

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WATER ORTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 AT 7.30pm IN THE PAVILION**

**Present: Cllrs. Robinson (Chair) Bevan, C. O'Meara, B O'Meara, Hailstone, Lee, Rees, Chown**

**Clerk: Daphne Robinson                      8 Members of the public**

**Public Forum**

It was reported by a volunteer of the Speedwatch team that due to the bad weather they had not been able to start doing their Speedwatch duty. They were hoping to start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. It was reported that there were 5 volunteers. The police had considered that the worst locations on which to target would be on Birmingham Road, Coleshill Road, New Road and Watton Lane and covering the corner on Openfield Croft.

A resident expressed her concerns over the continued problem of vehicles parking on the pavement opposite the shops. She believes that one solution to extend the railings on the edge of the pavement outside the Methodist church would deter drivers from parking over the pavement. It was agreed that the clerk would contact WCC to discuss the issue. The resident also asked if the yellow lines outside the Old School would be removed. The clerk said she would contact highways about this.

**214. Chairman's Remarks**

Cllr Robinson acknowledge the issue of parking in the village, not only those parking on the pavement but also those that park on the grass verges, churning them up and making the village look unsightly. He advised that there were CCTV cameras now installed on Plank Lane to catch the fly tippers, who will be prosecuted once caught. He expressed his concern over the dog fouling being left on the pavement by dog owners.

**215. Apologies**

CC & BC Dave Reilly and B.C J MacDonald – attending NWBC full meeting

**216. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**217. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

**Proposed** by Cllr. B O'Meara, **Seconded** by Cllr Hailstone and **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January be approved.

**218. Matters arising from the minutes**

Cllr Bevan expressed his concern that there was no mention of the Benchmarking in the minutes and that he had asked for it to be included on the next agenda. He advised that he and two residents had visited the White City to address the concerns raised by a resident at the previous meeting. He said that the Resident Association was run by NWBC housing. He met with the person who helps run the community centre who said there were no specific issues on the White City. It was noted that

there were no dog poo bins located in the area. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Cubs thanking them for cleaning up the poo in the village.

**219. To receive reports from the Borough and Count Councillor.**

No reports submitted

**220. To receive a report on the Playground Equipment**

Cllr Chown expressed his concern over the latest inspection report carried out by NWBC as there were inconsistencies between the report sent in September 2019 to the one received for January 2020. It was agreed the clerk would arrange a site meeting with the authors of the report, Streetscape management and Cllr Chown to address the issues. Cllr Chown agreed with the report that areas of the wet pour surface needed to be repaired, this would be done in the summer.

**221. To receive a report on the Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Bevan reported there had been three governance group meeting. They had developed the objectives and policies. There was a Facebook page with 250 members. He reported that he would be attending an informal meeting with NWBC on 5<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the policies and another governance meeting was scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**222. To receive a report from the maintenance committee**

Cllr Hailstone reported that children had been seen climbing on the roof and wondered if the anti-climbing paint needed to be re-painted. Cllr Robinson reported that the telegraph pole covered in ivy on the edge of the car park had been blown over by the high winds. It had landed in the neighbouring garden and broken the fence. He advised that it had been agreed with the resident that the council would pay for the materials and the resident was happy to do the repair himself.

**223. Update on Open and Green Spaces within the village**

The Clerk reported she had spoken to NWBC regarding the discrepancies between the Local Plan and those which the parish council consider to be Open and Green Spaces. She explained NWBC had told her the council should record what they believe to be Open and Green spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan but ensure the council have the relevant documents to back their claims up.

**224. Update report on HS2**

Cllr Robinson reported he had signed up to the Special Management Zone Group which John Warren was also on. This group includes Cllr Reilly, various parishes, representatives from the contractors and HS2. Cllr Bevan raised concerns that John Warren would no longer be involved with reporting on HS2. Cllr Robinson said this was not the case and acknowledged the great work that John had done so far. Cllr Robinson explained that he believed that the parish council should have a more proactive involvement with contractors etc. He said he had discussed this with John who was in full agreement. Cllr Robinson reported now that HS2 was going ahead, he and the Clerk had met with representatives from HS2 and the contractors as he believed it was important to have close contact with them. He advised that it had

been agreed that there would be a link for the council website made available so that residents can get up to date information. He said that all were in agreement that keeping lines of communications for the village open was vital.

Cllr Robinson said WCC had not made any restrictions on the number of contractor vehicle movements through the village or restricted the vehicles access on the roads within the village e.g. Vicarage Lane.

**225. To agree the appointment of a member to represent the parish council on the Thomas Dole Charity**

Cllr Rees expressed an interest in becoming the representative for the council on the Thomas Dole Charity. It was **Proposed** by Cllr B O'Meara, **Seconded** by Cllr Hailstone and **Resolved** Cllr Rees would represent the council on the Thomas Dole Charity.

**226. To receive an update on additional Christmas Lights for this year**

The clerk reported that she had met with Turnocks, the supplier of the Christmas lights and WCC street lighting. She advised that the continuation of Christmas lights could be down New Road as the lighting columns were evenly spaced and did not have any extra signs etc on them. The number of new lights would be nine. The quote for the lights had been circulated to councillors. A price for adapting the columns by WCC would not be available until the start of the new financial year. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Lee, **Seconded** by Cllr B O'Meara and **Resolved** to purchase the nine lights and that they would be installed on New Road. Cllr Chown said it seemed a lot of money which could be spent elsewhere.

**227. To consider the quote from Croner regarding Health and Safety Regulations**

The clerk reported she had met with a representative from Croner who had supplied a plan and quote for the Health & Safety Regulations required. It was agreed that Cllrs Chown and Bevan would meet with Croner to go through the plan and report back to the council at the next meeting. The clerk would arrange the meeting.

**228. To consider signing up to the campaign for the Local Electricity Bill**

It was agreed that this may not be applicable to this council but to give councillors more time to look at the detail more closely, it was deferred to the next meeting to make a final decision

**229. Financial Matters**

**a. To approve the automated payments and future payments**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr C O'Meara, **Seconded** by Cllr Hailstone and **Resolved** to approve the payments.

**b. To consider the grant application from Re-Engage**

The clerk had circulated the grant application to all councillors.

Re-engage is a registered charity formally known as Contact the Elderly. The funding was requested to help towards the cost of holding The Big Afternoon Tea Party for local elderly people to help tackle social isolation and loneliness. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan, **Seconded** by Cllr Hailstone and **Resolved** to contribute £450 towards The Big Afternoon Tea Party.

**230. Correspondence**

The carnival committee had requested the use of the pavilion from 19<sup>th</sup> June – 21<sup>st</sup> June for this year's carnival. This was agreed by members. The clerk would arrange for a committee member to have a set of keys for that weekend.

The clerk announced a training session for newly appointed councillors would be held at Baddesley Ensor Village Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Cllrs. Rees, Hailstone and C O'Meara said they wished to attend. Clerk to register their names to WALC.

**231. To consider the planning application for 40 Overton Drive Water Otron**

There were no objections to this application

**232. Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Proposed** by Cllr Robinson, **Seconded** by Cllr Bevan and **Resolved** to exclude the public and press.

Cllr Robinson reported that he, Cllr Bevan and the clerk had met with representatives from the bowls club to discuss their request for a lease. He advised it had become apparent that the Bowls Club were finding the procedure of applying for the lease a slow process and that their vision for the refurbishment of the club house was daunting. He asked members if they would consider the council taking an alternative approach over obtaining funding which would involve a larger input from the council. He explained the Bowls Club representatives were in favour of this but would put it to their committee. The council agreed for Cllrs Robinson and Bevan to hold another meeting with the Bowls Club if their committee were in favour and report back to the council.

Cllr B O'Meara reported that a HR meeting had taken place with Nathan to consult with him about his reduction in hours and his duties. She advised that Nathan had agreed in principle with the reduced hours and his caretaker duties. The clerk would arrange for a new contract of employment to be drawn up and approved by the HR committee.