

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held 3 September 2018

Present: Cllrs Mrs C Nickson (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs E Cain, Miss J Canham and B Lacey. County Cllr A Stringer

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs R Anscombe, J Leadbetter, Ms S Payne and District Cllr Horn.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **Town Lane Haulage site**
A new contractor was now based at the site. There were more lorries but these appeared to be parked.
4. **To receive the following reports:**
Police – monthly report available online. No questions were raised.
County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). Questions raised included the lengthy diversions during road repairs. Cllr Stringer stated these were due to Health & Safety requirements following a fatal accident as a result of maintenance work some 2 years ago. Use of the VAS machine on the A140 at Brockford Street was queried. Cllr Stringer offered to speak to Highways to find out whether this was permissible.
5. **Minutes of the meeting held**
Cllr Alston proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.
Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held Thursday 23 August 2018 were agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
7. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – No comments.
8. **To consider Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/18/03873 : The Old Forge, Mendlesham Road - listed building consent for works to kitchen as described in the Schedule of Works. Cllr Mrs Cain proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.
 2. DC/18/003757 : Bridge Cottage, Church Street – notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area. Fell 6 Lawson Cypress trees. Cllr Alston proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Miss Canham and agreed.
9. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC** – none.
10. **Planning Correspondence**
Planning Enforcement at MSDC were investigating the further work on fields along Mendlesham/Brockford Road where new accesses had been created. The owners had been informed planning applications would be required for any change of use and it was understood these were to be submitted to MSDC shortly.
11. **To consider a Neighbourhood Plan for Wetheringsett**
Parish Council members had attended a presentation by Planning Direct on 23 August 2018 setting out the process for preparation of a plan. This could take on average 2 – 3 years to prepare as the process involved consultation with all households in the village on proposals to be incorporated in the plan, ie community facilities, business units/development, industrial development, conservation area and historic reports, highways, green spaces, housing needs etc as well as identifying suitable sites for development.
A Government grant up to £9000 would be available to assist with the plan and a working group to include volunteer residents as well as parish councillors would need to be set up.
Neighbourhood Direct could assist with the plan. They would need to assess their costs but it was probable these would be covered by grant monies available.
Members debated whether a plan for a village the size of Wetheringsett was necessary against the view that a neighbourhood plan would considerably increase any Cil payments eligible to the village – a comparison based on 3 new homes would give a Cil payment of £4,500 without a plan and £7,500 with a plan or based on a larger development with a Cil contribution of £100,000, a neighbourhood plan would entitle a payment of £25,000 as opposed to £15,000 without a plan. Following further discussion a decision whether to explore to the next stage was put to a vote: 5 in favour, 2 against. It was agreed Planning Direct were informed the parish council was interested in principle in progressing a plan but asked initially for the following information:
 - Other villages of a similar size Planning Direct had worked with
 - Would the £9,000 grant cover Planning Direct costs

- Should the Council decide to discontinue the plan part way through would the grant monies need to be refunded.
- Approximate size of the admin involved.

12. **Wetheringsett Village Hall report update**

Following the extraordinary meeting held 23 August 2018, the Chairman had obtained a quotation for a full structural survey from Chick & Co as opposed to the previously quoted sight structural survey. The cost of the full structural survey had been quoted at £2,500, would take approximately 3 hours and require the presence of the parish council's own contractor or Chick & Co could provide their own. A full specification of work would be reported. One member suggested the main items for repair were known, the £2500 would be better spent on the work itself. The Chairman put to members whether to proceed with the full structural survey to properly gauge the work required: 4 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention. The Chairman agreed to instruct Chick & Co to carry out the survey as quoted at £2,500 using the parish council's own contractor.

13. **Proposed new Village Hall report** – deferred.

14. **VAS speed awareness report**

Cllr Harvey reported he had been approached by Stoke Ash asking whether they could borrow the VAS machine to measure traffic travelling through the village at speed. This would need to be subject to clarifying the equipment would be covered by insurance in another village and that a nominal fee of £100 was paid by Stoke Ash to cover any insurance excess should the equipment be damaged. 5 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention. Cllr Harvey to report back to Stoke Ash.

15. **Play Area report**

Cllr Lacey reported the treatment of the wooden fencing and picnic table and benches was pending. Some trees and hedge were overhanging part of the play area. Cllr Lacey had obtained a quotation totalling £300 to prune back and chip, chippings to be placed under the climbing frame. Members agreed the quotation.

Following the quotation from Kompan of £899 to install new panels at the top of the climbing slide, it was agreed Cllr Lacey order the panels only (no charge) and he would arrange for them to be fitted correctly locally. Pending fitting the new panels the slide could be used. The wood surrounding the slide base would need to be replaced eventually.

16. **Cemetery and Play Area grass cutting**

Cllr Lacey would arrange for another cut of the cemetery at the end of September and the play area during the next week.

17. **Royal British Legion World War 1 100th Anniversary Ceremony 11am 8 November 2018 at All Saints Churchyard – nominate parish council representative and purchase of 2 poppy Wreaths**

The Chairman stated she was unfortunately unable to attend that day. It was agreed Cllr Leadbetter was asked whether he would attend on behalf of the council. The ceremony had been organized by the local branch of the Royal British Legion with involvement from the primary school. There being two War Graves in Wetheringsett Churchyard the parish council had been asked to fund the cost of 2 poppy wreaths at £18.50 each. Agreed.

18. **Proposed Wetheringsett circular cycle route** – deferred.

19. **To consider action regarding speeding through Brockford Street**

Cllr Mrs Cain raised concerns over the speed of vehicles travelling through the 30mph speed limit and suggested this should be drawn to the attention of the local police. Cllr Miss Canham offered to alert the Roads Policing Unit to the concerns. Cllr Stringer was looking into whether the VAS equipment could be used on the main A140.

20. **Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

Poppy Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday Services on 11 November 2018 at the Wetheringsett Memorial and the 34th Bomb Group Memorial, Mendlesham. The purchase of two wreaths was agreed, Cllr Mrs Arnold to order from the usual source.

2. Accounts for payment

MSDC – Town Lane road signs:	£286.96
Clerk's sal-expen Aug 2018:	£313.44

Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Alston and agreed.

3. Finance report – deferred to next meeting.

21. **To consider review of Standing Orders** – deferred.

22. **GDPR update** – deferred pending councillors report

23. **To consider modernising the Parish Council**

The chairman stated she wished to raise this due to the length of recent parish council meetings and asked for any suggestions from members as to how the council could work in a more efficient way. It was important where possible reports were circulated and read by members prior to meetings and planning applications viewed on the MSDC website prior to meetings. Reports such as VAS, play areas, footpaths and village hall could also possibly be sent in advance. The chairman asked members to give the suggestion some thought.

24. **Clerk's report/correspondence**

Attendance at Remembrance Services Sunday 11 November – Wetheringsett and 34th Bomb Group

Cllr Mrs Aldred offered to attend the service and lay the wreath at the Wetheringsett Memorial.

Cllr Mrs Arnold to attend the 34th Bomb Group service at Mendlesham and would lay the wreath on behalf Wetheringsett PC.

Community Action Suffolk – Village Halls and Community Buildings Conference – 7 November at Stratford St Andrew. Details circulated. It was suggested 2 representatives considered attending.

25. **Chairman's Urgent Business** – none.

26. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests**

Cllr Harvey reported a meeting would be held on 13 September, 7.30pm at the VH to discuss next year's Village Fete. Raffle Ticket Licence had been renewed.

27. **Date of next meeting – Monday 1 October 2018, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed: 9.20pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: