition, write to those residents who persistently parked cars on pavements, blocking their use by pedestrians and, in particular, those using mobility aids.

*Action: David Richer and the Parish Clerk*

**171. FINANCES INCLUDING APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDNG ACCOUNTS**

The bank reconciliation was provided and approved by the Parish Council: proposed by Councillor Kolind and seconded by Councillor Harmer.

The payment of March 2023 accounts was approved: proposed by Councillor Harmer and seconded by Councillor Kolind.

**172. PLANNING MATTERS**

**a. *Planning applications*.** The following applications were noted:

* 23/0062/LBC: 17 Frog End Great Wilbraham. Replacement of 2 no. singled glazed timber windows to the rear with double glazed.
* 22/02178/CONDB: 23 High Street Great Wilbraham. Submission of details required by condition 3 (Construction Details and External Materials) of listed building consent 22/02178/LBC.

**b. *Tree Matters*.** The following application was agreed:

* 23/0269/TTCA: 78 Angle End, Great Wilbraham. To fell Prunus. To reduce height by 3-4m, reduce spread on all sides by up to 1.5m to shape round of Silver Birch.
* The proposed work on trees at 5 Angle End and 41 High Street was recommended and approved.

**173. TREES and BIODIVERSITY**

Nigel Start, the Tree Warden, addressed the meeting.

* Work on the trees in Frog End, scheduled to take 2 days, would commence on 11th April. Notices advising of the work would be sited in Frog End a few days before and the residents directly impacted would be advised. Wood would be made available to local residents, with the Parish Clerk managing an application process. *Action: Councillor Burton, Councillor Harmer*
* It was proposed that trees be planted on Parish land in 2 locations: Brimstone Fen and the Gravel Pit adjacent to Butt Lane. This could be a way to mark the King’s Coronation also contribute to biodiversity. The Tree Warden was asked to develop a detailed proposal. The Parish Council resolved to form a working group to address this initiative: proposed by Councillor Kolind, seconded by Councillor Burton. *Action: Councillor Harmer, Councillor Burton, Councillor Kolind*

**174. Highways, Transport and Cycleways Committee (HTCC)**

The 3 new MVAS would be delivered on Saturday 18th March, and training would be provided by the supplier.

A grant of up to £250 to fund the purchase of equipment required for the operation and maintenance of the MVAS devices was agreed: proposed by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Kolind.

A ladder purchased by former Councillor Tippen for use when mounting and dismounting the devices would be trialled during the training. If found to be suitable, the PC would reimburse the original purchase cost. *Action: Councillor Page*

**175. CARPENTERS ARMS**

The Chestnut Group COO had given an update recently, advising the Chairman that the Company was “just finalising a decision on works in the carpark”. Two more signs had been attached to the front wall of the pub, advising patrons of the car park at the rear. Mr Fairbanks would attend the Parish Council meeting in April.

It was agreed that there needed to be additional lighting in the car park, and that this should be installed at a low level to avoid causing a nuisance to neighbours. A representation would be made to the Group about this point. *Action: Councillor Burton*

A member of the Public addressed the meeting, expressing dissatisfaction with the response of the SCDC Planning Department to the Parish Council’s concerns about the lack of conditions relating to parking attached to the planning consent. The resident urged Councillors to continue to pursue 2 issues:

* The alleged misrepresentation by the architect of the car park size depicted in the plan that was submitted during the application process
* The alleged failure of the Planning Authority to attach conditions relating to parking to the planning permission that was granted

It was agreed that there was no merit in the Parish Council pursuing this matter further with the District Council Compliance Team. Instead, every effort would be made to work with the Chestnut Group to share ownership both of the parking issue and the solution.

**176.** **COMMUNICATIONS**

Councillor Harmer provided a written update on the progress of a number of communications initiatives. These included website development and a one-way messaging system. The trial of ‘Notifi’ had established that the app did not meet the Council’s requirement, so it was now planned to use ‘WhatsApp’.

The website would provide the opportunity for details of local businesses to belisted, to the benefit of owners/employees resident in `Great Wilbraham as well as residents seeking a particular commodity or service. Appearance on the list would not constitute endorsement by the Parish Council.

**177. CORONATION**

With £1000 set aside to support the Coronation celebrations, the Parish Council would provide assistance as necessary: in particular, to the ‘street parties’ on Sunday 7th May. These could either take place on the Recreation Ground or in residents’ gardens. Councillors agreed to engage with neighbours and others in the village, with a view to encouraging people to take on the leadership of organising committees. *Action: All Councillors*

**178. SOFTWARE PROVISION**

The Communications Group had advocated the adoption of MS Office 365. This was proposed by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Page and agreed. *Action: Clerk*

**179. JUBILEE BENCH**

The Parish Council had received a £700 grant to enable the purchase of a bench, but work on this project had stalled following last year’s election and subsequent resignations. It was thought that former councillor Claire Jackman had been leading on the selection of the type of bench and the identification of a suitable location for it; the potential of a site on the verge in Frog End was discussed, since the Parish Council would be involved in reinstatement of the area after the felling of Bird Cherries (see item 175). Councillor Harmer was asked to liaise with her and then revert back with proposals *Action: Councillor Harmer*

**180. WILBRAHAMS REFUGEE SUPPORT (WRS)**

The Parish Council was thanked for allowing WRS to use its bank account pending the establishment of its own. This was now set up and WRS’s funds had been transferred out of the Council’s account.

**181. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM)**

The idea of an interactive event had been warmly welcomed by many of those who had been told of the plan for the APM. The Annual Report had been drafted and would be circulated to enable all councillors to check, comment upon and add to, as appropriate. Councillor Kolind would take responsibility for the layout. *Action: Councillor Kolind*

Of 19 village organisations invited to contribute reports, 11 had responded to date.

Everyone would receive a name badge to wear at the event. It was yet to be decided how the County and District Councillors’ reports would be presented. *Action: Councillor Burton*

Councillor Kolind would plan how the interactive element of the event would work, and design flyers advertising the meeting, which would be distributed to every household prior to the event.  *Action: Councillor Kolind*

**182. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

No specific items were suggested for the next meeting’s agenda.

**183. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 30th March, at the Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.24pm