

WETHERINGSETT CUM BROCKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held 2 November 2015

Present: Cllrs R Anscombe (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, M Baker, B Lacey, J Leadbetter, Mrs C Nickson, Ms S Payne, Mrs S Perry

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Miss J Canham.
2. **To receive declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**
Item 8 – Cllr M Baker
3. **To receive the following reports**
 1. Police – A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting – copy attached to Minutes. Regarding the crime prevention evening held on 22 October, Cllr Leadbetter reported 8 people from the village and a neighbourhood watch representative from Thorndon had attended the meeting convened by PCSO Ed Wright. No feedback had been received. A report on the meeting to be requested.
 2. County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to minutes). *Members agreed item 9 was brought to enable Cllr Stringer to take part in the discussion.* The proposed Devolution document had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The document set out the Government’s suggestions for devolving certain powers down to Local Government and had asked for bids. Suffolk had put together a Suffolk Only bid but the Government had said it would like a joint Suffolk and Norfolk bid. Over the last few weeks the County had been exploring possible areas that could be devolved if allowed. District Cllr Horn stated that the District Council had suggested keeping business rates and a change in the way housing rents were collected. Many areas of work were still to be considered and would involve a re-education of the current system enabling parish councils to be more creative. This was an ongoing process at present and members were encouraged to ensure they were well informed and kept up to date with any progress to assist with any future decisions as yet to be put forward.
 3. District Councillor – Cllr Horn reported on new council homes being built in the county for the first time in 30 years – 30 in mid Suffolk and 27 in Babergh. Most will be allocated local need sites. Suffolk had made a commitment to support the vulnerable person system and had offered to take up to 250 Syrian refugees; most will be settled in the Ipswich area. Euro cycling grants were still available until the end of March next year. The Gypsy and Traveller consultation would close on 16 November 2015. The Open for Business Scheme start-up was open for applications. The MSDC offices were still under discussion and proposals for a move being investigated. Locality awards were open for applications until early next year, ie grants for the proposed VAS scheme and defibrillator. This would need to be made direct to MSDC.
 4. Footpaths – the two previous reports, fallen footpath sign in the centre of the village and Suffolk Public Rights of Way team was dealing with the fallen tree blocking footpath 26A at Mickfield Road.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held 5 October 2015**
Cllr Alston proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and agreed.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes for report** – none
6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments
7. **To consider planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. 3468/15 : Hoods, Town Lane – erection of summerhouse (existing to be removed). Cllr Leadbetter proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Alston. Nine in favour, one abstention. Proposal carried.
 2. 3246/15 : Meadow Farm Barn, Blacksmiths Green – Listed Building Consent for change of use of agricultural building to residential. In line with the previous planning application Cllr Leadbetter proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Alston and agreed.
 3. 3532/15 : Primrose Cottage, Wetherup Street – demolition of outbuilding and partial demolition off rear extension. Erection of single storey extension comprising living space, bedroom and garage accommodation. Following some debate of the application the a recommendation of refusal was proposed by Cllr Mrs Aldred, seconded Cllr Alston on the following grounds:
The proposed extension overwhelmed and the original property (Primrose Cottage) having a detrimental impact on that dwelling, overdevelopment of the site and contrary to hb3 and hb4. The proposed extension would extend over a drainage ditch that had been filled in and piped and

water (surface & foul) would be running underneath the extension. There were already drainage problems in that area concerning the flow of water from the ditch & pipe. Members were concerned a building over the ditch would impact on that problem.

9 in favour of the proposal, 1 abstention. Proposal carried.

8. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. 3392/15 : Mill Cottage, Church Street - Remove T1 Green Beech Tree. Pollard/heavily reduce T2 Large Leaved Lime Tree. Re-pollard to previous points T3 Large Leaved Lime Tree & T4 Willow Tree. MSDC approved works.
2. 3422/15 : The Old Forge, Mendlesham Road, Brockford. Replacement of 3 windows in south elevation, replacement of French doors on east elevation, replacement window on north elevation. LBC granted.

9. **To consider Suffolk and Norfolk Framework document for devolution** – see item above under reports.

10. Wetheringsett Village Hall report

Cllr Leadbetter reported on the success of the recent Curtains Up production and rehearsals were now underway for the pantomime. Eastern Angles had been booked for their usual performance in April next year and the entertainment licence had been renewed.

Cllr Ms Payne reported the Development Agreement for the proposed new hall should be available for signature at the December meeting. The signed document would enable lottery funding applications to progress. If the document was therefore available for signature before the December meeting, Cllr Ms Payne asked for authority to sign the document, in consultation with the Chairman, so that funding could be progressed. Cllr Alston proposed authority to sign the document, seconded Cllr Mrs Nickson and unanimously agreed.

11. Provision of speed awareness scheme

Mickfield Parish Council had been in contact to confirm that they were still awaiting confirmation on their application to Suffolk County Council Highways to identify suitable sites for a mobile VAS on the approaches to Mickfield. It was agreed to defer any application to Highways from Wetheringsett until confirmation had been received from Mickfield that it was prepared to make a joint application for a VAS.

