

## Minutes of Wappenham Parish Council Meeting held on 19th October 2023 in The Village Hall Wappenham

Present: Chairman P Featherstone, Councillors, H Wickham, M Stewart, S Thompson, M Wilkinson, A Robbins, T Emerton Parish Clerk, also in attendance were 5 residents

1. **Receive Apologies and Approve the Reasons for Absence**  
Apologies were approved from Ward Councillor Bambridge and Councillor Atkins
2. **To invite Declarations of Interest**  
A declaration was raised by Councillor Thompson for item 7.4
3. **To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes 24th August 2023**  
The minutes were approved and signed

Action No.	Description	Action
May 013 006	The Green	It was agreed to follow the process of adverse possession and also follow up on any evidence. Chairman Featherstone will discuss with Simon from LPR - agenda item
May 016 002	Braddon leak	Clerk will log with Flx My Street
October 007 002	Planning consultation/Information for application reference 2023/6943/FULL at FurrowHill Farm, Abthorpe Road, Wappenham, NN12 8ST	Clerk to share comments with WNC
October 007 004	Parking on Highbridge Road	Clerk to arrange a meeting with Helen Howard to discuss width or weight options
October 007 005	Next years meetings	Cleek to book the village hall with the agreed dates
October 007 006	The St Marys the Virgin Closed Churchyard	Option 3 of the agreement agreed. Chairman Featherstone and Churchwarden to progress agreement and actions
October 008 001	To consider issues related to highways, footpaths and street areas	Chairman Featherstone to discuss with Paul Elcoat about replacing the current footpath map
October 008 002		Chairman Featherstone to discuss with the resident about gravel coming onto the road from a residents trees
October 008 003		Chairman Featherstone to discuss with the resident about the condition of the Beech Tree
October 009	Doug Fouling	Chairman Featherstone to include an update in WIZ reminding residents

4. **To Receive Reports from The Chairman** - Churchyard document below
5. **Finance**  
Cash in the bank as of 10/23 £5986.44 including Precept of £1500 [here](#)  
The balances were agreed

## 6. Invoices for payment

Item no.	Payment to	Description	Net	VAT/TAX	Total
6.1	T Emerton	Clerks Salary	417.73		417.73
6.2	T Emerton	Ink Cartridge	14.39	2.88	17.27
6.3	Clear Insurance	Village Insurance	410.34		410.34

The invoices were agreed to be paid

## 7. Specific Items for discussion

### 7.1 Ward Councillor Bambridge update [here](#)

Chairman Featherstone to put an update in Wiz on the consultation on the interim bus policy

### 7.2 Planning consultation/Information for application reference 2023/6943/FULL at Furrow Hill Farm, Abthorpe Road, Wappenham, NN12 8ST [here](#)

The Parish Council supports the application however has the following points:

- SC6 passed in 5/10 metres of the development site
- In addition we note the application does not include lighting, if they require lighting we would expect to see an additional planning approval

### 7.3 The village Green update

This will be as part of the next meetings agenda

### 7.4 Parking on Highbridge Road

A councillor raised that cars park where the road is narrow and a school bus drove over the step as there is not enough room to get past.

- Chairman Featherstone updated the meeting that an update went out on WIZ and also included within the latest Newsletter reminding residents not to park there..
- The meeting was closed and opened to the public - a resident asked if there can be a width restriction installed. Buses are using it as a turning point and also tractors using it
- The meeting was reopened. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Helen Howard to discuss width or weight restriction

### 7.5 Next year's meeting dates to be agreed

The following meetings were agreed for 2024, the Clerk will book the Village Hall

1 February

28 March

14 May The Annual Assembly

16 May

11 July

5 September

31 October

19th December

### 7.6 The St Marys the Virgin Closed Churchyard [here](#)

Chairman Featherstone summarised the options within the proposal paper

The meeting was closed and opened to the public

A resident commented that he as a villager is happy with the recommended option 3 and would volunteer to support with the maintenance of the Churchyard, another resident agreed with both comments

Chairman Featherstone asked the Churchwarden, why does the Church not fund this. The Churchwarden said he couldn't comment on the Church finances but St Mary's Church pay £9,700 PA to keep the Church and he was surprised, as the churchyard was closed in 1888 this proposal was not brought up before this.

He reminded the Council that Churchyard belongs to the village, anybody who lives in Wappenham can be buried in the Churchyard, regardless of faith. Chairman Featherstone said that a grant can be applied for maintenance if it is a multi denomination faith Churchyard

The Churchwarden said that If we maintain control we can ensure we decide what happens to the gravestones as there are very interesting ones in there, one from 1670, and an early mediaeval tomb. We have transcribed the stones, there are 4 listed stones, Gilbert Scott's mother is also in the graveyard.

Out of the £1600 PA, hopefully we will only use £800 for mowing, the remainder will be ring fenced for the Churchyard, i.e. if the wall falls down as the accountability sits with the Church so we will have the funds to do this.

The agreement has to go to the Archdeacon to be signed off to enable us to enter into this

A councillor asked, how do we know what will happen in 50 years time, for example that the Church will still be happy with this agreement and if the Church does not exist, or the Parish Council is not here. Chairman Featherstone said that the contract would not be valid and we take the funding back and the contract will be terminated

The meeting was closed to the public and reopened for the council  
Chairman Featherstone summarised the impact of this change to the villagers, stating he is looking at the least cost option to the village and the best maintenance option for the Churchyard:

- Each household in the village will incur a cost, we can't say this can't happen as it needs to happen. The cost based on current quotes is £1 per household per month
- There will need to be a Sub Committee looking after the Churchyard which will incur unseen cost of time and effort of council
- If we move to WNC they will have all costs and we will have zero input in what happens in the Churchyard
- My recommendation is that we take option 3. We will need to help to get volunteers to complete the maintenance and provide financial support

Chairman Featherstone asked the councillors for their vote on the options presented. The council agreed to option 3. He said that the budgeting session at the next meeting we will know where we stand financially and increase in the Precept accordingly

**8. To consider issues related to highways, footpaths and street areas.**

1. The footpath map outside the hall is not in very good condition, Chairman Featherstone will discuss with Paul Elcoat to replace
2. There is gravel coming out onto the road from a resident's trees and can cause accidents or damage to cars. Chairman Featherstone will discuss with the resident
3. The Beech tree condition is poor. Chairman Featherstone to discuss with the resident

**9. Parishioners' correspondence**

Dog fouling - remind residents via WIZ

**10. General Correspondence Review**

Nothing to update

**11. To receive items for the next meeting**

- Actual versus spend and Budget setting
- The Green
- Update from St Mary The Virgin Closed Churchyard

**12. Councillors' Comments**

Nothing to update

**13. Any other Business**

The Parish Council send their best wishes to Mrs Featherstone for the loss of her mother

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed *Tina Emerton*  
Wappenham Parish Clerk

Posted 29/10/23

Dates for next meetings

- 14th December 2023
- 1 February 2024
- 28 March 2024
- 14 May The Annual Assemble 2024
- 16 May 2024
- 11 July 2024
- 5 September 2024
- 31 October 2024
- 19th December 2024