

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held 3 December 2018, 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Wetheringsett

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, Mrs L Cain, C Harvey, B Lacey, J Leadbetter, Mrs C Nickson (Chairman), Ms S Payne, County Cllr A Stringer, District Cllr G Horn and three members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs T Alston, R Anscombe and Miss J Canham.

2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**

Item 7.1 – Cllr Mrs A Arnold

3. **To receive the following reports:**

Police – report available online.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer went through his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). Items raised included the recent excessive speeds recorded by the VAS equipment on the A140 at Brockford Street. The data report had been forwarded to County Cllr Stringer and District Cllr Horn for guidance. Cllr Stringer offered to draft a letter to the Chief Constable informing him of the data collected and action proposed.

District Councillor – Cllr Horn reported on recent planning policy reviews with regard to planning priorities, responsibility and the impact of universal credit. A policy with regard to permitted development would allow empty office blocks to be converted to housing but would not attract CIL and would be managed by private landlords.

The District Council was still working on its local plan. The council would need to meet a target of 609 new homes pa over the next 20 years. If not achieved the local plan could be deemed to be out of date. Neighbourhood Plans would potentially have more weight but would need to be updated every two years.

Cllr Horn stated locality funding towards the red telephone kiosk project could be available.

Application should be made on the official form available on the MSDC website and submitted to the District Council as soon as possible.

District Cllr Horn left the meeting.

Footpaths – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported the installation of the dog bin on Wetherup Street had already made a difference. There had been a request that the bin was painted green. No objections were raised.

Regarding the footpath leading to the Church reported in the last Minutes. The overgrown areas had now been cut back by parishioners.

Trees – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported the trees for the Parish Council would be delivered on Friday 7 December. Stakes and guards would be available. The Trees could also be made available to parishioners. Cllr Ms Payne offered to include details of availability of the trees on the village facebook page asking any interested parishioners to contact Cllr Mrs Aldred.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held 5 November 2018**

Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report**

Item 11 – Cllr Harvey stated he had not attended the LCAS neighbourhood plan workshop on 19 November as he was not aware of the workshop until receipt of the minutes on the 20 November. The Clerk stated he had been informed of the parish council's suggestion from its meeting on 5 November that he might lead the neighbourhood plan project and attend the workshop on the 19 November shortly after the 5 November via email. Cllr Harvey and the Chairman requested earlier receipt of the Minutes.

6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Cllr Leadbetter reported Mr S Easter had carried out a temporary repair to the floor next the stage. The wood was rotten and had woodworm. Cllr Leadbetter stated a quote was being obtained from a construction company to concrete the floor and a quote to lay wood over. The area underneath the stage and at the back of the hall was in need of repair within the next 12 months. Mr Easter confirmed the above.

Two members of the public were in attendance in connection with the planning application at 7.1 on the agenda. The member of the public explained to members the reason for the proposed change from a pitched to hipped roof.

Members thanked the public for their explanation.

7. **To consider planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**

Cllr Mrs Arnold left the room

1. DC/18/04923: Park Hall Cottage, Wetherup Street – removal of condition 2 relating to 2784/16 to allow roof to be changed from pitched to hipped roof. Members considered the comments from the public and took the view the hipped roof would have less of an impact on the surroundings. A recommendation of approval was proposed and seconded and agreed. 6 in favour, 1 abstention – proposal carried.

Three members of the public left the meeting. Cllr Mrs Arnold returned to the room.

8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**

1. DC/18/04170: The Hawthorns, Hockey Hill – erection of annexe. **Planning Permission Granted.**
2. DC/18/04680: All Saints Church – fell 2 conifers and reduce 3 lime trees by up to 30%. **MSDC did not wish to object.**

9. **Planning Correspondence**

Mendlesham Road - It was reported people were calling on residents in Mendlesham Road enquiring as to the whereabouts of a puppy farm or kennels. Concerns were raised that the kennels were already operating and queries as to arrangements for dog waste and flooding in the area of the kennels was raised. It was agreed these concerns were forwarded to MSDC Planning.

10. **Proposed Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan**

It was reported there were potentially three or four non parish councillors willing to join a working group. It was agreed the councillors with the parishioner contact would discuss a date for a meeting in January with the interested parishioners to go through the process for a neighbourhood plan and the work involved.

11. **Wetheringsett Village Hall**

1. Committee Report

Cllr Leadbetter reported a balance of £502.61 in the village hall account. The floor at the side of the stage in front of the kitchen had been temporarily repaired. There had been a meeting with a flooring contractor as mentioned in the Open Session.

