

WARBOYS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Parish Centre, Warboys on Thursday 7th April 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

This meeting is open to all local government electors of the Parish of Warboys who are invited to attend.

**Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell,
Chairman of the Parish Council.**

Apologies for absence

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th April 2015 (copy attached).

2. MATTERS ARISING

To consider any matters arising from the previous Annual Parish Meeting.

3. HEALTH PROVISION IN WARBOYS

Ms E Mead of the Moat House Surgery and Mr T Patel of Wards of Warboys will speak on current issues affecting health provision for Warboys residents.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman of the Parish Council will present her report upon events and activities in the Parish over the past year.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

To receive reports for the past year from County and District Councillors representing Warboys.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

To receive the draft statement of accounts for the Parish Council for the financial year 2015/16 (copy attached).

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

To note that the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting will be 20th April 2017.

WARBOYS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 7th APRIL 2016

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Since becoming Chairman in September 2011, I’ve performed my role as a ‘hands on Chairman’ adopting a pro-active approach for the benefit of Warboys. However, nothing would be achieved without the talents and multi skill sets of all the Parish Councillors whom I am proud to call ‘my Team’. My thanks and deepest appreciation is extended to every Member for the work they voluntarily contribute which is increasing year on year. Likewise, my sincere thanks to our Clerk, Roy Reeves, for we could not do without his diligence and patience.

So now I move on to report, in no particular order, on another busy year in Warboys :-

Events - Bringing our Community Together

- A year of varied highlights.
- Warboys resident, Captain Victor Lucas RN served a one year term of office as the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire.
- Our Ward Councillor and Warboys resident, Peter Bucknell, began his two year term of office as Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council representing the constituents in Huntingdonshire, whilst travelling in Cambridgeshire and beyond.
- Very well deserved and belated award of French Legion of Honour presented to Vic Steward at the Parish Centre by High Sheriff. Proudly hosted by the Parish Council to honour a local resident and his family. A rare opportunity to experience this medal presentation.
- Hugely impressive march through the village and performance by Band of HM Royal Marines on 26th June at the invitation of the High Sheriff. The Parish Council hosted the band during their time in Warboys and provided catering for the highly appreciative band members who have since remained in contact.
- Well attended WWII 70th anniversary concert at the Manor House on 27th June organised by Parish Council which raised over £1,000 for High Sheriff’s awards scheme for young people, Royal British Legion Women’s Section and Red Cross’
- Mayday Madness event organised by the Community Association attended by 800+ people and raised £6,800 for village organisations.
- Feast Week Band Concert at The White Hart with music from the Killer Shrimps.
- Installation of outdoor exercise equipment at Adams Lyons costing £22,000, funded mostly by grant from Woodford Waste Management and opened by their Managing Director.
- Installation of our new Rector, Rev Garry Dawson-Jones at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church
- Supporting the Children’s Book Reading Scheme/prize giving at Warboys Library
- Very well attended Christmas Lights Switch-on 28th November organised by the Christmas Lighting Group with the opening performed by Shailesh Vara MP.
- We hope you enjoy the village Beacon Lighting ceremony on 21st April celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday

Parish Council

- Another active year.
- Replacement notice boards in High Street and Humberdale Way costing over £2,000.
- Purchase and installation of a seat at cemetery funded by Warboys 55 Plus group
- Modification of an additional 5 lighting columns in the High Street with power boxes costing just over £1,000 for additional Christmas displays match funded by the Lighting Group
- Essential repairs to Parish Centre roof costing almost £2,000
- £60,000 earmarked for replacement Parish Centre so far and £10,000 to be added in current financial year.
- Continuation of Connections Bus for youngsters on Friday evenings with cost largely offset by grants.
- Grants and successful claims obtained totalling over £35,000 towards Parish Council expenditure.
- Agreed to implement Time Bank scheme in Warboys although sadly, grant applications so far unsuccessful. We will be seeking a co-ordinator for this vital role.
- Successful application for grant for distribution of soil improver to Warboys residents and allotment holders. Announcement on availability to be made shortly.
- Shop keepers invited to apply for hanging baskets to be displayed at their premises by the Council. The Post Office, Audreys and Waterside Practice agreed to take up the offer this summer to enhance the appearance of our attractive village.
- A mural painting will shortly be undertaken at the shelter near the Clock Tower with the assistance of the Royal British Legion and local youngsters to commemorate involvement of former residents in past conflicts.
- Arranged road closures for Remembrance Sunday service at War Memorial and Christmas Lights switch on, as well as the usual Feast Week funfair visit.

