

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 3 October 2022, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chair), Mrs A Arnold, C Harvey, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech, N Lingard, Mrs K Van Zyl
County and District Cllr A Stringer and two members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence and to consider consent to apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, Mrs L Drury and Mrs H Green

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 presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). The recently appointed local Highways Officer was available for contact regarding smaller local issues.

3. District Councillor - District Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). Cllr Stringer stated he was already aware of parishioner financial concerns throughout the district over the coming winter and stated if there were any particular concerns that could not be dealt with at parish level, he urged councillors to put any parishioners directly in contact with him.

4. Footpaths – Footpath 52, Public Rights of Way had confirmed the metal posts had been removed.

Footpath 6, Griffin Lane – a broken branch from a tree on the adjoining development site was obstructing the footpath and would be reported to PROW via the Suffolk CC reporting tool.

5. Trees - on behalf of Cllr Mrs Aldred it was reported an order had been placed for two packs of young trees.

6. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Clay Cottage, Pitman's Corner planning application – the applicants stated they would be happy to answer any queries relating to their planning application DC/22/04710. A councillor stated she believed the extension had been sensibly designed. The Chair thanked the applicants for attending

4. To consider for approval Minutes of the parish council meeting held 5 September 2022

The Chair proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Van Zyl and unanimously agreed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes for report - none

6. Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC

1. DC/22/04668: Rectory Cottage, Church Street – application for Listed Building Consent – construction of porches to north, south and west elevations, installation of rear doors to replace existing window, removal of part of existing interior kitchen wall, removal of existing external render and replace with lime render. Rendering of existing brickwork. A recommendation in support of the proposed works was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

2. DC/22/04448: White Thorn, White Horse Corner – application for Outline Planning Permission (access points to be considered, appearance, layout, landscaping and scaling reserved). Erection of one detached single storey dwelling (following removal of existing structure). A recommendation in support, subject to any dwelling being a small single storey property with no subsequent amendments at full planning application stage, was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

3. DC/22/04586: Annexe at Hoods, Town Lane – installation of 27 photovoltaic solar panels to roof of detached annexe and installation of associated equipment. A recommendation in support of the application was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

4. DC/22/04710: Clay Cottage, Pitman's Corner – erection of a part two storey/part single storey side Extension. As stated above, Cllr Mrs Arnold believed the proposed extension had been very sensibly designed. A recommendation in support of the application was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

7. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/21/03976: The Acorns, Nursery Gardens – erection of one dwelling and cartlodge on excess garden APP/32874 amenity land. **Appeal Dismissed.**

2. DC/22/ 02805: Wetheringsett Manor, Church Street – discharge of condition 3 relating to DC/19/01753 (windows). **Approved.**

3. DC/22/03533: Barns at Green Farm, Pages Green – removal/variation of condition relating to

DC/21/06866 – new phasing plan. **Approved.**

4. DC/22/03542: Rectory Cottage, Church Street – internal alterations, repairs to floors, alterations to windows and installation of new doors. **Listed Building Consent Granted.**
5. DC/22/03445: Green Farm, Pages Green – discharge of condition DC/21/06866 – land contamination. **Part approved.**

8. Planning correspondence – none received.

9. Report on Parish Council loan from the Wetheringsett cum Brockford Church & Town Estate Charity – to confirm completion of loan arrangements – deferred to next meeting.

10. Village Hall reports

1. Management Committee – Cllr Harvey reported a number of events had been planned for the winter months including an Open Mike Evening 18 November next and the Middy was considering moving its bar to the Village Hall during the winter months with any profits going to the Village Hall. The Committee was in contact with the School regarding the increased electricity costs. It was reported a clip was missing from one of the windows causing some difficulty when opening it. The committee would look into obtaining a replacement clip. Repair of the outside light was being dealt with and an application would be made for funding from the District Council Locality Budget for Stage lighting.
2. School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease - The Chair hoped to progress these with the Diocesan Board and School shortly.

11. Wetheringsett Play Area Report

Cllr Lacey was pleased to report the sleepers had been removed. They were very rotten and the work had been completed in one day. The slope will be seeded with grass and cordoned off for 2/3 weeks to allow the seed to germinate. Further work carried out included:

Tightening the metal work on the basket swing and the contractor had been asked to cut back brambles growing through the fence.

The steps on the climbing frame would need to be replaced. Cllr Lacey would place an order with the play equipment company.

Cllr Mrs Van Zyl stated she had attempted to clean the equipment as reported at the last meeting but there had been some difficulty obtaining access. She hoped to carry this out in the next month. It was suggested the Council considered purchasing a cordless pressure cleaner, this would be helpful in keeping the equipment clean.

There had been no news as yet as to when the annual inspection would be carried out.

12. **Grasscutting report** including report on overgrown area in the cemetery from visitor tending a grave
Cllr Lacey reported a final cut and strim would be carried out during the next month including a strim of the older graves as reported in the concern raised by a visitor to the cemetery.
13. **Report on drain clearance and large pothole at School drive entrance** – The Chair would request a progress report from the school.
14. **VAS speed equipment report** – no report.
15. **Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan** – working group report
It was reported the Working Group was going through the consultation comments. It was hoped an analysis of these would be available for the November parish council meeting.
16. **Parish Pond, Wetherup Street** – report on installation of Deep Water Pond Sign
Cllr Lacey stated the sign would be installed when the ground had softened.
17. **Wetheringsett Village Sign** – report on repairs to the sign due to storm damage February 2022 – no report available
18. **Parish Council Insurance** – report, review and adoption of insurance cover and premium following Community Action Suffolk change of Insurance provider
The insurance renewal documents had been circulated to councillors for review prior to the meeting. The new policy was agreed with a three-year fixed premium of £557.93 this would be subject to the VAS equipment being moved no less than monthly, £250,000 libel and slander cover and £10m public liability cover.
Cllr Harvey proposed acceptance of the cover as outline in the insurance documents, seconded Cllr Lingard and unanimously agreed.
19. **Finance**
 1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none received.
 2. Accounts for payment

Information Commissioner – Data Protection renewal fee	£40.00
Clerk – sal/expen Sept 22	£285.78
Suffolk Accident Rescue – donation (agreed Sept 22)	£100.00
Community Action Suffolk – PC insurance	£557.93

The Chair proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Lingard and unanimously agreed.

3. Finance report

There had been no response as yet from Barclays Bank regarding the Parish Council request to close the Business Premium Account and transfer of funds to the Community Account.

20. **To consider for adoption the following policy document:**

The following policy documents 2022-23 had been circulated to councillors for review prior to the meeting.

1. Risk Assessment
2. Asset Register

Councillors agreed the documents covered the Parish Council’s requirements and assets were up to date. The Chair proposed adoption of the documents at 1 and 2 above, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold – unanimously agreed.

21. **Clerk’s report/correspondence** – none.

22. **Chair’s Report** - none

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

RBL Remembrance Sunday 13 November 2022 -Cllr Mrs Arnold reported she would order two Parish Council Wreaths, one for the Wetheringsett Memorial Service and the other for the USAAF Memorial Service at Mendlesham. Cllr Mrs Arnold stated she would be happy to attend the Memorial Service at Mendlesham to lay the Wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Arnold was thanked for her offer. The Chair would ask Cllr Mrs Aldred whether she would be prepared to lay the Wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Wetheringsett Memorial Service.

Little Stonham Magpie Sign – the Chair reported the landmark Grade II listed sign had been damaged by a passing lorry in July this year resulting in removal of the sign. Stonham Parish Council and its parishioners want to reinstate the sign, it was one of a handful of villages with such a landmark sign. It was anticipated the cost would run into some thousands and to assist with the cost Stonham Parish Council had set up a Just Giving fund. As a near neighbouring village and as a gesture of goodwill the Chair asked councillors to consider a Wetheringsett PC donation, possibly in the region of £100, to the fund. Item to be included on the next agenda for consideration and decision.

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

Meeting closed: 9pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – October 2022

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Queen Elizabeth II

Following the sad loss of the Queen, in my role as a County Councillor, I attended the Proclamation in Eye, and the service if thanksgiving at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

Road Safety Improvements

We have a new officer framework in dealing with progressing our local highways issues that are not part of the Highways management operational plan, The issues the officer will be working on are for instance, the items from my Local Highways Budget. Our local officer is Josh White.

EV Charging – Expression of Interests!

SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned car parks, where charging can be accessed 24/7.

If you wish to express interest and make the Council aware of your area, please contact Peter Frost, Environment Strategy Officer - peter.frost2@suffolk.gov.uk

