

Whatton in the Vale Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday February 26, 2019, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton in the Vale at 7.30pm

Coun. Chris Grocock (Chairman)
Chris Edwardson Georgia Elms(A)
Jane Morris Julia Faulconbridge Gregg Redford

Also present the clerk Mike Elliott and Rushcliffe Borough Council member Coun. Maureen Stockwood.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Coun. Georgia Elms
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none
3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2019 were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman
- 4 OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, LIMITED TO 15 MINUTES
No members of the public were present.
5. CLERK'S AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A report has been provided to parish councils which discusses the responsibility of councils to be involved in the instance of the death of an important State person, in this case Her Majesty the Queen. The report said that following the official announcement of her passing, there will be ten days of state mourning, between the day of the death and the funeral in Westminster Abbey.

- All councils are being asked to prepare themselves and be mindful that any meeting organised during the State Mourning would need to be cancelled. Flags should be flown at half-mast throughout the ten days of mourning except for Day 2, when the new King will be Proclaimed and when they should be flown at full mast and then the next day returned to half-mast. All flags to be returned to normal by 9am the day after the funeral.
 - Parish councils are asked to compose suitable words for displaying on their website and this should be prepared before-hand. It is suggested the home page of the website should have a picture of the Queen with a black border around it. If pictures of The Queen are displayed in any council used buildings (like village halls) they should have black ribbon placed diagonally across one corner. Such photographs should be removed to another suitable site after one month and then be replaced by a picture of the King.
 - The council should organise a loose leaved Remembrance Book and as well as placing this in a suitable place such as a parish church it should be taken by the council to any local schools or care homes. Once the exercise ends the book needs to be sent to the County Archives officer and Buckingham Palace advised of that action. The clerk was to progress this.
 - The council should consider an area in which to lay flowers, taking into account the current trend to carry out such an action when any notable death or tragic accident occurs. All flowers should be removed on the morning after the State Funeral. The area concerned would be on the Green near the flagpole.
- Parish churches supported by local councils will be encouraged to hold a special service on the eve of the funeral day and local councils are advised to contact their local churches to begin arrangements in advance. Coun. Redford would progress this.
- The day of the funeral will be a public holiday unless it falls on a Saturday.

6. REPORT FROM THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Coun. Mrs Stockwood spoke on various items including the Borough council tax requirement which would show an increase of 3.9 per cent. She understood the Notts County Council requirement would show an increase of 3 per cent with a further 1 per cent for social services

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Rushcliffe Borough Council wrote in respect of the appointment of tree wardens. Coun. Mrs Faulconbridge was already regarded as the council's spokesperson on trees. The council agreed to make a £50 grant to ageUK's request and to seek further information on their work. Rushcliffe Borough Council parish forum being held on March 12 would be attended by the clerk. CPRE membership confirmation was received and Coun. Mrs Faulconbridge was to hold the membership card.

8. PLAYING FIELD

Couns. Grocock and Redford gave reports on the current situation concerning the council, the Joint Trustee Committee and the Trustees. The meeting was told the necessary tendering exercise for the play area had been carried out. It was hoped the new facility would be available for children during the summer. The chairman said the funding had been secured for the scheme. Some tree planting had taken place.

Coun. Mrs Morris was appointed to the Trustees committee.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

No applications or decisions.

10. FOOTPATHS

Coun. Redford said there was nothing specifically to report but did comments on the provision that had taken place of provision of a bridge over the dyke on FP11.

11. FINANCE

Accounts for Payment were approved as per the circulated list

12. ENVIRONMENT. Grass verges. Village trees.

More concerns were expressed on the damage caused to grass verges in the village. Coun. Redford said he would prepare a paper on the position and hopefully present it to the next meeting.

Coun. Mrs Faulconbridge was critical of the way the question of trees in the churchyard had been handled by Rushcliffe Borough Council. She had discussed the matter with the Borough tree office Mr Tom Pettitt. Strong concerns were expressed on the future of Whitebeam in the churchyard. A request made to the Borough for Tree Preservation Orders to be placed on them had met with little support. A letter would be prepared by Coun. Faulconbridge for the clerk to send to the Borough.

13. NEWSLETTER DELIVERY.

It was suggested another newsletter be issued in Mid-May when the new council could be introduced.

14. QUEEN'S WOOD

It was planned a meeting of the Queen's Wood group be held shortly. Cllrs Mrs Faulconbridge, who had taken on the responsibility for looking after the affairs of the Wood, was to organise a walk with her son to check on all aspects of the condition of the area concerned.

15. CASUAL VACANCY

It was agreed that Coun. Redford approach Mrs Wendy Dawson regarding the vacancy, with a view to her being co-opted to the council. She had expressed an interest.

16. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING APRIL 9, 2019

Comment was made on dates for future meetings. The chairman said he favoured the fourth Tuesday of each month and this was to be looked at by the new council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9-10pm