Budget Cuts

- No report in recent years appears to lack reference to the financial austerity facing local government and budget cuts that are being made and this year is no exception.
- County Council warned of £41 million cuts in 2016/17 and over £100 million in next 5 years
- District Council increasingly charging for services that were previously free and cutting back.
- Lack of infrastructure development by both authorities to offset rapid growth in development.
- Both are devolving responsibilities to parish councils to pick up the shortfall
- Difficult to achieve with current financial and staffing resources.
- The result is that Parish Council tax precept will rise by 5.5% in 2016/17 but it is the only way of trying to maintain and improve services locally.

Organisations

- Some village organisations thriving and very popular, e.g. 55 Plus Group and Warboys Local History Society. Others finding it difficult to attract volunteers.
- Interest shown and our encouragement given to form a new Horticultural and Craft Society Committee so there is a possibility of reinstating the annual show.
- Mick Mitchell continues as editor of the Warboys Diary and welcomes news of all our village activities.

Development in Warboys

- Huntingdonshire District Council progressing with their review of the Local Plan to 2036 which will include over 250 new dwellings in Warboys.
- However the Local Plan is being overtaken by submission of applications. Outline permission already granted for 120 dwellings south of Station Road which the Parish Council had recommended for refusal, however, full approval was passed in March.
- Outline permission granted for 74 dwellings south of Farriers Way with access provision for an extension for another 12 or so south off Bencroft Lane.
- Development rear of 64 High Street (Croftholme Close) nearing completion.
- Any development now is subject to the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will result in some income to the Parish Council and Council will try to work with developers if permission granted to try to maximise benefits for the village.
- Construction also taking place for 19 new affordable social homes adjacent to Wiggs Farm in Ramsey Road. Scheme supported by Parish Council to bring much needed affordable social housing for Warboys people who want to live in the village.
- Parish Council also objected to allocation of 4,500 homes at Wyton Airfield in the Local Plan on highway grounds and continues to be represented at several meetings to express concerns over highway impact.

Employment

- Reclaimed Appliances at the Airfield Industrial Estate in liquidation and pressure throughout the year for huge amount of materials stored outside to be removed. Enforcement action threatened by County Council and Environment Agency. District Councillor Bucknell pursued the stored materials removal to a successful conclusion.
- D S Smith (a packaging company) has moved into Unit 4
- One of the Units in 3A – E has been let and more lettings to follow

Renewable Energy

- Red Tile Wind Farm Trust continues to offer grants for conservation and environmental projects in Warboys and neighbouring parishes.
- New grant called Whittome Wind Trust for sports and healthy living projects in Warboys and Ramsey to be administered by Red Tile Trust, thanks to the generosity of the Whittome family.
- Investigations continuing regarding another potential wind farm to the east of the A141 opposite Red Tile. If successful, this would generate a substantial community sum for Warboys.

Village Improvements

- Quotes to dredge The Weir obtained but costs extremely high (circa. £20,000). Upon liaison with the Environment Agency, chemicals are being applied with barley straw bags to control the sludge on the bottom of the pond. However low water levels last summer persuaded Council that dredging should be investigated again and £20,000 included in the budget as a precaution, although the chemical process is currently working well.
- Discussions ongoing with Sports Field trustees and clubs about the possibility of a joint development on the Parish Centre car park/sports ground to replace the Parish Centre itself and improve the facilities at the sports ground.

Empty Buildings

- Sadly, a number of empty buildings in the High Street
- Application to have Youthie building listed was unsuccessful. No further information from County Council about its future. Still appears structurally sound, despite County Council's assertions to the contrary several years ago.
- Newmans Stores has been an eyesore now for over 20 years. Although listed, District Council unable to take action whilst the building remains weather tight. The District Council understand the building is up for sale and when there is a buyer it is anticipated that the site will be improved.
- Steward's Hardware has now stood empty for several years and no news from Spar whether they plan to go ahead with store transfer. To comply with their existing planning permission, alterations for the new store must commence prior to 18th September 2016 or the planning permission will expire. Councillor Bucknell continues to be in contact with their Planning Agent who is uncertain as to how Spar will proceed due to the downturn in the supermarket industry.
- Gladwins Body Repair Centre in Church Road – their St. Ives branch advise that the Warboys site is owned by Nationwide Crash Repair Centre. The site was vacated due to prohibitive costs for building improvements to attain a state of the art workshop. The Warboys staff were relocated to St Ives or Yaxley. St Ives carry out crash repairs to domestic vehicles, unless they are high tops (i.e. caravans) whereupon the Orton Southgate depot is applicable for caravans, motor homes and commercial vehicles.