12. Proposed defibrillator in ex telephone kiosk, Church Street

Cllr Baker advised that refurbishment of the telephone kiosk should be deferred until the better weather in the spring. In the meantime investigations would take place to fund the scheme through the Community Hearbeat Trust and any fundraising that could take place locally. Cllr Ms Payne suggested running a cycling fundraising event to promote a healthy lifestyle and raise awareness of the scheme. The Chairman offered to put forward suggestions for an event for consideration at the next meeting.

13. Dog Fouling – Hockey Hill

Following confirmation from Suffolk CC Highways that there would be no objections to installing dog waste bins on the grass verge opposite Hockey Hill cul de sac or in the central area of the village in Church Street it was agreed to purchase two red dog waste bins up to a cost of £350. Mr S Easter to be asked to install the bins. Cllr Ms Payne to put forward suggestions for siting the bin in Church Street.

14. Play Area report – to consider action following ROSPA report

Following receipt of the recent ROSPA report and report from a parishioner regarding items of concern, it had been decided to temporarily close the play area. The items raised in the ROSPA report had been raised as low risk the main item of immediate concern being replacement of bark chippings and the wood edging around the large climbing frame. Cllrs Baker and Mrs Arnold had carried out an inspection of the play area and Cllr Baker had prepared a full action report – copy circulated to council members and copy attached to the Minutes. An estimate for the top up bark had been obtained totalling £349.59 exc vat. Cllr Baker recommended that this work was carried out immediately to enable the play area to be re-opened and the that other low risk items in the ROSPA report were dealt in an agreed timescale. Cllr Alston proposed acceptance of the estimate, seconded Cllr Ms Payne and agreed. In addition members agreed a cost up to £100 to cover the cost of minor works raised in the report and to obtain a padlock for the double gates which should remain locked at all times. Cllr Mrs Arnold to continue the weekly inspections.

15. Proposed footpath leaflet

Cllr Mrs Perry produced a sample leaflet provided by Suffolk CC Rights of Way. To print 2000 leaflets there would be a charge of £750 - £800 and Suffolk CC had offered to fund half of this cost, they retaining 1000 copies to distribute to hotels, tourist centres etc. The Parish Council would be at liberty to distribute the other 1000 in the village, through the Middy and for display in the Church porch. As

well as the Middy offer of £100 towards the cost a further £50 had been offered by a parishioner, leaving some £200 - £250 to be raised by the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Perry went through the proposed text for the leaflet. Members thanked Cllr Mrs Perry for all her work to date. Cllr Leadbetter proposed Cllr Mrs Perry proceed as above, second Cllr Baker and agreed.

16. Wetheringsett PCC request for additional cemetery maintenance

It was reported that the PCC was investigating ownership of the cemetery with the Diocesan Board although it was understood the land had been gifted to the parish for use as a cemetery in 1874 by the daughter of the Rev Robert Moore. It was also understood that the Parish Council had agreed to carry out maintenance in terms of grass cutting but this had not included liability for the trees. Pending further clarification as to ownership from the PCC the item was deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Mrs Aldred left the meeting

17. To agree Twitter items – none

18. Finance

1. To consider s.137 Policy document

An amended version of the document drafted by Cllr Ms Payne had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Alston proposed acceptance of the document, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and unanimously agreed.

2. To consider s.137 donation requests

Remembrance Sunday Poppy Wreaths – 3 wreaths were proposed (Wetheringsett War Memorial and Church and Mendlesham War Memorial) – wreaths £20 each.

Cllr Alston proposed the cost of £60, seconded Cllr Mrs Perry and agreed.

Cllr Mrs Arnold agreed to order the wreaths and would be attending and laying the wreath at Mendlesham.

Suffolk Accident Rescue – Cllr Baker proposed a donation of £50, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.

3. Accounts for Payment

Suffolk Accident Rescue	50.00
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Mr K Goudy (Royal British Legion)	60.00
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Clerk's sal/expen Oct 2015	249.92
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SS Operations (bus shelter repairs)	100.00
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Cllr Alston proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.

19. Clerk's report/correspondence

1. Suffolk Constabulary – notification of a Police Information evening to be held on 10

December, 7pm at Landmark House, Ipswich. Cllr Ms Payne suggested Cllr Miss Canham may be attending in her capacity as a PCSO.

2. SALC Area Meeting – notification of the change of date of the meeting to 24 November, 7pm at Eye Town Hall. Cllr Mrs Nickson offered to attend.

MSDC Parish Liaison Meeting, 5 November. Cllr Ms Payne attending.

Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan – details circulated. Deadline for comments 21.12.15. Members to make individual responses.

SALC AGM 12 November 7pm at Elmswell. Cllr Mrs Arnold stated that she would be attending.

20. Chairman's Urgent Business - none

21. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

1. Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations – Cllr Leadbetter requested this item was included on the next agenda.

2. Draft precept calculations – Cllrs Leadbetter and Anscombe to provide draft figures.

3. Town Lane overhanging hedge – the section between Moat Farm and Hoods was now overhanging the road – report to Suffolk CC Highways.

Meeting closed 10pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: