

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 1 August 2022, 7pm at the Village Hall,
Wetheringsett.

Present: Cllrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs L Drury, Mrs H Green, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech, N Lingard and Mrs K Van Zyl. County and District Cllr A Stringer

1. Apologies for absence and to consider Consent to Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs E Cain and C Harvey. Members consented to both apologies.

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 queries were raised.

2. County Councillor - Cllr Stringer went through his written report (copy attached to the Minutes) .

It was reported another accident had occurred at the Town Lane/A140 junction. Despite damage to the Highway Sign, Highways had stated the Road Sign did not need to be replaced, members believed it was important the sign was reinstated to improve safety at the junction.

The report on Special Educational Needs was raised. Cllr Mrs Van Zyl stated there appeared to be no provision for children at the other end of the spectrum. Cllr Stringer suggested this was outlined to him in an email to enable him to look into it further with County Council Officers.

3. District Councillor - Cllr Stringer stated his report was in progress. The report would include review of the District Council's enforcement policy.

4. Footpaths - Cllr Mrs Aldred reported the following obstructions:

Footpath 47 – Station Road to Brockford Green, easterly section overgrown with brambles

Footpath 26 – 27 next The Laurels, overgrown near the footpath sign

Wetherup Street – footpath bridge was blocked

5. Trees - the MSDC offer of trees were for public areas only. A supply of trees would be available from the Woodland Trust later in the year.

6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments

4. To consider for approval Minutes of the parish council meeting held 4 July 2022

Cllr Lingard proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech – unanimously agreed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes for report – none.

6. Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC

1. DC/22/03533: Barns at Green Farm, Pages Green - Application under S.73 for Removal or Variation of Conditions following grant of DC/21/06866 dated 15/02/2022. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of 2no new residential units. Vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) and amended Phasing Plan to allow all existing buildings on site to be demolished (as they unsafe) without triggering the CIL liability for Plot 2. Adopt new phasing plan as per Drg. No. 21 155 - 03A.

A recommendation in support of the application was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

2. DC/22/03416: Industrial Building at Mendlesham Industrial Estate, Norwich Road – planning application for change of use from B2 with ancillary B8 use to mixed B2 and B8.

A recommendation of support was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

3. DC/22/03675: The Laurels, White Horse Corner – application under s.73 for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission DC/19/05102 dated 19.12.19. Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – to vary condition 2 (approved plans and documents) to enable amended design for pot 2 as per revised drawings.

A recommendation in support of the application was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

4. DC /22/03542: Rectory Cottage, Church Street – application for Listed Building Consent – internal alterations, repairs to floors, alterations to windows and installation of new doors (as detailed in Heritage Statement).

A recommendation in support of the application was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

5. DC/22/03554: All Saints Church, Church Street – notification of tree works in a Conservation Area – cut back branches of 2 Lime trees (T1 and T2) by 8 – 10ft. Cut back branches of Yew by

8 – 10ft.

A recommendation in support of the proposed tree works was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

7. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/22/01766 & Meadow Farm, Blacksmiths Green – application for Listed Building Consent – DC/22/01505: reconstruction of outbuilding and detached stores (following destruction of original by fire). Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission Granted.
2. DC/21/05114& Wetheringsett Manor, Church Street – application for Listed Building Consent – DC/21/05115; alterations and maintenance of walls forming the walled garden, re-construction of wall attached to Hall, alteration to section of unsafe wall adjacent the admin block and re-construction of outhouse. Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission Refused.
3. DC/22/02415: Plot 1, Primrose Place – land to east of Brockford Road
DC /22/02416: Plot 2, Meadow View – land to east of Brockford Road
DC/22/02420: Plot 3, Oak’s Meadow – land to east of Brockford Road
DC/22/02423: Plot 6, Woodview – land to east of Brockford Road
DC/22/02504: Plot 7, land to east of Brockford Road
Discharge of Conditions – Applications for Appeal – Condition 5 (Flood Evacuation Plan) Approved Conditions
Cllr Stringer explained that although the appeals were dismissed the Appeal Inspector Had given temporary planning permission for 3 years as MSDC did not have a gypsy and traveller allocation policy in place hence there was a need for a flood evacuation plan. The Joint Local Plan would require a call for sites for gypsy and traveller allocation sites .

8. Planning correspondence

Town Lane – Cllr Stringer reported there was an ongoing enforcement case and MSDC was discussing options with lawyers.

9. Report on Parish Council Loan approval application to the Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to fund replacement of Wetheringsett Village Hall floor

Approval for the Parish Council to go ahead with the loan of £16,867 from the Wetheringsett cum Brockford Church & Town Estate Charity had been received from DLUHC on 7 July 2022.

Cllr Mrs Leech proposed the Council accepted the terms of the loan as set out in the Levelling Up approval letter dated 7 July 2022, seconded Cllr Mrs Green and unanimously agreed.

1. To consider Loan Agreement between the Charity and Parish Council – a draft loan agreement setting out the terms of the loan, ie, annual payments, interest rate (2%), date of payments, default action had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Chair went through the document with members. Cllr Mrs Leech proposed acceptance of the document, seconded Cllr Lingard and agreed by members. The chair signed the agreement on behalf of the Council. The agreement would be forwarded to the Charity for approval and signature if agreed by the Trustees.
2. Receipt and payment of the loan monies for the work deferred to the next meeting.

10. Village Hall reports

1. Management Committee – Cllr Mrs Leech reported the energy costs for the Hall would increase dramatically from August and the committee were looking at a 2 year fixed contract as well as carrying out energy comparisons with 2019. The Fire Service inspection was up to date.
2. School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease – Cllrs Harvey and Mrs Cain were due to meet with the School Head to discuss a review of the School Licence including greater availability of the hall to the community during afternoons.

