

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 4 July 2022, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs L Drury, Mrs H Green, C Harvey, Mrs R Leech and N Lingard and one member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence were received and accepted** from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, B Lacey, Mrs A Arnold and T Alston. County & District Cllr A Stringer.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **To receive the following Reports**
 1. Police available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk> . No comments were raised.
 2. County Council - a written report from Cllr Stringer had been circulated to members (copy attached to the Minutes). No queries were raised.
 3. District Council – not available.
 4. Footpaths - no report.
 5. Trees - no report.
 6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments.
4. **To consider for approval Minutes of the parish council meeting held 4 July 2022**

Cllr Harvey proposed acceptance of the Minutes seconded Cllr Mrs Leech – unanimously agreed.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** - none.
6. **Report on Parish Council Vacancy and to consider co-option**

The Chair reported a parishioner, Mrs Kaylee Van Zyl, had expressed an interest in joining the council. Mrs Van Zyl had observed two parish council meetings and was in attendance at the meeting to be considered for co-option. As per usual applicant's were asked to give a short presentation about themselves and their interest in the council. Mrs Van Zyl stated she was fairly new to the village, had a young family and was keen to become involved in the community. The Chair proposed she was co-opted to join the council, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech, unanimously agreed. Mrs Van Zyl signed the Councillors' Declaration form and joined the meeting.
7. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/22/02694: Annexe at Hoods, Town Lane – application for Listed Building Consent – construction of 27 photovoltaic solar panels to roof slopes of detached annexe and installation of dual tracker inverter, fireboard, pylon batteries and additional compliant fuseboard. Having considered the application a recommendation of support was proposed and Seconded. Six councillors in support of the proposal with one abstention – proposal carried.
8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**
 1. DC/21/04476: Land at Norwich Road, Wetheringsett – application for Outline Planning Permission (access to be considered) – erection of 14 dwellings comprising 5 two bed units, 7 three bed units and 2 four bed units. **Outline Planning Permission Refused.**
 2. DC/22/00800: Land east of Ashlea, Brockford Street, Wetheringsett – application for Outline Planning Permission (access to be considered, appearance, landscape, layout and scale reserved). Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – erection of detached dwelling. **Outline Planning Permission Refused.**
9. **Planning correspondence**

[Publication of the] **Examiners Report on the modification draft Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan (2018 – 2037)**. Link supplied and for information only.
10. **Parish Council Loan application to the Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities** to fund replacement of Wetheringsett Village Hall floor - Application progress report
A response from the Dept for Levelling Up to the Parish Council's application for permission for a loan from the Wetheringsett Church & Town Estate Charity was still awaited. Pending a resolution on the application the lender had requested payment of a 5% interest rate (this was below rate of inflation) since the payment was made at November 2021.
There was some thought this should not be considered at present. Cllr Harvey stated the work would not have happened had the lender had not stood in and he believed it would not be unreasonable to consider an interest payment. On further consideration an interest rate of 2% was proposed by the Chair, seconded

Cllr Mrs Leech and unanimously agreed. Thanks were recorded to the lender for bearing with the Council in its attempts to resolve the application process for permission for the loan.

Repayment to the lender of the smaller sum for the replacement flooring in the recovery room was considered, this totalled £3120 and formed part of the agreed work to be funded by the Parish Council. It was unanimously agreed this sum was refunded.

11. Village Hall reports

1. Management Committee

Cllr Harvey reported the successful Platinum Jubilee event had broken even with a small profit of £27.00. The current VH balance stood at £2444.00. The VH bankers HSBC were looking to charge for banking the committee were therefore looking to change banks. Volunteers to help with fund raising events would be very welcome.

2. School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease

The Chair reported she was in contact with the Diocesan Board regarding the Parish Council lease and hoped to report progress shortly.

Regarding the School Licence, Cllr Harvey reported any review of the licence next year would need to be notified to the school in November 2022. The VH committee would be looking at the review.

There had been a suggestion from the School that the VH used the School's wifi network. Due to safeguarding, reputational damage and energy costs Cllr Harvey stated the committee were generally in favour of the village hall remaining independent of the school internet.

