

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held on 11th January 2024 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT WERE

Cllr R Dykstra
Cllr D England
Cllr D Fabb
Cllr L Gifford

Cllr J Land
Cllr J Parker (Chair)
Cllr C Sproats
Cllr S Withams

Mrs J Drummond:- Parish Clerk

Mrs E Coverdale:- Asst. Clerk

Meeting commenced at 7.50 p.m

LA 1/24 WELCOME

Chair Parker opened the meeting.

LA 2/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from;

Cllr J Cole – Personal reasons

Cllr M Collins – Work commitments

Cllr C Sproats – arrived during discussions on agenda item 5/24 (7.23p.m)

Cllr S Wilcox – Holiday

Cllr A Wyatt – Personal reasons

Co-Opt Member M Croucher – Personal reasons

Absent

Cllr A Ntuk

Cllr Withams requested for the Assistant Clerk to email all members a reminder that apologies with a reason must be sent to the Clerks and/or Chair ahead of meetings.

LA 3/24 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr England declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. LA 7/24 (a) and (i) as he farmed adjoining land in both cases. A dispensation to speak but not vote on both matters had been granted previously by the Council.

LA 4/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19th JUNE 2023

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

LA 5/24 SPORTS PROVISION

The co-opted member M Croucher was unable to attend the meeting. The assistant clerk provided a brief statement on his behalf; reporting that whilst there were no updates currently, M Croucher anticipated being able to provide a more detailed update after their upcoming AGM.

LA 6/24 CALL FOR SITES

No updates reported.

LA 7/24 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The 2024/25 budgets for the areas are included as appendix 1

The Clerks provided the following updates and maintenance requirements with respect of the following leisure areas;

a) Adams Lyons Playing Field

The Clerks reported that the handymen had cleared what they were able to at Adam Lyons, but that we are still waiting for the requested tree reduction works to be completed as previously agreed at full council;

- Rob Ayres – Full cut back to allow handymen to maintain.
- Tom Jenkins – Cutting back of nuisance trees.

b) Jubilee Park, including community orchard

Following investigations by the Clerk it appears that the safety inspection work for the play equipment was approved, but not carried out.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** for the Clerks to reorganise.

Additionally, the Clerk was sourcing quotes for resurfacing of the ground under the swings.

c) Orchard Close

Nothing to report.

d) Heath Pond and Sheepwash

There has still been no update on the required repairs following the car accident in 2020. Whilst the council has received a payout, this doesn't cover costs to fully restore which are estimated to be in the region of £40k. The fund that had previously been involved in helping to restore the area is sadly no longer functioning. Cllr Fabb agreed to look at the area and see what works are needed.

e) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces

The Clerk provided members with a brief update on the insurance claim along Stirling Close; The removal of the trees is due to go ahead as soon as contractors are happy with the ground conditions, however the Clerk would request an update. Cllr Fabb suggested to members that the Council get quotes for an arboriculturist to come out and assess all the trees on council land for potential issues.

f) School Road and High Street/Woodlands footpath

Following minutes 8/23(f) there is nothing to report as the requested maintenance had been completed by the handymen.

g) War Memorial

Nothing to report.

h) The Weir

Reed spraying license had been approved for spring 2024, with Handyman aware and Cllr England helping to source the correct chemicals closer to the time.

i) Onyetts Field

- a. Footbridge replacement:- The Clerk emphasised to members that the approved bridge repairs must be completed before March 31st 2024 as the funding from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) was approved in this financial year. In order to meet the funding requirements the council would need to provide a photograph as proof for CCC. Cllr Fabb, who generously agreed to complete the work has advised he is waiting for the weather to improve before he can begin.
- b. Pond reinforcement:- All materials have been purchased and are being stored on Cllr England's property who has kindly offered to complete once the weather improves.
- c. Planting of Hedging:- The trees have been received and are awaiting urgent planting. Cllr Fabb and Cllr England are helping with supplying of the stakes and cages so that the handymen can plant.
- d. Rabbits:- Whilst the work to catch and transport the rabbits had been organised, the pest control contractor had failed to carry out the scheduled work.
- e. Biodiversity for All:- Cllr Sproats provided members with a brief update. Following her contacting the team at Huntingdon District Council (HDC) with the preferred options for work at Onyett's they had unfortunately come back with an incorrect quote. Cllr Sproat had now organised a site visit for Monday 15th January with HDC Cllr England, Cllr Land and her due to attend to help resolve the issue.

j) Miscellaneous

None to report.

LA 8/24 WATERBODIES SAFETY

Recently, the Warboys Diary informed the Council that they had received a letter from a concerned resident about the safety of the balancing ponds located on the Bellway and Wilson Homes estates. As a result, the council has been asked to provide a response to address these concerns. The clerks advised members that the Council were currently awaiting up to date advice on our responsibilities for waterbody safety, but that deep water signs and life rings were accessible at the Weir, Onyett's field pond and the Sheepwash. They were also consulting with the previous Clerk to ensure an appropriate response was published in the February- March edition of the Warboys Diary.

LA 9/24 NOTICES AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT LEISURE AREAS AGENDA

None raised.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm

The next meeting of the Leisure Areas Committee will be held on 17th June 2024.

Chairman.

Date.

APPENDIX 1

Expenditure	Payments November	Total as at October	Total as at November	Total Budget	% of Budget spent to date
		£	£	£	
Playing fields & open spaces					
Adams Lyons (+ 1,600 spend)	154.20	1,715.11	1,869.31	4,000.00	46.73%
Jubilee Park	86.31	1,217.99	1,304.30	3,000.00	43.48%
Orchard Close (+2,411.77 spend)	61.68	684.71	746.39	1,000.00	74.64%
Onyett's Field	123.26	3,482.31	3,605.57	5,000.00	72.11%
Gardens	270.93	2,313.08	2,584.01	3,000.00	86.13%
Weir maintenance	135.57	571.61	707.18	750.00	94.29%
Sheepwash maintenance	24.63	84.85	109.48	500.00	21.90%
Cemetery maintenance	43.16	447.19	490.35	450.00	108.97%
Grass cutting	54.95	4,218.95	4,273.90	5,000.00	85.48%
Grounds Maintenance	68.21	314.30	382.51	3,500.00	10.93%
War Memorial	307.88	249.34	557.22	500.00	111.44%
Trees and hedges (+1,930 spend)	483.56	1,879.32	2,362.88	1,000.00	236.29%
Public footpaths	115.21	204.78	319.99	500.00	64.00%