The recent Quiz Evening had been very successful and a craft afternoon was planned. Eastern Angles would be performing on the 6 April next year and the village Pantomime on the 9 and 10 February.

Cllr Leadbetter mentioned the Hall was officially opened on the 28 March 1921 and in 2 years time it was hoped a 100 years celebration would be arranged.

2. Structural Survey and Maintenance

1. Repairs to floor near stage in front of kitchen and wall under window – complete.
2. Structural surveyor recommended items for immediate repair
3. Costings for work above
4. Report on changing room floor
5. Costings for both projects: complete refurbishment of existing hall and/or new hall
6. New lease

A discussion took place regarding items 2 – 6 above as follows:

Ensure existing hall was safe for use. Cost out remaining repairs. Compare cost of total refurb to new hall on modular basis despite funding for new halls diminishing.

Cllr Leadbetter to obtain quote from Mr Easter for repair of stage on south side and back room. Costs of repair in order of priority required.

Set up and formalize a village hall committee to oversee the project.

Other actions were deferred pending formation of a committee/working group.

Action re. a new lease deferred pending resolution of the above.

12. **Proposed New Village Hall** – see above.

13. **VAS report including use of equipment on A140 at Brockford Street**

Cllr Harvey stated the VAS had been located on the A140 where excessive speeds had been recorded. The data had been forwarded to County and District Councillors. County Cllr Stringer offered to draft a letter to the Chief Constable/PCC outlining the excessive speeds recorded and calling for early action.

A parishioner had raised the speed of vehicles travelling through Church Street and asked that the VAS machine was located in that area to monitor speed. Cllr Harvey stated previous data did not warrant use of the machine in Church Street and it could not be used in the section with the bend as it would not comply with Suffolk Highways criteria for use of the equipment. It was suggested the parishioner was asked whether they would be willing to volunteer for the speed watch project.

14. **Pages Green Road Verges**

A complaint had been received from a parishioner concerning the damage caused to roadsides in Pages Green by wide agricultural vehicles. Members took the view this was a seasonal issue and suggested the damage was reported to Suffolk Highways via the website reporting tool.

15. **Play Area report and to consider ROSPA annual inspection report**

Item deferred to January meeting to enable Cllr Lacey to view the report from the MSDC ROSPA agent.

16. Report on Royal British Legion World War 1 100th Anniversary Ceremony

Cllr Leadbetter reported the proceedings went well and according to plan. Some 35 Primary School children had attended and approximately 20 adults.

17. Wetheringsett War Memorial

It was agreed a letter of thanks was sent to the parishioner who had kept the War Memorial and its surrounds in such good order for many years. It was suggested a general note of thanks to parishioners who gave their time to community projects was included in the February parish magazine.

18. Wetheringsett Cycle Route – following the report at the last meeting Cllr Ms Payne reported the scheme was progressing.

19. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

A donation of £50 to the Mid Suffolk CAB was proposed by Cllr Ms Payne, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and agreed.

2. Accounts for Payment

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| Clerk – sal-expen Nov 2018 | £269.14 |
| SS Operations – VH repairs | £500.00 |
| Mid Suffolk CAB – donation | £50.00 |

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

3. Finance Report

Cllr Leadbetter produced details of expenditure against budget for the year to 3.12.18. This showed expenditure for the first 8 months of £5550 against a budget of £8680 leaving a surplus of £3130 to the end of the financial year 31.3.19. (copy attached to Minutes). Cllr Leadbetter stated expenses so far were within budget.

Cllr Leadbetter went on to produce a draft budget for 2019/20 totalling £8850, this represented an approximate 2% increase on last year's precept figure. Cllr Leadbetter envisaged a surplus from the current year's precept and together with existing parish council reserves believed this would give sufficient funding for the immediate village hall repairs. Members suggested that a separate allocation for village hall maintenance should be included in the budget figures. Cllr Leadbetter to amend for circulation prior to the January meeting when a final precept figure would need to be agreed (copy proposed precept attached to the Minutes).

20. To consider review of Standing Orders – deferred

21. GDPR review and report – deferred to next meeting. In the meantime all councillors to complete the data assessment form circulated.

22. Clerk's report/correspondence – none.

23. Chairman's Urgent Business – none.

24. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Cllr Leadbetter reported the School Christmas Fayre was being held on Friday 7 December between 3.30pm – 5pm – all welcome.

Meeting closed 9.45pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: