

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 10 January 2022, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, T Alston, Mrs C Estcourt, Mrs H Green, C Harvey, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech and M Pease. County and District Cllr A Stringer and five members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs A Arnold and Mrs L Drury.

2. Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda – none.

3. Reports

1. Police available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk>. No queries were raised.

2. County Councillor - Cllr Stringer's written report had been circulated prior to the meeting (copy attached to the Minutes). No queries were raised.

3. District Councillor – District Cllr Stringer's written report had been circulated prior to the meeting (copy attached to the Minutes). No queries were raised.

4. Footpaths - Cllr Mrs Aldred was pleased to report the handrail over the footbridge at footpath 5, Wetherup Street, had been fitted. The Chair reported the 'No Horses' sign had been replaced.

5. Trees – no report.

4. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

7.05pm - The Chair invited members of the public to raise any comments. Each parishioner would be allowed 3 minutes to address the meeting.

Clay Cottage – DC/21/03140 – change of use of domestic outbuilding to workshop:

1. A parishioner presented his objections to the planning application and read out the reasons as to why he believed the proposal was in the wrong place.

2. The applicant stated he would be willing to answer any questions relating to the application.

3. A second parishioner expressed her objections to the application – the impact of traffic on an unmade up road, use of the public footpath and bus stop by children, noise impact and low water pressure in the pipe owned by residents.

4. A member of the public in support of the application expressed concern that local residents had not consulted with the applicant as to his proposals for the change of use, that water pressure would not be an issue due to minimal use of water, there was already an existing hardstanding outside the workshop and the size of vehicles accessing the workshop would be no larger or heavier than those used by residents for supermarket deliveries – home deliveries having increased some 300% during the pandemic and now recorded at a 200% increase.

5. A parishioner queried the position should the applicant move. Cllr Stringer stated a condition could be imposed on any permission granted that the permission was personal to the applicant only.

The Chair thanked members of the public for their comments – meeting closed to the public 7.17pm

5. To consider for approval Minutes of the meeting held 6 December 2021

Cllr Mrs Aldred proposed approval of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Alston – unanimously agreed.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes for report - none.

7. Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC

1. DC/21/03140: Clay Cottage, Pitman's Corner, Wetheringsett – Re-consultation - change of use of domestic outbuilding to workshop (as amended by site location plan received 29/11/21). Reason for re-consultation: amended site location plan received 29/11/21, Noise Impact Assessment received 29/11/21. Suffolk Fire & Rescue report.

The Chair apologized to members for bringing the application before them again but a criticism had been received from a parishioner that the noise and fire reports appeared not to have been given full consideration by the Council. An extension for any further response had been granted by MSDC Planning.

Members believed all reports had been given their full consideration. A proposal that the Council reiterated its recommendation of approval of the application was proposed and seconded - 7 in favour, 2 abstentions - proposal carried.

2. DC/21/06866: Green Farm, Pages Green – demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of two new residential units within a two-phased scheme as alternative to original prior approval consent under DC/20/03990.

Councillors considered the application and noted there appeared to be encroachment into agricultural land. In addition the application was for two large properties, a change from the previous application for 4 smaller dwellings.

A recommendation of refusal was proposed and seconded on the grounds the proposal intruded into agricultural land and there was a preference for 4 smaller family type dwellings rather than 2 executive type properties – proposal unanimously agreed.

3. DC/21/06605: Land to rear of Ceva Logistics, Norwich Road, Mendlesham (in the parish of Wetheringsett) – erection of 3 warehouse units and external storage area (Use Class B8), new access from

Norwich Road, parking, associated drainage and landscaping.

Having considered the application a recommendation of refusal was proposed and seconded on the grounds although there was no objection to the proposed units, parish councillors objected to the creation of a further access onto the A140 when the existing single access was satisfactory – the proposal was unanimously agreed.

8. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/21/04191: Land south of Town Lane – extension of haulage yard (Class B8)(Retention of) – Planning Permission Granted
Cllr Stringer stated he had written to County Highways to ask why the County had not objected to the doubling of the haulage yard - as per their objection to the Operators Licence application in 2017 on the grounds Town Lane was not suitable for additional HGV use..
In addition there was a breach of the recent planning permission – the permission did not allow stacking on the extended area - it was currently stacked high with containers.
Cllr Stringer would report on these issues when responses had been received.
2. DC/21/05909: Park Green Cottage, Park Green – erection of 2 storey side/rear extension. Planning Permission Granted.
3. APP/W3520/W/21/3273542: Hill House, Norwich Road – erection of 2 dwellings. Appeal Dismissed.

9. Planning correspondence

APP/W3520/C/19/3238588 – Plot 4, Woodlands – land to east of Brockford Road. Appeal against enforcement notice 6/9/2019 – appeal application withdrawn.

Cllr Stringer reported the withdrawn application would now enable the Planning Inspector to make his decision relating to the other 7 plots.

Development next Brockford Garage – the current building work related to the permission granted in the first application for 9 dwellings. The second application did not make any changes to the dwellings granted along the A140 boundary currently being built. The second application was still to be decided.

There was a proposal that item 15 on the agenda was brought forward. Proposal carried.

15. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan report – including appointment of parish council NP representative

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting – no queries were raised.

The Chair would liaise with Cllrs Mrs Arnold and Mrs Drury as to whether one of them would consider representing the parish council on the working group.

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

1. Application progress report – the application was now ready to be sent on to SALC who would check the application and accompanying documents before forwarding it to the Levelling Up Dept.
2. Report on consultation with parishioners – the consultation document was read to the meeting. It would appear in the February 2022 edition of the parish magazine and would be available on the Parish Council website. Parishioners were encouraged to forward any comments to the Council.

11. Village Hall

1. Refurbishment and Management Committee report

Cllr Pease reported that he, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Andrew Stringer were due to meet shortly to build the framework for the stage. The final work on the new windows was due to be completed. Arrangements for storage of the PA equipment were to be finalised.

The rendering had been delayed due to the weather and painting the outside rendering would wait until the Spring.

The patio work was due to start during the next two weeks, again dependent upon weather conditions. The sanding of the hall floor was scheduled for 11 January 2022, sealing the floor 13 January 2022 and the recovery room would have two coats of sealing liquid.

The carpet for the stage would be fitted shortly and replacement of heaters chased with the electrician.

Quiz Evening – this had been postponed for time being due to covid.

Accounts and Banking – the current balance stood at £3,377.94. The only income at present was rent from the school, £650 per quarter. There were ongoing costs for water and electricity, plus the annual rent to the Diocese. Income would need to be generated when the hall re-opened if it was to remain sustainable. The current booking charges would remain until September this year, these were as follows:

£7.50 hourly rate

£25.00 for ½ day bookings (2 blocks of 4 hours i.e. 9.00am – 1.00pm or 2.00pm – 6.00pm)

£50.00 for full day bookings

£30.00 for evening bookings

£80.00 for a full day and evening

It was anticipated the hall would re-open to the school with effect from 17 January 2022.

3. Platinum Jubilee celebrations 2022

Arrangements were progressing well. The Jubilee Tea Party would be held Friday 3 June 2022 between 2pm – 5pm and would be a similar format to the very successful Village Hall Centenary party held last year.

The Village Hall Committee had agreed to allocate funds up to £500.00 for the celebrations but donations from other sources would be welcomed. A Day Licence would need to be obtained.

The Chair thanked Cllr Pease for his report and the committee and Platinum working group for all their work on behalf of the community.

12. **Play Area maintenance report following ROSPA inspection 2021**

Cllr Lacey reported he had been in contact with Play Equipment Supplier regarding the basket swing and framework. The wooden frame was acceptable, the issue with the basket swing was yet to be resolved with the company.

13. **Grasscutting report** – cemetery and play area

It was agreed that any further strimming should be left until the spring.

14. **VAS speed equipment including Brockford Street and Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera Project (ANPR) report**

Cllr Harvey reported a new battery was required for the equipment, he would obtain this.

15. **Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan report** including parish council NP representative (**see above**)

16. **Parish Pond, Wetherup Street** – to consider provision of Pond Sign. The chairman would obtain the cost of one sign for consideration.

17. **Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests - none received.

2. Accounts for payment

T R Moseley Builders – VH Patio – concrete area (1st instalment) £4560.00

Clerk sal-expen Dec 2021 £281.40

T R Moseley Builders – VH patio – concrete area (2nd instalment) £4560.00

Cllr Pease proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Mrs Estcourt – unanimously agreed.

3. Finance report including completion of Parish Precept request form 2022/23

The precept for 2022-23 having been agreed at the December 2021 meeting, the Parish Precept Request form was completed and signed requesting a precept upon the charging authority, MSDC, for the said sum, £9830.00

18. **To review and consider for adoption the following policy document:**

1. GDPR – Data Breach. The document had been circulated prior to the meeting. No queries were raised.

Cllr Alston proposed adoption of the document, seconded Cllr Harvey and unanimously agreed.

