

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 2 September 2019, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, T Alston, Mrs E Cain (vice chairman), Mrs S Gibbs, Mrs H Green, B Lacey and M Pease. County and District Cllr A Stringer and four members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs A Arnold and C Harvey. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs Cain, chaired the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **To receive the following reports:**
 - Police – available online at [Constable's County Newsletter](#) No queries were raised.
 - County Council – Cllr Stringer presented his report – copy attached to the Minutes. Cllr Stringer added any parishioners with queries regarding school transport arrangements should contact him direct.
 - District Council - Cllr Stringer reported on planning application DC/19/02386: 1 Knaves Green for the erection of 1 dwelling on adjoining garden land. The application had been refused as recommended by the parish council.
 - Footpaths – Cllr Mrs Cain reported the following in need of maintenance:
 - Footpath 6 Brockford Street – the footpath sign was rotten and had fallen over
 - Footpath 2 Brockford Street – access from the A140 was obstructed due to overgrown vegetation
4. **Minutes of the meeting held 5 August 2019** – Cllr Pease proposed approval of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Green and agreed.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments.
7. **To consider co-options to the council to fill two vacancies**

Three parishioners were in attendance at the meeting having previously expressed an interest in joining the council: Mr David Brown, Mrs Claire Estcourt and Mr Graham Jones.

Each parishioner gave a brief presentation about themselves and their interests in the village. Claire had lived in the village for the last 5 years and was now keen to put something back into the Community; David had lived in the village for 20 years and had taught at local high schools. Having recently retired he now wanted to be more involved in the village; Graham was retired, had lived in the village for 4 years and was now involved with various local charities.

Questions to the applicants included their availability to attend meetings on a regular basis. Graham stated his work with local charities could prevent him attending some meetings. Cllr Alston stated all were very good candidates, there were however only two vacancies but there were other opportunities that related back to parish council work, ie the proposed neighbourhood plan and village hall refurbishment, these groups were keen to recruit parishioners to help with both projects as well as the Town & Estate Charity currently looking to recruit further trustees. Members agreed to vote via a paper vote.

The Chairman asked members to put forward their named candidate to fill the first vacancy:
5 in favour of Mrs Claire Estcourt.

The Chairman declared Claire was co-opted to fill the first vacancy.

The Chairman asked members to put forward their named candidate to fill the second vacancy:
5 in favour of Mr David Brown.

The Chairman declared David was co-opted to fill the second vacancy.

Cllr Alston proposed acceptance of the co-options, seconded Cllr Mrs Green and unanimously agreed. The Chairman thanked all candidates for putting themselves forward and reiterated other village organisations were very keen to recruit new members.

The newly co-opted members signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and joined the meeting.

Cllr Mrs Aldred arrived at the meeting
8. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/19/03673: 1 Turnpike Cottages, Norwich Road – erection of garage. A recommendation of approval was proposed, seconded and agreed.
 2. DC/19/03472: Moat Farm, Wetherup Street – renovation and extension of outbuilding to create annexe, creation of new window openings, insertion of rooflight and erection 2 bay cartlodge to west boundary. A recommendation of approval was proposed seconded and agreed.
9. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**

1. DC/19/03424: The Hawthorns, Hockey Hill – non-material amendment to DC/18/04170, minor increase in overall dimensions of proposed annexe. Approved by MSDC
2. DC/19/03407: Telephone Box, Church Street – discharge of conditions DC/19/00054 condition 3, glazing. Approved by MSDC Heritage officer.
10. **Planning Correspondence** – none.
11. **To consider Parish Council response to the Babergh/MSDC Joint Local Plan Consultation document**
Members believed the document represented a satisfactory planning proposal for Wetheringsett and its Hamlets but agreed comments should be forwarded to the MSDC consultation team that there appeared to be no supportive infrastructure proposals for any further commercial development at Town Lane.
12. **Wetheringsett Village Hall report**
A written report from Mr John Leadbetter stated the current balance on the account stood at £969.90. The latest water bill had been paid mid-August for the half year. Upcoming events included the Quiz Night on 7 September, Murder Mystery by Curtains Up on the 5 October and the Harvest Supper on 12 October. Cllr Mrs Gibbs reported handover of the administration of the hall was in progress and she hoped to give a full report at the next meeting.
13. **Use and maintenance of current hall – medium term plan for village hall** – deferred to next meeting.
14. **VAS speed awareness report**
The VAS equipment was still at Brockford Street due to the A14 diversion.
15. **Play Area report** – Cllr Lacey stated the minor maintenance work had still to be completed.
16. **Cemetery and Play Area grass cutting**
Cllr Lacey reported the contractor had been asked to trim around the memorial stones and boundaries for the third session and the final fourth session would be a full grasscutting of the whole cemetery. Cllr Alston reported the graveyard grass had been cut but the river between the church and the road was overgrown and it was understood this was the responsibility of riparian owners. Highways to be asked to cut back on the road side. Cllr Mrs Aldred would speak to the PCC regarding the church side of the river.
17. **Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Report** – Cllr Mrs Green reported a working group meeting would be held during September.
18. **Wetheringsett Cycle Route**
The opening date for the route would be either the 3 or 9 November, as yet to be confirmed. The next installment due to the stained glass artist, totalling £1,000, was approved.
19. **To consider support for installation of concrete kerb edging – Brockford Street/Nursery Gardens**
This was a highway issue and if approved would involve funding by Suffolk CC Highways. County Cllr Stringer would inspect and discuss with Highways and the parishioner.
20. **Finance**
 1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none.
 2. Accounts for payment

G Murray – Village Survey (neighbourhood plan) expense £35 x 3 months	£105.00
MSDC – waste and dog bin emptying 1.4.18 – 31.3.19	£162.00
R Mitchell, stained glass artist – cycle loop second installment	£1,000.00
Clerk sal/expen August '19	£280.10
S Payne – cycle loop kiosk planning map	£7.00

Cllr Alston proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and agreed.
 3. Finance report
The bank mandate for change of signatories had still to be completed.
21. **Clerk's report/correspondence**
SALC – notification of area north meeting, 5 September, 7pm at Claydon.
22. **Chairman's urgent business** – none.
23. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests**
New Councillors – Attendance at a SALC new councillors course was suggested for new parish councillors. details and cost to be obtained for consideration at the next meeting.
Village Hall Funding – Stonham Aspoll had managed to raise a large amount of funding for refurbishment of their village hall. Contact had been made with the fundraising committee for advice on obtaining funding for Wetheringsett.
Trees – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported she would be attending a tree warden seminar at Reedham during October.

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: