

# Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the above named Parish Council held on 8 September 2022

Present - Cllrs: C Girdler, P Heyes (Chairman), J Morton, A Rudd

Clerk – S Goodwin

3 members of the public

**Just before the meeting started, news was received that Queen Elizabeth II had sadly passed away. 2 minutes silence was held as a sign of respect.**

## **81.22 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Bone and Dent. Apologies accepted

## **82.22 Minutes of Meeting**

Meetings held 14 July and 1 August 2022. Having been circulated previously, it was then agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting

## **83.22 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None

## **84.22 Public Speaking**

Offer to be co-opted to PC received. Applicant to write to clerk.

## **85.22 Co-option**

Having ascertained that candidate was eligible for co-option, voting took place and R Chitty was co-opted onto the council. Declaration of Acceptance was signed and R Chitty joined Councillors

## **86.22 Matters arising (for information only)**

137.21a Notification that publications of Arthur Randall's stories will be given to all families in the 3 schools that helped with the project and copies being given to libraries. Others may be made available in Church/pub, Parish Council etc. 2 councillors to attend meeting on 21 September at Village Hall at 3.30pm

47.22b Overgrown hedge in Foldgate Lane cut back by Eau Brink

71.22 Insured value of cemetery gates and supporting pillars increased to £40,000 and £8000. No increase in premium until 2023 payment when there will be an increase of £55

## **87.22 Correspondence (for information only)**

a Thank you received for removal of damaged tree in play area

b Cllr Rudd had attended online Website administration training and is now a member of the website team

## **88.22 Highways**

a Improvements to Church Road junction as promised, chased again by clerk. Due to take place in September. White lines have been painted but not such extensive repairs as those planned for 2021. Clerk has complained and is awaiting response.

b Trod appears to be overgrown. Clerk to inform Watlington PC

c Generally poor state of road noted following complaints from parishioners and councillors. Too extensive to report to Highways on individual basis but will no doubt be dealt with by NCC as soon as resources allow.

d Pathway from Park Crescent to cemetery has been partially cleared by Freebridge

## **89.22 Reports**

- a SAM2 has been relocated
- b Speedwatch checks have been carried out and will resume in September
- c Defibrillator check done and Cllr Bone had sent monthly report.
- d Litter pick done between Burnt Lane and Toll Bar Corner
- e Safety Camera present in village twice in last month

## **90.22 Woodland**

- a Contractors contacted with warning to complete delivery of tree baulks by 16 August or contract considered cancelled. Not done and contract nullified. Contractors told by e-mail and post that contract broken and requested to remove their trailer from site. Trailer is still on site. Phone call and e-mail to be sent stating that trailer to be removed by 12 September, after which it will be removed to an alternative location
- b Despite several calls to CGM, it is unclear if tracks have been sprayed. Track 1 is now in urgent need of brambles being chopped back towards the dyke. Clerk to ensure work takes place asap.
- c Chippings to be spread by team of councillors and then decide if remaining tree baulks will be suitable as seating.
- d Explanation was given by Cllr Girdler as to how the woodland came to be referred to on Google maps as Magdalen Wild Wood (reported by a parishioner)

*Resolved that Woodland on former paddock/allotment land be known as Magdalen Wild Wood as it was a mix of wild wood trees that were planted*

- e During prolonged dry period, Cllr Girdler and Stuart Warren spent 3 days watering most vulnerable saplings. Recent checks show some positive results. Cllr Girdler to monitor and also to contact Morewoods manager as to procedure should there be a significant loss due to drought.

## **91.22 Village Sign**

Sign installed and invoice paid. Questioned whether it is level. Cllr Girdler to check with spirit level and inform clerk of findings. If not level, contractor to be contacted

## **92.22 Cemetery Sign**

Letters purchased and design agreed by councillors via e-mail. S Warren in process of making up sign.

## **93.22 Church Road Phone Box**

This will be done when time permits as councillors are already overstretched with the voluntary work they do.

## **94.22 Remembrance Day 2022**

Consideration as to donation and who is to lay wreath took place

*Resolved that £100 donation be made to British Legion when ordering wreath and that P Smith be asked to lay wreath. Clerk to pay initially and to be repaid*

## **95.22 Respect and Civility Pledge**

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), and One Voice Wales (OVW), believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector. Councillors considered the pledge drawn up by them

*Resolved that pledge be signed. By our council signing up to the civility and respect pledge we are demonstrating that our council is committed to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.*

## **96.22 Effective Councillor Training**

Training is available at a cost of £60. No one to attend October training

**97.22 Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

Request from parishioner for PC to be named as assessor on Volunteer Element of the D of E Award Scheme. After clerk’s enquiry Insurance company wrote ‘To confirm the individual will be covered as long as they are supervised and abide by the guidelines you set out in relation to litter picking. This is because there needs to be an active management of the risk by the council in order to come under the umbrella of your policy.’

*Subject to Volunteer Litter Picking Guide being signed by volunteer and a responsible adult, agreed that clerk to sign on behalf of PC when proof of completion presented.*

**98.22 Planning**

None

**99.22 Finance**

a Resolved to accept monthly accounts to 31 August 2022

b *Resolved to pay schedule of payments*

Ref 44/22	P Jones	August			SO	459.60	
Ref 45/22	HMRC				BP	75.20	
Ref 46/22	Salary				SO	408.64	
Ref 47/22	N Power August supply				SO	No invoice yet	
Ref 48/22	Westcotec				DDM	40.50	
Ref 49/22	PKF Littlejohn				BP	240.00	
Ref 50/22	Clerk exp. Admin				BP	94.00	
Ref 51/22	Red Shoes				BP	46.80	
Ref 52/22	Unity				BP	18.00	no invoice
Ref 53/22	S Goodwin (repay British Legion donation)				BP	100.00	

c External Audit report presented by clerk. No matters of concern were raised. Conclusion of Audit and related papers to be on notice board and website.

**100.22 Councillors Concerns and Future Agenda Items**

Standing Orders review to be on next agenda, fly tipping incident reported by parishioner. Councillor involved to advise them to contact BC fly tipping team

**101.22 Public Speaking**

Comments made on Church Rd junction

**102.22 Date of Next Meeting**

13 October, 6.30pm at Magdalen Village Hall

Meeting closed at 19.30

Signature .....

Date .....