11. Wetheringsett Play Area Report

Cllr Lacey reported a branch had fallen on to the play area from the overhanging Ash tree. Cllr Alston would arrange for the branch to be removed.

Removal of the sleepers would be dealt with at the end of the school holiday as the play area would need to be closed for three weeks to deal with removal, of the sleepers, creating the slope and grassing it.

Replacement of the basket swing would be deferred until Cllr Lacey met with the Play Inspector due to carry out the annual inspection in the autumn

12. Grasscutting report

The play area had received three cuts to date and the cemetery one. Another cut and strim would be due in the cemetery before the end of the grasscutting season.

13. Report on Hockey Hill/Church Street surface water flooding – awaiting report from the school regarding

clearance of the under-drive drain and filling of the pothole at the entrance to the drive.

14. **VAS speed equipment report** – deferred.
15. **Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan** – all councillors were encouraged to respond to the community consultation due to close 5 August 2022.
16. **Parish Pond, Wetherup Street** – Cllr Lacey had obtained a sign and would arrange for it to be put up at the edge of the pond.
17. **Wetheringsett Village Sign** – report on repairs to the sign due to storm damage.
The repair work was now at the stage of repainting.
18. **Brockford Street** - to consider installation, cost and site for a Defibrillator
Following some discussion of providing an additional defibrillator at Brockford Street and use of the existing attached to the Village Hall. Members were of the view the existing defibrillator was near enough to Brockford Street for it to be used in that area – Cllr Mrs Leech reported the Village Hall defibrillator was inspected every fortnight and it had been used twice by paramedics. Cllr Alston proposed not to progress an additional defibrillator at Brockford St at the present time, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech, 8 in favour, 1 abstention – proposal carried.
19. **Finance**
 1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none received.
 2. Accounts for payment

Geosphere – Parish Online annual subscription	£84.00
SALC – internal audit fee 2021-22	£298.80
Clerk sal-expenses July 2022	£288.30

Cllr Alston proposed payment of the above, seconded Cllr Lingard – agreed.
 3. Finance report
 1. Online Pinstentry Banking system – deferred to next meeting.
 2. To consider Internal Audit Report 2021-22
The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Items raised by the Internal Auditor:
 - Cil report to be published showing sum retained
 - Pension responsibilities to be completed every three years
 - Notice of conclusion of audit to be published on website
 - Register of Members Interest on parish council website be linked to MSDC website (register of interest)
 - Consider using gov.uk email addresses for parish council work. Members agreed to leave email addresses as at present. Items 1 – 4 above to be actioned.
20. **To consider for adoption the following policy documents:**
 1. Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020
Members had viewed the revised Model Councillor Code of Conduct prior to the meeting. Cllr Mrs Leech proposed adoption of the Code, seconded Cllr Mrs Van Zyl and unanimously agreed.
 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**

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) – consultation into short term holiday lets re. changes and growth in the short-term letting market, benefits of short term lets, challenges and compliance, housing and community impacts particularly in coastal and rural areas – consultation closes 21 September 2022. It was requested this item be included on the next agenda to consider a parish council response.

Wetheringsett Footpath Map – Cllr Mrs Aldred would provide a further supply at the next meeting.
24. **Date of next meeting - Monday 5 September 2022, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett .**

Meeting closed 8.55pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – August 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

Full Council: Administration Rejects Motion for a Cost-of-Living Emergency

Full Council was on the 7th July. Our Group submitted a motion asking the Council to declare a cost-of-living emergency. With energy price caps set to rise in Autumn and the rising inflation, our Group is concerned that the Government and Suffolk County Council are not doing enough to prepare local communities for a tough winter.

Our motion called for this Government to cut VAT on insulation material to encourage uptake. The motion also called for Suffolk County Council to lead a Retrofit Taskforce in Suffolk, alongside District and Borough Councils, to help train and coordinate our local workforce in installing solar panels, air source heat pumps, and insulation.

The Conservatives rejected our motion, believing that this Government and the Council is currently doing enough to protect those most vulnerable. We questioned this position, knowing that more has to be done to reduce our demand for energy, and protect those in fuel poverty.

To view our motion in full, visit our website: <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/blog/>

Cabinet

The Cabinet met 26th July to discuss the safeguarding of adults and children, new guidance on street design, corporate parenting, and the response times of the Fire and Rescue service.

The pandemic has had a lasting effect on mental health and services in safeguarding and corporate parenting will need to evolve services in the future to be in line with the growing demand. New guidance for streets encourages developers to prioritise active travel, focussing on walking, cycling, public transport, ensuring disabled residents have greater accessibility.

In addition, the Fire Service is currently reviewing its response times to emergencies. The service has widened their approach on how they measure their times, breaking it down into separate measures from the initial call to the time the first engine arrives. A review into further investment in the service is currently ongoing.

Thermal Cameras for Net Zero

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is supporting local groups and parish councils to help identify homes which are losing heat. Loss of heat from a home contributes to high energy bills. With insulation, local residents will see their energy costs reduce.

Thermal imaging cameras are being used as part of the new proposal. These cameras help detect which homes are losing the most heat. The Partnership aims to loan out these cameras to parish councils and those who are interested.

Our Group strongly supports this. If you would like to register your interest in the project, complete the short form linked below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gSypak2ae8>

SCC Carers Strategy – Unpaid Carers Opinions Wanted

Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing are working towards a new All Age Carers Strategy, to help ensure carers get the support they need. There are estimated to be 98,000 unpaid carers in Suffolk. This strategy will be aimed at those who provide unpaid care, including young carers transitioning to adulthood.

A consultation on the draft strategy has been launched. Our Group encourages all carers to contribute their views and help make this strategy inclusive and purposeful. Deadline is 15th August. Details of the consultation can be found here:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/CarerStrategy

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