

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the virtual meeting held Monday 3 August 2020 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs C Harvey, Mrs A Arnold, D Brown, Mrs E Estcourt, Mrs S Gibbs, Mrs H Green, B Lacey, M Pease and County Cllr A Stringer

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, T Alston and Mrs E Cain.
2. **Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **To receive the following reports:**
 - Police – report available online. No comments were raised.
 - County Council – County Cllr Stringer presented his written report – copy attached to the Minutes.
 - District Council – District Cllr Stringer reported council meetings continued but were being held via Zoom. The timescale for the joint Local Plan had slipped due to covid and the Government were now proposing another Planning White Paper. Cllr Stringer reported on District Council investments, these included investment in properties, outside and in Suffolk, these were showing a large loss this year. A Mid Suffolk disabled facilities grant was available, anyone known to be in need of this type of grant should be referred to Cllr Stringer.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Stringer for the sound system demonstration previously held and confirmed the Council would like to accept the system, this would be a good asset for the village hall and parishioners when the hall was back in use.

 - Footpaths – no issues raised.
 - Trees – no issues raised.
4. **TO RECEIVE /CONSIDER COMMENTS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS**

Cllr Mrs Arnold had been approached by a parishioner regarding the availability of an allotment in the village. Cllr Lacey would supply details to Cllr Mrs Arnold.
5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the meeting held Monday 6 July 2020**

Cllr Pease proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Estcourt, 7 in favour, 1 abstention – proposal carried.
6. **Items arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
7. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/20/02759: Dale Farm, Green Lane – application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed erection, extension or alteration to a building for agricultural or forestry use. Application supported.
8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**
 1. DC/20/01998: Long Barn, Pages Green – erection of a carport. **Planning Permission Granted.**
 2. DC/20/02278: Waveney Cottage, Church Street – insertion of 4 velux conservation roof windows to north elevation and associated internal works. **Listed Building Consent Granted**
9. **Planning Correspondence**

Thorndon Neighbourhood Plan – consultation under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) – comments by 4pm Friday 14 August 2020.

The Chairman requested that members viewed the document and submitted comments to the clerk by 7 August 2020.
10. **Village Hall**
 1. Management Committee report

The Committee had met to discuss covid guidelines and procedures required. Thorough cleaning would be required before and after each use. The committee were still not sure whether the hall would be able to open in September but preparations would be made and a risk assessment carried out. There had been a trial run on use with the Yoga organizer to gauge what would be involved but it was still felt there would be little further use of the hall before the end of the year. The committee were in favour of the suggested internet connection but had decided to delay that at present.

An amount of £631.00 was due to Wave and a small amount to E.on. The maintenance invoice had been paid and the school had been invoiced for the annual rent.
 2. Maintenance

Work was due to start on the kitchen. Quotations had been obtained for the two further items required: Dishwasher – up to £379.99 and Refrigerator – up to £149.99. A quotation had been requested for repair of the cat sized hole in the corner of the storeroom floor.

Wave investigations regarding the water use had revealed the cisterns in the wc's were losing water and a plumber would need to be commissioned to repair the cisterns. It was estimated the water

loss would amount to approximately £600-£700. The committee believed this cost should be the responsibility of the Parish Council as tenant of the building. The invoice when received would be due for payment during August. If agreed by the Parish Council, the Chairman suggested the Village Hall paid the bill and obtained reimbursement from the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed the Parish Council took responsibility for the water loss account, seconded Cllr Pease and agreed. Cllr Brown proposed the Parish Council funded the cost of the new Dishwasher and Fridge, seconded Cllr Mrs Estcourt and agreed.

3. Sign competition

Cllr Pease reported one parishioner had expressed interest at present. A set of rules, publicity and details of the prize would be added to the village website and facebook page.

11. **Play Area report**

Cllr Lacey reported on the condition of the sleeper surrounding the slide. It appeared to be quite rotten and was really now in need of removal and the sloped area grassed as had been suggested. Cllr Lacey stated he would speak to a local landscaper for advice.

Cllr Lacey stated there had been incidents of drinking at the play area and he confirmed the waste bin was emptied regularly.

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

Due to the recent dry weather Cllr Lacey reported there had been no need for a further grass cut.

13. **VAS speeding equipment report**

The Chairman reported the recent Brockford Street figures would be sent to PCC T Passmore. The VAS had been re-located to Wetherup Street and Park Green.

14. **Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan progress report**

Cllr Mrs Green reported there had been no working group meeting since the last PC meeting. It was suggested it would be worth the working group contacting the Thorndon or Occold Neighbourhood Plan Group regarding a progress timetable. A September meeting of the Group was planned following the summer break.

15. **Action required to road sign at Wetherup St/Park Green**

It was reported two arms were missing and the sign needed a new bracket. There was an engineering firm based at the Mendlesham Industrial Estate, it was suggested the Parish Council could consider funding the work if County Highways were not repairing at present. Cllr Lacey offered to look at the sign and would report at the next meeting.

