

GREAT WAKERING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th January, 2018, in the Parish Council Offices, Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering, SS3 0HH, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: - Councillors L. Blunden, V. Brandon, D. Efde, T. Goodwin, R. Green, N. Hookway, T. Hughes, R. Loding (Vice Chair), L. Rodger, M. Sawyer (Chair), F. Wheeler and B. Wilkins.
In attendance: - S. Hyatt (Parish Clerk)

1. The Chairman to declare the meeting open.

Meeting declared open at 7.30pm.

2. To receive apologies for absence.

Councillors Hughes and Hookway prior apology for late arrival, Flynn – holiday.

3. To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and with Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Declarations of interest received from Councillor Loding – allotment holder. Councillor Sawyer – Memorial Hall Secretary, Councillor Rodger – Friends of Wakering Common.

4. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13th December 2017.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

5. Financial Matters.

- a. To approve Payment Schedules for December 2017. *Carried.*
- b. To approve Receipt Schedules for December 2017. *Carried.*
- c. To approve the Financial Statement for the 9 months to 31st December 2017. *Carried.*

6. To receive the Chairman's report.

- Star Lane flytipping – new barrier now installed by Taylor Wimpey.
- Attended RDC Planning Development Committee Meeting re 17/00862/REM with Councillor Loding.
- Finance/Personnel Committee recommendations. Recommend that precept increase be limited to 3% a rise of £0.97 per annum to £33.45 on a Band D property, an increase of less than 2 pence a week. Much less than other Councils in District some of whom are raising precept by 10-16%. Band D national average in 2017/18 was £61.03.

7. To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillors on County and District matters.

County Councillor Steptoe:

- Streetlight opposite Barrow Hall Road out.
- Provided unconfirmed County figures – ECC Band D increase of 4.99% including 2% social care element. Police expected increase of £12 per year – hope to fund 150 more officers but still shortfall compared to other forces. Fire

and Rescue Service expected 2.99% increase – approx. £2.06 per year per Band D property. All figures unconfirmed at present.

- Fairglens interchange improvement scheme and A127 update.

Councillor Loding - Mariners/Beach Court resurfacing works.

Councillor Rodger - footway improvements at Shoulderstick.

Councillor Goodwin – Little Wakering Road footway works and parking issue.

Councillor Wilkins – Mummery's site and Barrow Hall Road planning.

Councillor Green – noted bollard needed Twyford Avenue by fire hydrant.

District Councillor Efde

- Attended RDC standards, budget and audit meetings.
- Free exhibition space available at Rayleigh Windmill.

The Chair deferred part of item 7 and 8 to 10 to allow the arrival of Councillors Hookway and Hughes.

11. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Public Toilet Committee Meeting held on 13th December 2017.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

12. Councillor Brandon's proposal that the Council recognise the Parishioner who has been opening and closing the small Conway park since 2003 – 363 days a year.

Parishioner had been undertaking task for many years on voluntary basis and felt Council should recognise this as asset to village, £100 and a bouquet of flowers proposed. Park owned by RDC and query if RDC would be correct body to approach for recognition and if proposal lawful.

Councillors Hughes and Hookway entered the Meeting.

Councillors Blunden, Efde, Loding, Sawyer, Hughes and Hookway offered to donate £20 each from their Councillor allowance.

Item deferred to next Meeting to allow Clerk to confirm legality of proposal.

13. Councillor Brandon requests the Full Council have an update on the Common.

Councillor Efde provided report that Parish Council waiting for copy of signed document and response from RDC legal department. Clerk and Councillor Efde had previously requested document and attended RDC Offices.

Councillor Hookway stated District Councillors had been requesting from RDC Officers a copy of agreement signed by the District Council, additionally a Freedom of Information request had been submitted. Councillor Brandon produced copy of the document from outside source. Once answers received officially from RDC, consultation document would be reviewed and updated as required. Clerk had allocated funds for common in budget but spend would need Parish Council resolution.

14. Councillor Sawyer proposes that the Council urge RDC to continue the Household Waste Collection point in the Recreation Ground due to the distance of 11 miles to the District amenity point in Rayleigh and we have no recycling banks.

Resolved that the proposal be carried.

15. Cllr Loding proposes that the Clerk send a freedom of information request to Rochford District Council for a signed copy of the current ECTU agreement.

Councillor Brandon called for a named vote. For proposal Councillors Efde, Hookway, Hughes, Blunden, Rodger, Wilkins, Goodwin, Brandon, Green, Wheeler, Loding and Sawyer.

Resolved that the proposal be carried.

16. Councillor Goodwin's proposal to discuss the grave-digging at the Parish Council Burial Ground.

Grave digging undertaken by machine not by hand. Clerk had written to funeral directors whom employ the grave diggers that boarding be put down when grave digging undertaken by digger to prevent damage to surface. Clerk had spoken to Parishioner re garden. Damage to tablet was not new. Rubbish was being brought in and dumped in the burial ground – was not as result of contractor's works. Build-up of soil, available grave spaces and burial ground extension discussed.

17. To allow the Clerk to commence the procurement process for new streetlighting contractors due to retirement of existing.

Resolved that the proposal be carried.

18. At the Chairman's discretion the exchange of relevant Council information.

Councillor Brandon – anchor passageway. Clerk in process of arranging quotes. Councillor Wilkins – flytipping on Southend Borough Council land.

7. (cont) To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillors on County and District matters.

District Councillor Hookway:

- Attended RDC awayday finance meeting discussing future budget.
- Re Barrow Hall Road – no information received to confirm rumours not going ahead.

8. To agree the Finance Committee recommendation regarding the Budget for the financial year 2018/19.

Resolved that the recommendation for the budget for the 2018/19 financial year be approved and the budget accepted.

9. To agree the Finance Committee recommendation regarding the Precept for the financial year 2018/19.

Clerk's notes and recent history of precept noted. The recommendation was for a 3% increase. This amounted to a £0.97 increase per year for a Band D household or less than 2 pence a week. Great Wakering's precept well below national average of £61.03.

Resolved that the recommendation be approved and precept to rise by 3% to £66,040.34. The Council Tax Support Grant as currently notified by Rochford District Council - £3316.00. Noted this was subject to confirmation by RDC.

10. To agree the Finance/Personnel Committee recommendation that the Parish Council reserve be increased by £5000 to £15,000.

Auditor and Finance Committee recommendations noted.

Resolved that the Parish Council reserve be increased to £15,000.

19. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Great Wakering to address the Council only once in respect of business itemised on the agenda (3 minutes each at Chairman's discretion).

P Hitchman – Update re Friends of Wakering Common, desire to meet with Common Committee in future. ECC part-night lighting - County

Councillor Steptoe not aware of any change in part-night lighting policy.

B Adcock – Corner of Whitehall Road query.

Mrs Payne/B Green/V Brandon/B Wilkins – Public toilets usage, Echo article and petition. Chair of Toilet Committee stated petition organised privately by a Parishioner. Clerk given authority to commence negotiations with RDC. L

Rodger – felt at least one toilet should be kept open.

P. Rae – noted Conway Park volunteer was her sister, thanked Councillor Brandon for proposal and Councillor Wilkins for annual present and donating councillor allowance to Community Association.

C. Wills – Precept, Whitehall streetlights and website updates.

Meeting Closed 9.38pm.

Date of next meeting – 7th March, 2018 – Full Council Meeting