Highways and Lighting

- Parish Council continues to press for improvements to local roads.
- County Council's Local Highways Officer, Brian Murdoch, very helpful, but budgets have been cut and he is doing what he can for us.
- Constant complaints about traffic speeds in the village but despite ongoing requests for assistance, no volunteers to form local Speedwatch team. A workshop was held recently so this may be progressed in the future.
- Following problems with road conditions on Puddock Hill in the winter of 2014/15 and a school bus turning back, the Parish Council agreed to fund the reinstatement of the gritting of the hill by the County Council which will cost £1,350 in an average winter.
- Unsuccessful bid to County Council for inclusion of improved pedestrian crossing of A141 near Heath Road/Fenton Road roundabout.
- Persuaded County Council to improve corner in Statfold Green which was being damaged by buses mounting the verge.

Business Vitality in Warboys

- Delighted that the Windmill Bakery is thriving and we congratulate them on their initiative and success – well done Lucy and Paul! A real asset to the community with various groups encouraged to meet, so if you fancy a knit and natter you know where to go on a Tuesday!
- Post Office expansion into hardware with a wide range of supplies is convenient for our residents to keep this facility within the village.
- In addition to their garage and MOT service Ivan Barrett's successful enterprise of offering a fixings and safety wear ordering service continues to thrive.
- Welcome to Belle Beauty Salon providing a different range of beauty treatments to our residents and we wish them luck with this new venture in Warboys.

Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Unfortunately this has been a major problem over the past year, not just in Warboys, but throughout the area – vandalism of play equipment at Adam Lyons (£750) and Jubilee Park (£428), CCTV camera at Parish Centre (£270), Christmas lighting (£2,000), graffiti on play equipment and recently installed notice board, break-in of sheds, oil on play equipment at Orchard Close. Although insured, £100 excess is incurred on each claim submission, resulting in extra work in fitting new equipment, cleaning graffiti etc. Very disappointing, but unfortunately this seems to be a regional trend.
- Litter remains a major problem not only in the village but on roadside verges – problem caused by youngsters and adults alike, proliferated by fast food outlets.
- Presence of Connections Bus Project on Library car park for 2 hours on Friday evenings during term time very popular with youngsters. The Parish Council receive regular updates from the organisers and the Warboys session has the highest attendance figures in their operation.
- This vital facility costs over £10,000 per annum but grants are obtained from the Police and Warboys Youth Action Group funds towards costs.
- The Police confirm that statistics for anti-social behaviour overall have reduced.
- We now need to work closely with the Police and other support networks to achieve and offer interesting pursuits for the over fourteens.

Landfill Site

- New buildings for recycling and offices completed and site used in future as waste transfer station for recycling.
- Restoration of landfill site itself continuing.
- Planning application decision awaited to extend tipping to end of 2017 but only of waste collected by Woodford skip hire business that cannot be recycled.
- The Liaison meetings led by Councillor Bucknell continue and an extremely good working relationship is maintained with the owner.

Councils and Councillors

- Our sincere thanks is due to Mike Tew, Peter Bucknell and Angie Curtis as our County and District Council representatives. Few people understand how time consuming this role can be or the skills and patience required to deal with the numerous enquiries they receive from the public. Well done to all!
- Dr Sheila Withams was co-opted to the Parish Council last May and is making a valuable contribution to debates and practical projects.
- Election on 5th May for one District Council seat and the entire Parish Council. I would encourage everyone to vote to support your Councillors and your area.
- Changes to boundary of County ward boundaries agreed for next election in 2017 with the new Warboys and The Stukeleys Ward, placing Warboys in a new ward with Abbots Ripton, The Stukeleys, Upwood & The Raveleys, Wistow and Woodwalton.
- Review of District ward boundaries also started with likelihood that present Warboys and Bury ward which also includes Wistow will change as well in 2018

Employees

- Our previous Senior Handyman, Andy Corney, whose conscientious work was recognised by all Members of the Council, retired last September.
- Will Buddle has since been promoted to the senior position and a new Handyman, Alan Batterbee started in October. We continue to be fortunate that this new partnership works well and the tradition of superb village maintenance is in capable hands. Their contribution is greatly valued by the community.
- Sadly, there was the unfortunate death of Ian Taylor who had been our loyal Clock Winder for many years. This role has now been taken on by Ray Martin.
- The village could not do without the devoted service of Rosemary Edwards and her sister Wendy Howard who keep the Parish Centre so well cared for and both ladies deserve our grateful thanks for their continued dedication.
- Huge thanks, as always, to our Clerk, Roy Reeves, for his administrative skills which have guided the Council through another successful and eventful year.