16. **Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

A request for annual support had been received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS). Cllr Mrs Green proposed a donation of £100, seconded Cllr Mrs Gibbs and agreed.

2. Accounts for Payment

1. SARS – donation	£100.00
2. M Pease – Dumelm VH blinds	£154.00
3. Clerk sale/expen July 2020	£278.79

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

3. Finance Report

The Internal Audit report carried out by SALC Finance for year-end 31.3.20 had been received and circulated. Include on next agenda for consideration.

17. **To consider for adoption Policy documents:**

Changes to NALC model Standing Orders – the changes had been circulated for information. Item to be included on next agenda.

Asset Register as at August 2020 – the asset register had been revised to include the latest Dog Bin. Cllr Pease proposed adoption of the document, seconded Cllr Mrs Estcourt and agreed.

NALC review of the Members Code of Conduct – the proposed document had been circulated.

Comments if any to be forwarded to the clerk.

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

1. Parishioner's suggestion of a community collection point for re-cycling plastic bottle fastenings. The majority of plastic bottle fastenings were produced in China and Italy and as a result of covid there was now a global shortage. A collection point was considered and the Village Hall entrance suggested. Some concerns were raised however that due to the book exchange the entrance had become a collection point for all manner of other items. As a result there was a further suggestion the book exchange was closed and all items taken to a charity shop. Cllr Pease offered to include a notice in the parish magazine thanking and informing parishioners but the book exchange would be closed.

Similarly concerns were raised that if the entrance became a collection point for bottle fastenings other items would be left. The Chairman asked whether there was support for a bottle fastenings collection point, Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed support, seconded Cllr Mrs Gibbs, 4 in favour, 3 against, proposal carried.

Item to be included on next agenda for further consideration of a collection point.

2. Parish Notice Boards – the backing boards of the three outdoor notice boards had disintegrated making it difficult to post notices. Cllr Mrs Arnold offered to look into replacing the backing with cork tiles.

3. Correspondence had been received and circulated as follows:
Headway Newsletter and Suffolk Age UK closure.

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

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

Village Hall – following the maintenance work the committee had discussed a possible launch event during September. This is subject to further committee discussion.

21. **Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday 7 September 2020 at 7pm via video link.**

Meeting closed 8.50pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Council Report – August 2020

COVID-19 Update

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

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

Changes to Home But Not Alone phone line

From 5pm on 31 July, the Home But Not Alone phone line will no longer provide:

- Free emergency food deliveries
- Medicine deliveries

Shielded residents in Suffolk have been written to by Government and are aware of these changes.

However, these support services are designed to be reintroduced and stood up once again if there is a significant local outbreak.

For the short-term, the team at Home But Not Alone will still be able to offer help/advice and signpost to neighbourhood or countywide support. As a reminder, the number is **0800 876 6926**.

Sudden closure of Age UK Suffolk

Age UK Suffolk ceased operations from Friday 24 July. This is a huge loss for our county, and I know that many residents will be concerned about the loss of vital support for themselves or elderly friends/relatives.

Age UK stated that it had faced a number of financial challenges in recent years, and the impact of the pandemic on fundraising was the final straw.

Suffolk County Council has published details of alternative sources of support:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/age-uk-suffolk/>

Delay for children's centre cuts after error spotted in report

The Cabinet was due to approve changes to children's centres on 14 July. However, an error was spotted in the report at the last minute, which resulted in the Chief Executive pulling the report from the meeting. It will now be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 25 August.

There are currently 38 children's centres in Suffolk. Under the proposed changes, this would be reduced to only 17 full-time and 11 part-time family hubs. Family hubs provide services for 0-19 year olds, whereas children's centres currently provide services for 0-5 year olds. 8 centres would be repurposed for nurseries or SEND facilities, and another two centres will close completely.

Climate emergency recommendations published

On 14 July, the Cabinet approved the recommendations of a cross-party policy development panel outlining how the council should respond to the climate emergency and reduce emissions. This follows a motion from my group in March 2019, which declared a climate emergency and committed the council to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Key recommendations include:

- All future decisions must take into account carbon emissions
- Annual publication of a carbon budget alongside the financial budget
- Publish a cross-council action plan by the end of 2020 for net zero emissions across Suffolk
- Changing to a 100% renewable energy tariff
- Replacing all pool cars and service vehicles with fully electric vehicles by 2025
- Develop an investment programme for renewable energy generation on the county farms estate
- For all existing council buildings (including maintained schools), switch away from oil, LPG and natural gas use by 2030 and invest in onsite renewable energy generation
- Provide advice for academies/free schools to develop their own net zero emissions plan

Conservatives and Labour vote against anti-Sizewell motion

At the Council meeting on 9 July, my group proposed a motion calling on the council to oppose the development of Sizewell C and set up a cross-party group to consider whether the council should maintain its current 'in-principle' support for nuclear power.

However, the motion was not passed after both the Labour and Conservative groups voted against it.

I am very concerned about the environmental impact of Sizewell C on the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, and the negative economic implications for the tourism and hospitality industries that will accompany this.

The development of Sizewell C is due to be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 22 September.