

Minutes of Wappenham Parish Council Meeting held on 24th October 2024 in The Village Hall Wappenham

Present: Chairman P Featherstone, Councillors, H Wickham, A Robbins, M Wilkinson, S Thompson, Ward Councillor Bambridge and T Emerton Parish Clerk. There was one resident in attendance

1. Receive Apologies and Approve the Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors I Atkins and M Stewart

2. To invite Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting here held on 5th September 24 - The minutes were approved

Action No.	Description	Action
October 007 002	Closed Churchyard	Chairman Featherstone to discuss with the Treasurer if the float is sufficient
October 007 003	Litter picking	Councillor Robbins to confirm the date
October 008	To consider issues related to highways, footpaths and street areas	Clerk to log various issues with Fix my Street White Lines need repairing Pitmans Lane Syresham Road where it joins High Street School Lane joins high street Weedon Lois joins high street
		Pitmans Lane pothole - Clerk to log with Fix my street
		Footpaths a trip hazard top of Helmdon Road - photos sent to Clerk from Councilor Robbins
		High Street ditch gets a residue of a pond, drains not able to drain through. Councillor Atkins to discuss with the landowner to ensure the culvert can run through

4. To Receive Reports from The Chairman

Pretty quiet since last meeting with most activity based on the Churchyard and recruitment of a new Parish Clerk.

- Churchyard – full update during the meeting;
 - North Elevation wall now repaired
 - Good progress on clearing some areas of the Church yard
- Clerk Recruitment = full update in meeting
 - Job advert has now expired
 - Original 5 expressions of interest
 - Down to 3 active participants at this time
- New sign at the southern end of Highbridge Road – Not Suitable for HGVs – Thank you Helen H @ Highways
- Some recent complaints about mud on the road during the Maize Harvesting in the area
- DHL Warehouse planning turned down by WNC – great news & very well done WNC Planning Committee. Let's hope they don't appeal.
- Wonderful to see the Aurora Borealis over the village on the 10th October just gone – photos [here](#) and [here](#)

5. Finance

5.1 Cash in the bank as of 11/10/24 £8680.74 inclusive of Precept of £3500.00 [here](#)

The balances were agreed

6. Invoices for payment

Item no.	Payment to	Description	Total
6.1	South Northants Community Responders	Defib Pads	100.00
6.2	Masons Walling	Repair to the Church wall	1700.00
6.3	Village Hall MGT Committee	Village Hall Hire 2023	130.00
6.4	Village Hall MGT Committee	Village Hall Hire 2024	130.00
6.5	St Marys the Virgin Closed Churchyard - retrospectively signing off the invoice already agreed to be paid	Float for Closed Churchyard	500.00

The invoices were agreed to be paid

7. Specific Items for discussion

7.1 Ward Councillor Bambridge update [here](#) and WNC decision on DHL [here](#)

- 7.5 ton restriction for lorries through Towcester once the relief road is completed
- New part of relief road is now open which takes you to Wood Burcote

7.2 The St Marys the Virgin Closed Churchyard

- Finance plan
- Liability and Risk Assessment

A very big thank you to Michael Bath who managed to find a large number of coping stones to reuse when the wall was being repaired which saved the village a lot of money

Liability and risk assessments completed by the Church, if you want to be part of the mowering team you need to attend the training session

The budget we have given the Church we believe is more than enough to complete all of the work. Chairman Featherstone will chat with Treasurer to ensure that the float is enough

Various works on-going in the churchyard, the corner behind the repointed wall has been sorted and tidied and they are starting work on the opposite corner, it is all taking shape and will be at a standard that all parties wanted for adoption of the Churchyard

7.3 Litter Picking

Councillor Robbins will agree on a date in the next few weeks. We might be able to do it as part of the walking group on 17th November?

7.4 Update on Village Hall - Councillor Robbins

Secondary committee meeting for roof structure, structural surveyor asked a few more questions, do we need to replace the roof etc. The structural engineer met and we will have to reapply for all of the quotes and for the funding which should be cheaper. Lease has been extended. New Treasurer Peter

7.5 Update on Parish Clerk Role

6 expressions of interest, 3 dropped out, one person from the village, a retired gentleman from Brackley and also an interest from the Tiffeld Clerk. The Chair will ask Councillor Stewart to help with the interviews

7.6 Planning

- **Planning Committee Application DHL Warehouses Update** - as part of Ward Councillor Bambridge update 7.1
- **Furrow Hill Farm Abthorpe Road Wappenham NN12 8ST 2024/3004/FULL** [here](#)
- The Parish Council supported the planning application

7.7 To consider plans, budget, and arrangements for the Local Elections in 2025

This will take place in May, budget agreed there will also a WNC election in May

7.8 Budget versus actual spend [here](#)

Spend versus actual reviewed with next year's budget agreed

7.9 Next year's meeting dates

13th February 2024
10th April 2024

Clerk to find out if there is guidance from Danny on meeting dates re election

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

- a. Tree moves - no update - Clerk to ask Helen Howard - Fix My Street report
- b. White Lines need repainting:
 - 8.b.1. Pitmans Lane
 - 8.b.2. Syresham Road where it joins High Street
 - 8.b.3. School Lane joins high street
 - 8.b.4. Weedon Lois joins high street
- c. Pitmans Lane pothole - Clerk to log with Fix my street
- d. Footpaths a trip hazard top of Helmdon Road - photos sent to Clerk from Councilor Robbins
- e. High Street ditch gets a residue of a pond, drains not able to drain through. Councillor Atkins to discuss with the landowner to ensure the culvert can run through
- f. Sign post outstanding - awaiting from Helen Howard

9. Parishioners' correspondence

Mud in the road

10. General Correspondence Review

11. To receive items for the next meeting

- Agree budget and precept
- Update on new clerk
- View of Closed Churchyard position regarding the float in conjunction with the Treasurer

12. Councillors' Comments

None

13. Any other business

None

Signed *Tina Emerton*
Wappenham Parish Clerk

Posted 30/10/24

Dates for next meetings

- 19th December 2024

Council year [here](#)
Policy Review [here](#)