

MINUTES OF THE WARNFORD PARISH MEETING AGM held on 23rd May 2024

Chair: Mark Rogers

Clerk/RFO: Lucy Hutchinson

There were 22 in attendance.

1.Apologies were received from 12 parishioners plus Fr. Forrest and Cllr. Bolton (WCC).

2. Minutes of the 14th November 2023 Meeting: proposed by Clare Swinstead and seconded by Stephen Short, these were approved and signed.

3.Chair's Report: He thanked those up helped with parish matters, including Andrew Baynes (website), Pauline Swan & David Corbett (defibrillator), Phil Chadder (Parish Lengthsman) and the Clerk. He suggested having another training session for the defibrillator. Asian Hornets have been seen in Bishops Waltham, these are dangerous to people and dogs, he will put something on the website about them, including who to contact if they are seen.

He encouraged people to contact him with any comments they may have on the planning applications he circulates, few are currently received and it is helpful to have comments when preparing the WPM response to applications.

4. Financial: The Clerk explained that usually there were two on the bank mandate, the Chair and the Clerk. As the Chair may be leaving the village soon Andrew Baynes had been added to ensure there were always two people available to sign cheques. As and when a new Chair is in place, they can be added.

Following the use of the defibrillator it had been necessary to buy new pads etc. for £91.14, this expenditure was ratified by the Meeting, which also approved the cost of buying such replacements in future.

-Accounts for year to 31.03.24: These were approved.

-AGAR 2023/24: The Clerk took the Meeting through these papers.

The Meeting received and noted the Internal Audit Report, and thanked Jane Crawshaw for her work on this.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved.

The Accounting Statements were approved.

The Certificate of Exemption was approved.

The Chair confirmed that the commencement date for the exercise of public rights is 6th June 2024.

5. Elections: The Chair explained that, as previously mentioned, he plans to leave the village but that will not happen immediately. As no one had come forward to take over, he was re-elected unopposed, The Clerk/RFO was re-elected unopposed.

WPM Rep. on the Village Hall Committee: Karen Cornelius was re-elected unopposed.

WPM Rep. on the Touchet Trust: Jeremy Barber was re-elected unopposed.

6. Planning: The Clerk took the Meeting through the pending applications.

7. Councillors' Reports:

Cllr. Jerry Pett (WCC) spoke about the average speed cameras, in the discussion it was clear that noise is the main issue, the problem around Warnford is often worse now as it is outside the cameras' area, Currently there is no funding for more cameras, although the A32 from Warnford to Corhampton would be suitable. He encouraged people to report speed/noise (online is easier than 101) so that the police have evidence of the problem. It is not realistic to expect to have acoustic cameras in the area. It was confirmed that efforts had been made to engage with the bikers, but this had not reduced the problems. The Chair said it was disappointing that the Police did not inspect and take action against illegal motorbike exhausts.

Cllr. Pett encouraged people to apply to the WCC Small Grants scheme.

He is working with West Meon PC to see if it can, with help from Waltham Ramblers and HCC, replace the stiles on the footpath from West Meon to Warnford with kissing gates. As a Parish Meeting WPM cannot do this.

Cllr. Malcolm Wallace (HCC) was welcomed to his first WPM Meeting. He said that the council was consulting on a District Cycling and Walking Scheme, he will send the link so people can comment. When it has been approved, it will be ready to be implemented as and when funds become available.

The Chair expressed his thanks to our Councillors for all their help to WPM.

8. A O B

a)The chair reported that, with help from our Councillors, the ability of WPM to give grants had been confirmed;

b) Parish Lenghtsman: Any suggestions for work for the PL should be given to Phil Chadder (contact details on the website or via the Clerk);

c) Care Group: The Clerk reminded the Meeting about this; and

d) Watercress beds: The Chair has been in touch with Vitacress about the unused beds and what plans there may be for them and hopes to hear back, it seems it is cheaper to produce watercress in Portugal than here. He also told Vitacress that people had been seen throwing things into the beds. Cllr. Pett said that the Upper Itchen area is looking at actively managing unused watercress beds for nature and Vitacress have some involvement in that. Also, SDNP is getting the watercress industry involved in 'industrial heritage' and it may be possible to get thee Warnford beds zoned as such. Stephen Short said that Lea Mathias-Collins of Vitacress had offered to give a talk to the parish, he will pursue this.

9 Next Meeting: 7th November 2024.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm