

MINUTES OF THE WARBOROUGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 7.30pm

- Present: Cllr Nigel Conie – Chair (NC)
Cllr Jonnie Bradshaw – Vice Chair (JB)
Cllr Nick Brown (NB)
Cllr Mieke Mclarty (MM)
Cllr Michael Herbert (MH)
District Cllr Sue Cooper (SC)
District Cllr Andrea Powell (AP)
Bryony Ringsell – Clerk (BR)
Approx 60 members of the public.
- 2022/063 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th April 2021**
NC confirmed that all councillors had had sight of the minutes and proposed they be confirmed, all councillors in favour
- 2022/064 Chairmans Annual Report**
NC reported on the work done by the council over the last year and thanked Cllr Helen Brawn and Cllr Will Partridge for their work for the council before their resignations. Report to be added to the website.
- 2022/065 Report - Warborough and Shillingford Cricket Club Report – Mark Searle**
M Searle reported that the cricket club has enjoyed many successes this year and hopes to continue to grow the club. Report to be added to the website
- 2022/066 Report – Allotment Association – Charles Humphrey**
C Humphrey reported that it had been a constructive year, including the success of the recently installed deer fencing and new water standpipes. Report to be added to the website.
- 2022/067 Report - SWATA – Tim Martin**
T Martin was unable to attend so the report was read by C Humphreys who reported that tennis can now be played free from restrictions and that a new bookings system has been set up. Report to be added to the website.
- 2022/068 Report - WI – Liz Eaton**
The report was given by Pat Norman who explained that the WI had managed a full year of talks and activities and had enjoyed an increase in members. Report to be added to the website.
- 2022/069 Report - Warborough and Shillingford Society – Lorraine Lindsay-Gale**
L Lindsay-Gale reported that the society had been resurrected last summer with the aim of preserving the history, fabric and sense of community of the villages of Warborough and Shillingford and was keen for new members. Report to be added to the website.
- 2022/070 Report - Footpath Warden – Sarah Martin**
Read by NC, the report informed of the plan to create a platinum path and to improve the bridleway towards Ladybrook Copse. Report to be added to the website.
- 2022/071 County Councillor’s Annual Report**
Cllr Robin Bennet was unable to attend, his report will be added to the website.
- 2022/072 District Councillor’s Annual Report**
AP and SC delivered a report including an update on the Climate Action Plan and information about the inner workings of the council. Report to be added to the website.
- 2022/073 Apology from Warborough Parish Council for the confusion and hurt caused to the existing NPC members by item 2022/037 and to allow discussions about the sub committee**
Several members of the public spoke against the decision of the PC on agenda item 2022/037 with their points including that there was no need to change the way the old group worked and that it had produced a very high-quality plan which was endorsed by 91% of the village. Concerns were also raised about the research done by the

council and that the proposed sub-Committee structure was unnecessary and not recommended by some industry bodies.

Further members of the public then voiced their support for the PC and added that it was sad to see the community divided and that although 91% of those who voted, voted for the plan the 9% of voters who did not were very unhappy about it, the process had caused rifts in the community and that the old committee should be disbanded and reformed to allow a fresh start.

JB then went on to explain that the Parish Council must legally be in charge of the Neighbourhood Plan and as such must decide how it is run. They have taken a significant amount of advice from relevant bodies in relation to this. He went on to apologise that with hindsight they could have handled the situation differently and were sorry for the confusion and hurt caused to the existing NPC members by item 2022/037. He went on to say that there was probably in practice little distance between the thoughts of the Parish Council and the original Neighbourhood Plan group in that both wanted a strong Neighbourhood Plan, and that the Parish Council hoped that if some of the learning from the last Neighbourhood Plan process, such as the need for more transparency could be addressed, the Parish Council were willing to compromise on the type of group to be used.

The review group should take the form of a steering committee (rather than a formal sub-committee of the Parish Council). The terms of reference of the new review group would be drafted (based on existing ones and other relevant templates) including provision for some regular meetings in public (but other working meetings in private). They will also provide which strategic decisions would fall to the Parish Council as required by Local Government Act whilst allowing operational flexibility to the review group. He explained that the Parish Council's wish for a sub-Committee had come from a desire to make the process more inclusive and open in the hope that this would foster a more cohesive atmosphere in the village but hoped this compromise would achieve the same aim.

Lynda Raynor, on behalf of several residents then presented the PC with a letter requesting a Parish Poll with the question being 'Should the review of the Warborough & Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan be carried out by the original steering group based on their existing terms of reference? Yes/No. Although a count was not taken in the room this was supported by more than the requisite 10 electors.

A Member of the public sought to clarify the proposal – was it that the original steering group could continue to operate and conduct the review with altered terms of reference in order to be more transparent. JB clarified the proposal from the Parish Council: the review group would be set up as a Steering Group, outside of LGA 1972 regulations, meaning it could hold full meetings in private, but with the agreed condition that it will also hold regular meetings in public. All members of the original Steering Group would be welcomed onto the review group (to harness their experience) in addition to some Councillors and other parishioners who wish to join. This would allow the Steering Group to hold discussions on specific topics in private (eg where it was considered there was risk from developer attendance, and it could be possible to limit public contributions at these meetings). Sitting outside the LGA 1972, the Steering Group would be advisory in nature, and so strategic decisions would revert to the Parish Council at meetings after recommendations from the Steering Group, which would allow full public participation. The Terms of Reference of this group would need to be drawn up in due course to reflect this [“an independent parishioner with legal background has subsequently offered to assist with this]. NC asked if anyone else wished to speak which they did not.

A Member of the public then thanked JB for his proposed compromise which seemed to be something which could allow progress to be made in the interests of the whole village. She asked whether the Parish Council could confirm their support for the proposal. NC then explained that the Parish Council supported the Neighbourhood Plan and would like to work with the original steering group for the good of the community. Whilst any vote or decision made by the Parish Council at this meeting was not legally binding (due to it being an Annual Parish Meeting rather than a Parish Council meeting), a vote would be a show of intention and would be formalised at the May Parish Council meeting.

NC therefore proposed that the new Neighbourhood Plan review group would indeed

be a steering group and not a sub-Committee and that the Parish Council would work with the original Steering Group to create Terms of Reference (per above) which were agreeable to both the Parish Council and the original group.

This proposal was agreed by all councillors and all members of the public present at the meeting were then asked to vote on whether they agreed with this course of action. 2 people were against the proposal and all others present (approximately 60 people) were in favour of it.

2022/074 Updates from Warborough Parish Council on working groups

Infrastructure and Environment – Nick Brown

Events and Communications – Mieke Mclarty

Greet Hall – Michael Herbert

Recreation and the Green – Jonnie Bradshaw

Due to the lengthy nature of the meeting thus far it was agreed that these reports would be added to the website instead of being read at the meeting.