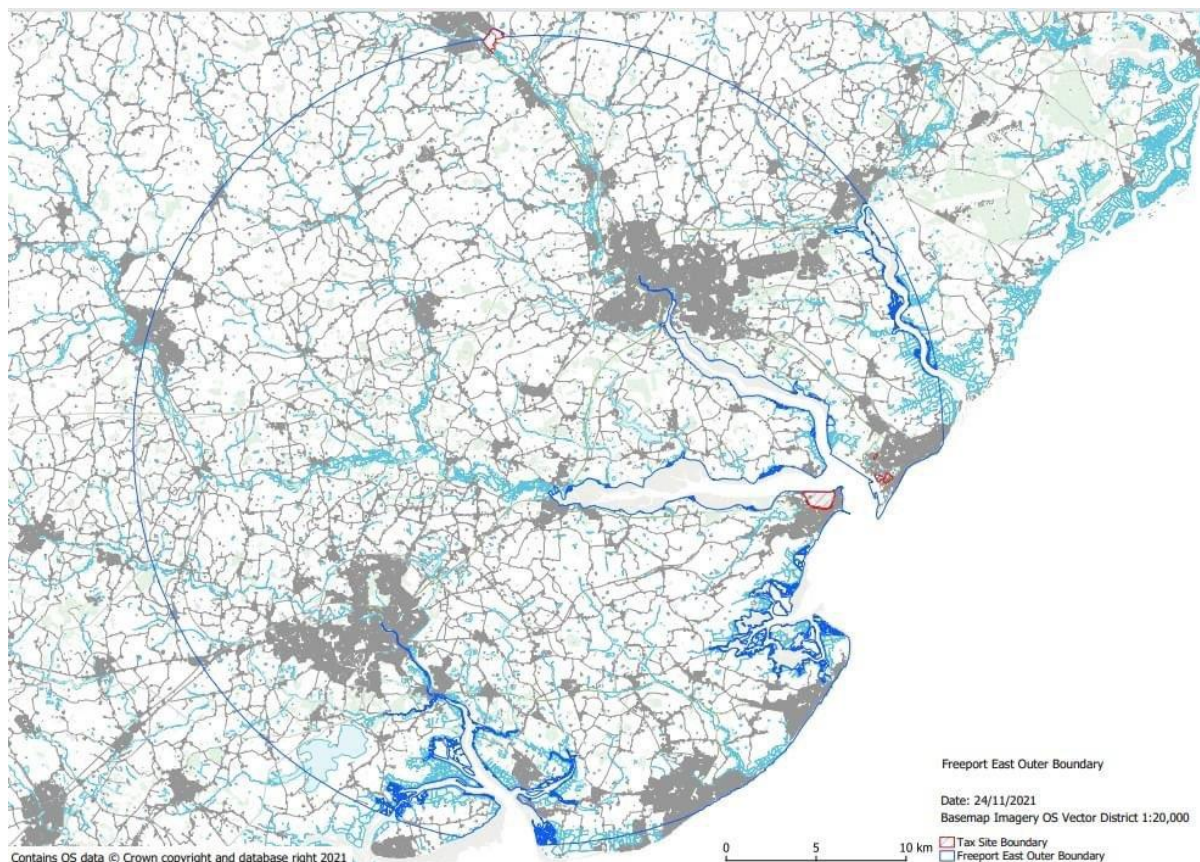
Suffolk in talks to become investment zone

Suffolk County Council has let it be known that it has agreed to start discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the PM's new growth and investment strategy.

Our political group has gone on record in the media that we are opposed to the idea since the Government says it wants to remove environmental controls and planning controls within these zones. Since the council began talks, the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts, including Suffolk Wildlife Trust have all described the plans, announced in Kwasi Kwarteng's mini budget, as "an attack on nature".

It is not yet clear which parts of Suffolk the council wants to be in the zone. The current Freeport East Zone, (investment zones are designed to replace Freeport zones) extends from the coast 50 miles inland to Sudbury and includes almost all villages in Mid Suffolk.

With advisors for the government clearly stating built development is not being able to be carried out quickly enough, and that the current planning system is holding back development, we await to see what planning rules will be changed or abolished.



District Councillor Report: Mendlesham Ward

Cllr Andrew Stringer 07774 199061

<p>Mid Suffolk Proposes New parking strategy</p>	<p>A new Parking Strategy has been agreed for Mid Suffolk, this strategy seeks to set out the car park charging regime in the car parks owned by Mid Suffolk, and sets out how we maintain them, one area it is relatively silent on is how charging effects the amount of business in our towns, especially when some local towns (Diss) have free parking available.</p>
<p>See the light</p>	<p>Photovoltaic panels are now among the cheapest ways of generating electricity, with current government policy encouraging its use on lesser quality agricultural land, and rocketing prices for wholesale energy, the pressure to build out grid scale solar is relentless, however recent applications have seen significant resistance from host communities with the most recent application for 4 acres of grade 3c land in Rickinghall refused, with many councillors stating that they wanted solar panels to be installed on new buildings rather than agricultural land.</p> <p>A recent planning application for 3 commercial warehouses in Wetheringsett with a roof space of almost 3 acres was approved, with plans showing not one square metre of Solar Panels in the whole project.</p> <p>These cases outline the challenges of a slow moving policy framework in a fast moving energy transition.</p>
<p>Electric Bus work party meets</p>	<p>A new group of councillors has been set up to oversee the procurement of two electric buses Mid Suffolk agreed in our last budget, The group has now met, and agreed the demand responsive model using an existing service provider is the best way forward to roll out of these buses. We have asked if this could progress as soon as possible.</p>