



Ware Town Council

Ware Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12 9AL

www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk

01920 460316

WARE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 14th February 2022

in The Council Chamber, Ware Priory, Ware, starting at 7.00pm

MINUTES

CLlr Kemp (Chair) Ballam, Butcher, Curtis, Day, Fernando, Kaye, Pope, Reed.

Officer present: Terry Philpott Town Clerk, Sarah Fenton (Website) Sean Higgins RFO (Grant applications)

WTC397: To receive and accept Apologies for Absence

CLlr V Shaw and S Shaw

WTC398: To receive any Declarations of Interest and review any requests for Dispensation submitted to the Clerk.

None declared

WTC399: Minutes from the previous meeting: to receive and sign the minutes of the last Town Council meeting held on 31st January 2022.

Resolved: The minutes are an accurate record

WTC400: Correspondence and Clerks report (TP)

- Green space by New River at Amwell End / Gilpins Field. River railing work commissioned and paid for, due to be installed within 6 months. Vegetation clearance under way now.
- EV Charging points awaiting update.
- Waste Transfer site Ware meeting held.
- AV Equipment in the Council Chamber, installed.
- Community feedback proposal, questionnaire being finalised.
- Southern Maltings meeting held on 21st January

WTC401: Neighbourhood Plan (JS)

The Neighbourhood Plan for Ware was reviewed and discussed.

Members of the NPSG present included Jan Stock (Chair NPSG), Alasdair Reid, Julian Bond, Peter Radley.

Several points and suggestions were raised including

- The descriptive status of Ware as a market town was queried, although fully appropriate when prefaced by historic.
- Pg 14 Bungalows to supplement the housing stock, this type of housing should not be the only approach for elderly or mobility impaired people.
- Pg 50 Provision for housing options for older people could be developed to include more options.
- Pg 72 Concern over the wording related to the provision of Section 106 funding making developments more acceptable when they were “unacceptable”. A more positive description is preferable, e.g. ‘contributions can be **sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure**, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place.’ (East Cambs DC)
- The population figure should be highlighted as being relevant at the time of the 2011 census. It will have increased since then due to additional housing, e.g. in Crane Mead.
- There are two special needs schools in Ware.
- Concern was expressed about the mortgage multipliers for Ware, perhaps inserted in the non-policy section.
- Policy 5.9 Support/encourage features along the riverside.
- Policy 6.3 Concern over ‘safeguarding of the retail offer’, potentially broaden out to include the current mixed-use offer.
- Policy 6.6 Could a clause be inserted about the loss of office space impacting on town centre footfall.
- Policy 6.25 Protection of existing employment land supported, and addition of new employment land supported.
- Policy 8.1 Recognises the importance of cars particularly for those with disabilities and less able to use non-vehicle methods of travel.
- Policy 9.5 The community toilet scheme is being phased out.
- Potential for more disabled accessibility options to be supported.
- Pg 97 Is the Church at Chauncy still operational. It is understood to have ceased, and should be deleted.
- Pg 10 7 or 8 Primary Schools in Ware?
- Pg 12 Change wording from “depend on public transport” to “use public transport”.
- Pg 15 Add in social space as a desirable for older citizens, that encourage social interaction and reduce isolation
- Pg 27 Suggested replacing with ‘This is a target which will require everyone to be engaged’ instead of ‘demanding’. However, the opposite view was also expressed in discussion.

- Pg 64 School pick up areas. Chauncy recommend use of Asda not Park Road.
- Pg 64 Congested roads include Bowling Road, King Edward Road, Vicarage Road. (Include in policy W16). The narrow part of Bowling Road may benefit from being made one-way.
- Lady Margaret Road for c6hrs per day.
- Pg 94 Trinity School was demolished to develop Lady Margaret Gardens, not Tower.

Most of these are points of detail, but a more significant concern was raised that difficulties with disabled access to buildings needed more emphasis. Some historic buildings in Ware have restrictions, but some new buildings have steps, and step-free access should be required for new build.

Some frustration was noted that the remit for the Neighbourhood Plan is not allowed to directly include aspects such as the North and East Ware development and Highways, although these can be mentioned indirectly and under non-policy issues.

Jan Stock confirmed that simple factual errors could be corrected now, changes could be made where clear, and others would be noted as part of the consultation.

The feedback will be shared with the NPSG.

The Council thanked those on the NPSG for the hard work to get the document to the point that it is

Resolved: To adopt the Neighbourhood Plan for regulation 14 consultation, with the feedback from the meeting included, with minor future amendments to be managed by the Clerks Office.

WTC402: Bike Recycle Project (SH)

The report was discussed and noted.

Resolved: To grant the £8330 received from National Lottery for the Bike Recycle Project to Hertford Cycle Hub to manage the Pilot scheme.

WTC403: Grant to The Priory Charity (SH)

To review the report related to the Priory Charity debt and agree the next steps.

Resolved: Ware Town Council provide a grant of £228,702.56 to the Priory Charity and then the Priory Charity will repay this balance of £228,702.56 immediately back to Ware Town Council to clear the debt on both sides to £0.00.

WTC404: Website update (SF)

A presentation on the new WTC website was received.

Cllrs were positive about the changes and congratulated Sarah Fenton and thanked her for the hard work involved.

WTC405: Marking the death of senior national figure (TP)

Resolved: To adopt the policy with minor amendments

Additional amendments, Townsmen to include Townswomen.

WTC406: Co-option Policy (TP)

Resolved: To adopt the policy with no amendments

WTC407: Reports from Committees – to receive and note the minutes of following committees:

Finance and Policy – 31st January 2022

Community and Environment –

Human Resources –

WTC408: Agenda items for next meeting

Consideration of 106 funded projects (working group)

Townsmen / Townswomen honour for Ware – criteria for inclusion and possible current candidates

WTC409: Mayor’s Closing Remarks (IK)

<p>EXCLUSIONS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press have been excluded. (A resolution to be passed by Councillors)</p>
--

Resolved: To exclude the press and public

WTC410: Ware Lido 2022 season

The Lido report was considered and discussed.

CLlr Fernando called for a recorded vote.

The vote from those in attendance unanimously supported the resolution.

CLlrs Ballam, Butcher, Curtis, Day, Fernando, Kaye, Kemp, Pope, Reed.

Resolved:

- To close the Lido for the duration of the remedial works potentially for two seasons, reopening in 2024 (or earlier if possible without negatively impacting the project).
- To undertake a public consultation prior to seeking borrowing approval.
- To seek grant funding as well as loans (e.g. Public Works) to support the delivery of the project.

- To engage a specialist design company to support the scoping works for added value elements to the project.
- Hydrospec to complete the tender document for approval by the Council
- To seek a specialist project manager to oversee the whole project.
- To form a task and finish group including RF, PB, TD design / MB delivery phase, VS, TP, KH. Terms of reference to be created.

Management notes (applicable to all the meeting)

- Due to Covid restrictions the following measure will be applied
- Covid symptoms – If you have any Covid symptoms please do not attend the meeting.
- Meeting papers – No meeting papers will be supplied at the meeting.
- Drinks – No drinks will be available on the evening, those attending are requested to bring their own in a suitable container if required.

Signed

Dated