

## Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Annual Meeting, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Present Councillors: Linda Hill, Kate Heath, Steve Pettyfer, Graham Lamb, Roger Greenwood

In attendance: Clerk, Marian Messenger and two residents

19/014 To elect the Chair for 2019/20

*Linda Hill proposed that Steve Pettyfer be the Chair for 2019/20. Carried unanimously*

*At this point, Steve took over as Chair and asked to have recorded the thanks of the Parish Council to Chris Garrett for his many years of service as a councillor and to send him very best wishes for the future.*

19/015 To receive and accept apologies for absence

*Apologies had been received from Steve Jarvis, District and County Councillor*

19/016 Declarations of interest and dispensations

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda | None |
| b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests      | None |
| c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate                       | None |

19/017 To confirm the Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 03 May 2018. Chair to sign.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 03 May 2018 be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. *Carried unanimously.*

19/018 To consider the financial report for the year ending 31 March 2019 and to consider / approve Section 1 of the Annual Return

**Resolved** to accept the financial report, as presented, for the year ending 31 March 2019. *Proposed by SP. Unanimously agreed.*

19/019 To consider / approve Section 2 of the Annual Return

**Resolved** to approve Section 2 of the Annual Return. *Proposed by SP. Unanimously agreed.*

19/020 To confirm the position of Responsible Financial Officer for 2019/20

*The Clerk, Marian Messenger, was confirmed as RFO for 2019/20*

19/021 To review the Risk Assessment and Management Document

*No changes were made to the existing document, which was unanimously accepted.*

19/022 To review the Code of Conduct. Sign to comply with the agreed code.

*No changes were made to the Code of Conduct and all councillors signed to comply.*

19/023 To set provisional dates for meetings for the rest of the year 2019/20

**Provisional Dates for PC meetings : 01/10/19 Rushden, 14/01/20 Wallington, 12/05/20 Rushden  
Provisional Dates for Parish Assemblies: 08/04/20 Rushden, 09/04/20 Wallington**

## MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 16/05/19

19/024 To receive and accept apologies for absence

*Apologies had been received from Steve Jarvis, District and County Councillor*

19/025 Declarations of interest and dispensations

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda | None |
| b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests      | None |
| c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate                       | None |

19/026 To confirm the Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting held on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2019. Chair to sign.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting held on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. Unanimously agreed

19/027 To receive a report from the District Councillor and the County Councillor

*SJ was not in attendance but had sent some information to the clerk:*

- *The speed survey in Redhill has been completed and it looks as though it meets the criteria for a speed indicator sign. The budget has been committed for this year, so it would need to be installed next year.*
- *SJ is happy to provide a grant to the parish council if the PC is able to arrange for the cutting of the hedge outside the nursery (opposite the area with railings), subject to the cost being reasonable.*
- *SJ has spoken to Ringway about Bennet's Lane drainage, but he still has no definitive answer on when the work that has been identified might be carried out.*

18/030 To formally declare R & W P C an exempt authority

*SP proposed that the Parish Council declare itself an exempt authority.*

**Resolved** that Rushden and Wallington Parish Council declare itself to be an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 Unanimously agreed

18/031 Maintenance of trees on leased land in Wallington

*KH had found that the PC needs to have regular inspections of the trees on the land leased in Wallington. Frequency of inspection will be decided once the state of the trees has been established in the first inspection. She had obtained three quotes which she presented to the meeting. It was decided to accept the quote of £336 from Steve Dear on the understanding that the company realised that doing the inspection would not mean they would automatically be given the work required, if indeed any work is identified.*

18/032 Report back by clerk on use of BACS payments rather than cheques

*The Clerk has contacted Barclays Bank, but they don't have a BACS system which would be suitable for our needs. Therefore the PC will continue to pay invoices by double signed cheques.*

18/033 Community Speedwatch

*KH reported that she had undertaken some training for this but, due to a new initiative by the Police and Crime Commissioner limiting the scheme to 30mph areas, it now seems unlikely that it will be allowed in Wallington. KH is awaiting a response to her letter.*

18/034 Wallington Neighbourhood Plan

*KH reported that some volunteers have come forward to join a committee to develop this. Ideally one or two more people are needed and she is still working on this. In the meantime she has been made aware of a charity called CDA Herts who carry out housing need surveys for parishes in Hertfordshire. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact this organisation and ask them to speak informally to councillors before the next PC meeting unless the Wallington Neighbourhood Plan has already covered this area by that time.*

18/035 To consider approval of payment for new councillor training with HAPTC

*Our new councillor , RG, is keen to go on the new councillor training course at HAPTC. It was unanimously agreed to cover the cost of the day's course out of Parish Council funds.*

18/036 To suggest agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council

*Items suggested were:*

- *Hedge cutting by Mill End Nursery*
- *Bennetts Lane Drainage*
- *Wallington Neighbourhood Plan*

*The meeting closed at 9.15pm.*