19. **Clerk's report/correspondence** – none.

20. **Chair's Report**

The Chairman reported she had written an item regarding the loan application for parishioners information and confirmed it would appear in the February edition of the Parish Magazine.

21. **Any other business for information exchange/future agenda requests**

It was reported the police address in the parish magazine was incorrect, it should be an Eye address and not Stowmarket. Cllr Pease would arrange the correction.

23. **Date of next meeting - Monday 7 February 2022, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett**

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Cllr A Stringer – January 2022 report to Parish Council

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

Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: www.sneevaccine.org.uk

Cabinet Meeting

The Cabinet met on the 7th December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways. The Cabinet also voted to approve Suffolk County Council's new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk.

Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included the progress of improving the service. This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report. Our Group brought up issues of a lack of opportunity to represent our ideas, we have asked for a wider pool of representatives.

Significant Investment in Firefighting Equipment

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit – cementing the service's commitment to protecting its staff and Suffolk residents. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every crew in the county. This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it's important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/significant-investment-in-firefighting-equipment-secures-safer-future-for-suffolk>

Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination

Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public. The original campaign was for those who were strictly eligible, but the Council has opened up the offer to anyone who needs it, in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination.

For a list of the taxi companies who have signed up to the scheme, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/GetVaccinated - or for further information, go to <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/>

'Support Social Care' Campaign

A new campaign was released in December aimed to help the public understand more about the Social Care sector in Suffolk. The campaign wants to celebrate the care professionals, and asks the public for a little patience and flexibility whilst the Council navigates through another tough winter. Every day, Suffolk receives on average 550 calls from people on adult social care, and on Christmas there will be around 1,200 care home staff working to ensure Residential and Nursing Homes have a good Christmas.

You can support for Social Care on social media by using the hashtag #SupportSocialCare, or by offering to collect a neighbour-in-need's prescription, or simply paying them a visit.

Follow us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

District Councillor Parish Council Report January 2022

Free bus/taxi travel for vaccinations	There is a Suffolk wide scheme for people who need to travel to get a COVID vaccination to get free transport either by bus or taxi. Details can be found here https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations-in-suffolk/
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Solar car port	Works to install 70 solar carports at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket have now begun. The scheme form part of a £2.8m investment in solar at the councils leisure centres; with £1.4m in funding for the solar carports pilot, and a further £1.4m in funding to install solar panels and other energy saving measures on the leisure centre buildings.
Waste collections	Due to the numerous bank holidays over the Christmas and New Year period, waste and recycling bin collection days will not resume to their normal days until 24 th January. Brown bin collection will return to normal from 10 th January. If you have a real Christmas tree, it can be left for collection by your brown bin during January. If you are not a brown bin subscriber there is a Christmas tree collection points at the The Black Horse Thorndon, or Mendlesham Community Centre. More details can be found at https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services/collection-days/christmas-collections/#CollectionPoints
Innovate Local	A pilot scheme to support small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been hailed a success as it reaches its six-month milestone. Since its launch in July 2021, the Innovate Local initiative has supported 11 small businesses by providing a free pitch at either Stowmarket or Hadleigh markets for up to four weeks. The Innovate Local scheme is open to businesses that have been operating for less than a year and do not currently have a place on a market. As part of this project, MSDC will also be opening an innovation hub in Eye later this year.
Town lane	The planning application DC 21/04191 Town Lane Wetheringsett, has been approved, the highways response was that they felt the road could accommodate the potential extra hgv movements, I have sent them a copy of a letter regarding the issue from the existing yard working at full capacity, and asked them to make comment on why they have changed their minds, and if they have found the £750,000.00 it would cost to upgrade town lane to accept any extra traffic generated. We still await the outcome of the lawful development claim fort he container stack.
Copdock A14/A12 Interchange	Babergh and Mid Suffolk have sent a joint response to National Highways' consultation on improvements to the Copdock Interchange. The Councils are supporting the idea of a new link road for traffic going north-south on A12 bypass the roundabout, despite the fact that this will cause much environmental damage and will be less of an improvement for traffic heading from A12 toward Bury on A14.
New Council homes in Needham Market	Part of the housing development on the former MSDC Council Office site in Needham Market has been completed. 8 new affordable homes were ready for families to move in at the beginning of December. This development of housing is being built by MSDC in partnership with Norse Group.

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