12. Wetheringsett Play Area Report – no report available.

13. Report on Grasscutting – no report available.

14. Report on Hockey Hill/Church Street surface water flooding

The Chair reported the school were looking into clearance of the drain under the entrance to the school drive and also repair of the large pothole at the entrance.

15. VAS speed equipment and Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera Project (ANPR) report

Cllr Harvey reported there had been no progress with the ANPR project.

To consider an Average Speed Camera - this would need the involvement of County Highways.

16. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan – working group report

The Working Group report had been circulated. The final draft Plan was now available for parishioners to comment via the link on the Parish Council website. Closing date for comments 5 August 2022.

17. Parish Pond, Wetherup Street – report on cost and installation of Deep Water Pond Sign – deferred.

18. Wetheringsett Village Sign – report on repairs to the sign due to storm damage – deferred.

19. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none.

2. Accounts for payment

Wetheringsett VH – hire of hall April – Sept 2022 90.00

Compass Point Planning – Neighbourhood Plan Consultancy fees 810.00

J Wright Printing – Neighbourhood Plan Printing 165.00

Clerk sal-expen June 2022 283.56

D I Alston Ltd – reimbursement VH recovery room floor 3120.00

Cllr Mrs Cain proposed payment of the above, seconded Cllr Harvey – unanimously agreed.

3. Finance – report on Online Pinsentry Banking system and/or transfer of funds to one account – deferred to next meeting.

20. To consider for adoption the following policy documents:

1. Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 – deferred to next meeting.

2. Standing Orders 2022-23 – deferred to next meeting.

3. Financial Regulations 2022-23 – deferred to next meeting.

21. Clerk's report/correspondence – none.

22. Chair's Report – none.

23. Any other business for information exchange/future agenda requests

Wetheringsett War Memorial – it was reported a retired parishioner would like to repaint the fencing surrounding the War Memorial with hammarite paint. Members thanked the parishioner for his offer. He would be informed and it was requested that he wears a high viz vest when carrying out the work.

Defibrillator – it was suggested a defibrillator be considered for Brockford Street. Siting would need to be considered. Cllr Lingard suggested Brockford Street Garage. The Chair suggested an alternative – outbuildings attached to her property. Item to be included on next agenda.

24. Date of next meeting - Monday 1 August 2022, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett

Meeting closed:8.34pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – July 2022

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk GLI to propose that Suffolk has a Cost-of-Living Emergency

Full Council is on the 7th July. Our Group have submitted a motion calling for SCC to declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency, and for the Council to redirect funds and efforts towards targeting those most vulnerable.

Prices for fuel, food and energy are increasing as wages take a real terms cut from the raising inflation. Our Group calls on this government for further support to those falling below the poverty line.

In addition, we are calling on the government to make it easier and cheaper to insulate homes. Our motion asks to waive VAT on energy-saving materials, such as insulation, and adequately fund a retrofitting programme so communities can save money on their bills during winter where energy price caps are due to rise even further.

Cabinet Meeting: SEND Capital Programme

Cabinet met on 20th June to vote on funding the next phase of SCC's programme to build more capacity for SEND children in education. The cabinet agreed a package of £15.9m, as part of a £45m programme.

Currently, there is a high demand for SEND services, with requests for placement going up by 32% since 2020. The funding Cabinet have agreed will create three new specialist units across Suffolk.

Our Group supported such a project, but was mindful of the rising demand and what was needed for the future. The Cabinet agreed a third phase was required, which will be discuss later this year.

National Grid consultation: SCC submit a response

Last month our Group said we would put pressure on SCC to respond to the consultation, rejecting the current proposals for expanding the on-shore pylon network in Suffolk. Our Group are strongly against the development of more pylon networks impacting Suffolk's rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals are even criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartlidge.

After a meeting with Cabinet member, Cllr Rout, the Conservatives states they will also reject the proposals. SCC have now submitted a response to National Grid, agreeing with our position. They have stated that the application cannot be supported in its current form, and that an offshore alternative must be provided to be considered.

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