Finally!

My endearing wish for Warboys is that it will maintain the strong feeling of community, prosper & thrive whilst remaining a pleasant place to live.


I hope you find my written report informative and thank you for your support in the past.

Sincerely,

Mary Bucknell
Chairman
Warboys Parish Council

Roy Reeves Esq.
Clerk of Warboys Parish Council
2 Blenheim Close
Pathfinder Way
Warboys
PE28 2RD

Monday, 29 February 2016

Dear 

APM 2015/16 REPORT to WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

I'm pleased to submit my report from the District Council, with some of the highlights in Huntingdonshire for 2015/16.

ANOTHER YEAR WITH ZERO INCREASE COUNCIL TAX BY HDC

Once again, there will be NO increase in Council Tax by Huntingdonshire District Council for 2016/17, so a Band D charge remains the same at £133.15. Despite a reprieve in the latest government funding announcement, HDC will still need to deliver almost £2.4 million of savings by 2019/20.

We have been looking at new and innovative ways to reduce costs and generate income. Since starting our zero-based budgeting review process two years ago, we have made savings of £3.8 million. In addition, we have implemented a Commercial Investment Strategy which sets out plans to invest further in commercial property. We currently have just over £20 million invested in property, and the business case aims to invest a further £50 million over the next three years in a combination of property shares and commercial property within Huntingdonshire and across the region.

COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP – SHARED SERVICES

The Council is making savings with strategic partnership formed by two neighbouring councils to protect and transform services with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City sharing Building Control, Information Technology and Legal Services.

New partnership is under discussion with South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Council for **Planning Services**, to improve resilience, provide specialist skills and deliver efficiency savings to help meet savings targets.

NEIGHBOURHOOD & COMMUNITY PLANNING

James Campbell and Stuart Morris from the Local Plans team have put together a new guide on Neighbourhood and Community Planning. The guide is aimed at town and parish councils and sets out the range of community planning tools available; the council's support for town or parish councils wishing to prepare a neighbourhood plan; and signposts to the wide range of advice and guidance currently available. The guide is available on our website. We intend to edit and add to the guide in response to experience of using it and as necessary, in response to any future changes in the regulatory framework. In future we also intend to add to the guide to provide more detail on some of the other community planning tools in addition to neighbourhood plans.

A14 UPDATE

We are still waiting for the final decision from the Secretary of State for Transport to go ahead with the scheme, which we will receive by 13 May 2016 at the latest. If approved, work will start before the end of 2016, to be completed by the end of 2019. When opened, works will then commence on the dismantling of the Huntingdon Viaduct and the creation of the new road layout within Huntingdon which is expected to take around a further 18 months.

GYPSY, TRAVELLER AND SHOWMEN ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

We have recently commissioned work to review the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers. This information will help us make decisions around the potential allocation of land to improve accommodation provision.

As part of this work we have commissioned **Opinion Research Services (ORS)**, who are an independent social research company, to prepare a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTANA).

ORS have been visiting families on Gypsy and Traveller Sites across the study area. They would also like to speak to members of the community who live in bricks and mortar accommodation, to make sure all members of the travelling community are included in this research. We would like you to be involved in this study, what you say is important.

If you, or someone from your family, could spare the time to answer some questions please let Huntingdonshire District Council know. Questions will be about where you live now and where you and your children need to live in the future. Anything you tell us will be kept confidential.

DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL BY WESTMINISTER GOVERNMENT FOR EAST ANGLIA

During meetings with Leaders from across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk, it was made quite clear that singular County wide deals are not on the governments agenda and that we should look to a devolution deal across the greater East Anglian area.

There was general agreement in principle to look at putting together a collaborative request to government that is likely to be announced in the budget in 6 weeks from 15th February 2016.

Clearly, we will have to ensure that the best needs of our residents are met first and foremost in Huntingdonshire. Any deal would have to be strong and not dilute the economic power and growth of the Cambridge sub-region.

Should you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Sincerely yours,



Peter L.E Bucknell
Chairman of the Council
(District Councillor for Bury, Warboys & Wistow)

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Cambridge County Council
Report 2016

Cambridgeshire County Council is facing financial challenges on a scale never seen before and have had a very tough year to reach a balanced budget however by liaising with officers and scrutinising strategies the council managed to achieve an under spend of around 5 million pounds. By the year 2020 there will be a gap of £102 million between the funding we have to spend and the funding we need to continue to provide our services, this years budget is even more challenging with savings of 51 million to find.

To achieve, this it will inevitably lead to reduced services. Some services have been cut significantly such as youth work and children's centres and school transport routes have been reviewed and made more streamline, We have merged teams that used to be separate and are now sharing some services with other organisations such as Care Network, the Fire Authority, carers trust, Generally, the county council has moved away from providing services that are classed as being for everyone to access (universal), to services targeted at those that are most vulnerable and in real need, however, the number of people in this group is growing and we are struggling to meet this demand.

One of the main changes the county council has made is the strategy of a programme called transforming lives which is being rolled out from middle of April having proved effective in a pilot scheme where savings were achieved, this strategy is based on outcomes for the most vulnerable and elderly in our communities, part of this strategy is a new point of contact called the early help contact centre this comes on line in early April which signposts to community organisations and our more complex services, which should improve the speed of which enquiries are dealt with. We have increased the use of technology to meet people's needs, such as assistive technology for older people so they require less face to face visits. However we are still delivering broadly the same services but at a lower cost which has been achieved through reviewing departments and services and making some significant restructures which have resulted in reductions of staff, particularly management. Office space for Council staff has been reduced and, where it remains, the vast majority of staff do not have an assigned desk but have to share space and use a hot desk solution.

In February it was agreed at full council to increase council tax by 2% which is ring fenced for Adult social care which will help alleviate the stress put on to the social care budget in the coming year. the main council tax was not increased.

Discussions have been ongoing on devolution, the county council voted 64 with one abstention to carry on with discussion however the deal that was put forward by government was not accepted and that a new deal should be negotiated and bought back to the table.

Surgeries are now operating every other Saturday in Warboys library between 10-12 am. It is hoped this will prove popular with the residents of warboys, 2 have already taken place where some IT problems were discussed and rectified helping the elderly to email and help with the use of skype, however everyone is welcome to discuss any problem under the county remit, where we can signpost to relative services.

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015/16

REVENUE ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

	£
Precept from Council Tax	90,000
Parish Centre Income	9,764
Allotments Income	1,244
Recycling Credits	397
Grants/Donations	32,017
Agency Work	100
Insurance claims	3,187
Interest	2,730
Section 106 Agreement/CIL	450
VAT refund	14,274
Miscellaneous	156

PAYMENTS

	£
Parks & Open Spaces	22,477
Cemetery maintenance	1,221
Feast Week	492
Vehicle running costs	1,235
Notice boards	2,138
Highways & Verges	2,037
Shelters & litter clearance	8,399
Street Lighting	2,414
Public Footpaths	297
Allotments	1,105
Parish Centre running costs	12,660
Administration	28,088
Jubilee Clock	294
Donations & Grants	650
Christmas Lighting	1,952
Insurance	5,144
Connections Bus	7,365
Orchard Close play equipment	17,391
Adams Lyons fitness equip.	22,938
Miscellaneous	411
VAT	13,215
Surplus on year	2,396

154,319

154,319

RESERVES

Earmarked Reserves	214,051
General Fund	23,118

Balance carried forward 237,169

237,169

237,169

Earmarked reserves represented by -

Allotments	105,019
Open spaces/playground maint.	24,222
Replacement Parish Centre	60,000
Landfill site potential fees	14,194
S106/CIL	616
Timebanking	10,000

214,051

PRECEPT 2016/17

The Council has approved a precept for 2016/17 of £97,200.

Government grant of approximately £6,000 intended for the Parish Council has been withheld by Huntingdonshire District Council to fund its own expenditure.

The Council Tax for a Band D property in 2016/17 will be £73.25 compared to £69.44 in 2015/16 which represents an increase of 5.5% or 7 pence per week for a Band D property .

