

WETHERINGSETT CUM BROCKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held 4 January 2016

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, M Baker, B Lacey, J Leadbetter and Mrs C Nickson

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs R Anscombe, T Alston, Miss J Canham, Ms S Payne and Mrs S Perry.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none
3. **To receive the following reports:**
 - Police – no report received
 - County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to minutes). Cllr Stringer also added he had funds available to assist with the Wetheringsett Footpath leaflet. Regarding Cllr Leadbetter's concerns raised over new procedures introduced following the death of a resident in a care home, Cllr Stringer was able to clarify that these were not to the detriment of relatives.
 - District Councillor – For the information of members, Cllr Horn explained that he did not drive and it was therefore sometimes difficult for him to attend more than one parish council meeting in an evening. Cllr Horn went on to report on District Council discussions of the review of the Gambling and Licensing laws and that the closing date for District Council locality budget applications was Friday 5 January. A sum of £5000 was available to be distributed throughout the seven ward parishes. Cllr Baker stated he would submit the debibrillator application before 5 January.
 - Footpaths – Cllr Mrs Aldred stated she had received photographs of the condition of the footpath from Joes Road to Pitmans Corner. This would be monitored. Footpath 19 -20 between Wetheringsett and Debenham was in need of reinstatement as was Footpath 26 between Pages Green and Roamwood in the vicinity of Old Hall. These would be reported to Suffolk CC Rights of Way team.
4. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments
5. **To approve Minutes of the meeting held 7 December 2015**
 - Subject to the following amendments:
 - Cllr Leadbetter had stated the main concern had related to Care Home officers having to lock the door of a deceased resident pending informing the authorities and that this was to the detriment of relatives of the deceased.
 - The date of the Village Fete was 2nd and not 4th July.
 - Following the above amendments, Cllr Leadbetter proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Baker and agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
7. **To consider planning applications for recommendations to MSDC**
 1. 4409/15 : The Hedgerow, Hockey Hill – erection of first floor extension over garage.
 - Cllr Mrs Aldred proposed support of the application, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.
 2. 1468/15 : Land to the east of Park Hall Cottages, Wetherup Stret – erection of 4 dwellings, garages and associated works to access. Appeal against refusal of planning permission (***Cllr Mrs A Arnold declared an interest and left the meeting room***)
 - Any additional comments from the Parish Council would need to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 13.1.16. Members confirmed their support of the application and the following comments were proposed by Cllr Mrs Aldred, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed in addition to those already submitted to MSDC in response to the original planning application:
 - The site in question is a brownfield site (formerly a coal yard used by coal delivery lorries using the access to the site). There are very few, if any other, brown field sites in Wetheringsett suitable for development. Our Parish Council members therefore believe this would be an ideal site for development. There would be no encroachment into the green*

belt.

Approval of the application would assist the Mid Suffolk District Council in meeting the Government's housing target.

A concern was raised regarding drainage at the site. All properties in Wetherup Street have their own septic drainage tanks. Should the development be approved there would be a requirement that the drainage system meets building regulations therefore ensuring that drainage requirements for the site and the neighbouring properties are met, resulting in an improvement to the drainage system.

All Highway access requirements will be met.

A village shop has recently opened at the newly opened garage on the A140.

Since the original application was submitted a new Development Management Team has been established at MSDC thereby improving access to planning requirements.

The MSDC refusal is not consistent with recent approvals for large works to properties in close proximity to the site.

(Cllr Mrs Arnold returned to the meeting room)

8. Planning Decisions received from MSDC – none received

9. Wetheringsett Village Hall report - Cllr Leadbetter reported a clearing out session had been held at the Hall with the School and Curtains Up now providing more available space for use.

10. Propose New Village Hall report – none

11. Provision of Speed Awareness Scheme

There had been no further news from Mickfield Parish Council with regard to a joint scheme. In the meantime an application would be made to County Cllr Andrew Stringer for a contribution from his Highway Locality Budget should the scheme go ahead.

12. Play Area Report

Cllr Baker reported that the No Dogs sign was broken and that Cllr Mrs Arnold would be asking Mr Shaun Easter to repair the sign. The play area ground was very wet due to the recent weather conditions. Cllr Mrs Arnold to monitor.

13. Wetheringsett Footpath leaflet – deferred to next meeting.

14. Wetheringsett PCC request for additional cemetery maintenance

Deferred pending PCC meeting on 19 January. Cllr Mrs Aldred to liaise with PCC.

15. Report on MSDC Community Emergency Planning meeting

Cllr Baker gave a brief report on the MSDC lead meeting at Stowupland held 13 November. The Plan would involve parishes drawing up a Risk Plan, would need to highlight where a parish was most at risk, detail co-ordination required with the main emergency services, identify a rest centre, vulnerable people, transport required and protection of properties.

Flood and chemical spillage on the A140 was identified as a risk in the Wethergsett area.

Cllr Baker offered to draw up a plan for Wetheringsett but this would need involvement from the community, village hall reps, fire service and NHS. Members thanked Cllr Baker for his report and for agreeing to take the plan forward. The next stage would involve forming a working group made up with volunteer members from the different areas of the community. Cllr Baker to keep the parish council informed of progress.

16. To agree Twitter items – none

17. Finance

1. Section 137 requests for consideration

A request for funding had been received from Suffolk Age UK. Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed a donation of £50, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and agreed.

2. Accounts for payment

Clerk's salary/expen December 2015 - £245.72

Suffolk Age UK – donation - £50.00

Cllr Leadbetter proposed payment of the above accounts, second Cllr Mrs Arnold and agreed.

3. To consider and agree parish precept 2016-17

There had been no further items raised since the proposal reported at the December meeting, Cllr Leadbetter therefore proposed a precept of £8170 representing an increase

of 1.55% on last year's precept, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and agreed.

4. Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Asset Register, Risk Assessment and Internal Controls – deferred to next meeting pending attendance of additional members.

18. Clerk's report/correspondence

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation until 22 February 2016. The review could have significant implications for the county and all members were encouraged to complete the survey within the time limit.

Suffolk Constabulary – review of services and match funded police community support officers. The Constabulary was working to bridging a funding gap of £20.5m by April 2020 resulting in a reduction of PCSO's. There was an opportunity to discuss the future of the service with the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner at a meeting on 6 January 2016.

Members were of the view that funding a PCSO at a cost of approx. £32,000 pa was not an option for Wetheringsett at present, even if this was shared with neighbouring parishes.

East Anglian Air Ambulance – letter of thanks for the Council's recent donation of £100.

19. Chairman's Urgent business – none

20. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Bucks Head, Thwaite - Cllr Mrs Arnold enquired whether members were aware of any changes proposed at the Bucks Head on the A140 since its closure last year. Members were not aware.

Community Action Suffolk newsletter – this item appeared to be available to the community via a website link. It was suggested that this should be made available to parishioners via the Wetheringsett website.

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: