

# WARBOYS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the **Warboys Annual Parish Meeting** held on 17th April 2024 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

## PRESENT WERE

Warboys Parish Council:- Chair S Withams, Vice-Chair J Parker, Cllr J Cole, Cllr M Collins, Cllr R Dykstra, Cllr D England, Cllr D Fabb, Cllr L Gifford, Cllr J Land, Cllr A Ntuk, Cllr C Sproats, Cllr G Willis and Cllr A Wyatt

Warboys Parish Clerks:- Mrs J Drummond & Mrs E Coverdale

Members of the Public & Representatives:- A Batterbee (Council Senior Handyman), V Musson (Warboys Community Association & Warboys Diary), S Beale (Warboys Friendship Club), D Hutchcraft, C Hutchcraft and P Cleaver.

Apologies were received from;

Cllr P Potts - Personal

Cllr S Wilcox – Personal

Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m

## APM 1/24 WELCOME

Chair Withams opened the meeting.

## APM 2/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Wyatt, seconded by Cllr Gifford and **RESOLVED** by all Members present, the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2023 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

## APM 3/24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Annual Parish meeting highlighted achievements and changes, including honouring former Clerk, Roy Reeves who had recently been made Honorary Freeman of Warboys. Members were all acknowledged for their contributions, such as providing community support and environmental efforts. The invaluable support and hard work from the all the staff; Clerks, Handymen, Cleaners, Clock Winder and Internal Auditor was not missed as it had been vital in allowing the Council to best represent the village.

The council faced challenges with the new parish centre project but were successful in securing a loan after cost increases had potentially put a stop to the project. The successful bid was in part thanks to residents who supported a precept increase following consultation to gain the additional funds needed. Site work for the new build began in February, with gratitude expressed to residents for their understanding during the noisy piling.

Efforts to address traffic and road safety issues are ongoing, with various schemes and bids in progress. Safety measures across the A141 from Wilthorne to Onyetts field had been installed, works had also been approved for the 40mph buffer zone along Puddock Road and resurfacing works for the High Street due to commence soon. The council's most recent Local Highways bid had

been concentrating on addressing speeding concerns on Ramsey Road, which has led to an alarming number of accidents in the past couple of years.

In August the new Clerks came onboard and with it has come a number of changes such as upgraded financial software and restructuring of the Committees. They are keen to make the Council as accessible to the parishioners as possible by running a monthly open session in the Library and continue in the Council's efforts to keep residents informed through publications and social media.

The Council advised that they are aware of a number of planning enforcement issues within the Parish and are closely monitoring them.

In ending the Chair stated that the Council are proud to support and work in collaboration with a variety of community groups and village events such as; the Warboys Community Association, Christmas Lights Switch On, Feast Week and the Warboys Diary.

V Musson spoke briefly to say that she was pleased to be active in supporting the community and the Council through her projects and would continue to do so by fund raising for the new building with a total of approximately £1,800 currently set aside.

P Cleaver also thanked the Council for all their work for the village.

#### **APM 4/24 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Attendees noted the Financial Statement provided by the Clerk. (Attached as appendix 1)

#### **APM 5/24 GUEST SPEAKER**

Following last minute cancellation from the planned guest speakers, J Drummond provided attendees with a report on the difficulties of being a Government Officer through Covid 19.

She provided a fascinating talk on the issues and complexities surrounding being responsible for managing Cambridgeshire's excess deaths during the height of the Covid Pandemic in 2020-21. Her duties involved securing extra storage for the deceased while addressing various community needs like religious considerations, burial preferences, and coordinating transfers between locations.

She ended by saying how honoured she felt to have been assigned such a vital role during such a difficult time.

#### **APM 6/24 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Attendees noted that the next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.20pm**

**Chairman.**

**Date.**

#### **APPENDIX 1**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2024.

As at the preparation of the report, the Clerk reported that the balances were -

Earmarked reserves £1,067,889.18 (includes 450K loan)

General Operational Fund £ 14,339.75

All reserves are ringfenced for the replacement village community hub.

Confirmed funding streams:

HDC Strategic CIL 200,000.00

Red Tile Farm Trust 79,000.00

Warboys WI 50,000.00

Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund 40,000.00

Total 369,000.00

The Council Tax Base increased by 30% to provide the additional revenue required to meet the loan payments. As reported by the Chairman, consultation was held during October, where residents' views were collated. The 30% increase for 2024/25 equates to £116.94 for a Band D property which falls in line with neighbouring villages; remaining lower than Bluntisham, Bury, Somersham and Yaxley. The annual Precept receipt is forecast to be £188,040.00

Expenditure will be inflated for 2024/25 due to the building of a new community hub. As from 1st January 2024 Warboys Parish Council became VAT registered, to ensure best value for money for the Parish.