

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 4 October 2021, 7pm at the Stable Block, Wetheringsett Manor

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech and M Pease.
County and District Cllr A Stringer, Mr R Townshend (Neighbourhood Plan) and 1 member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs C Estcourt, Mrs H Green and C Harvey
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**
Item 7, 1 and 2 – Cllr Pease
3. **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).
 3. District Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). Queries raised included the planning enforcement appeal hearings plots 1 – 8 Brockford Road – Cllr Stringer stated he would be attending the hearings. Regarding the development in Brockford Street next the fuel station – a stop notice had been imposed pending resolution of the latest planning application to increase the number of plots on the site.
 4. Footpaths:
Cedars Hill to Brockford. It was reported the footpath would be reinstated.
Knave's Green – footpath 47, 48 – 50 from the Middy Railway to Brockford Green. Footpath signs were missing. Cllr Mrs Aldred and the Chairman to view and report.
Wetheringsett Hall - Cllr Mrs Aldred reported on a recent complaint concerning horse riders using the Hall Lane footpath, this was causing damage to the surface. This was not a bridleway and the horse rider had been asked not to ride on the footpath. There were concerns however the footpath was still being used by horses. Cllr Mrs Aldred and the Chairman agreed to put up Footpath Sign/s and the Chairman would speak to the horse rider concerned.
 5. Trees - Cllr Mrs Aldred had details of various tree seminars but nothing further to report on trees.
 6. Neighbourhood Plan – report from Working Group Chairman.
Mr R Townshend reported on the consultation and exhibition held with the village over the 17/18 September 2021 at All Saints Church, Wetheringsett. 49 parishioners had attended and good comments on policy ideas had been made. This completed Stage 2 of the plan enabling the Working Group to move on to Stage 3 which would involve drafting the Plan. A further consultation would be held in the New Year with the aim of submitting the draft Plan to MSDC during May 2022 with comments from MSDC June/July 2022. The Chairman thanked Mr Townshend for the encouraging report and thanks were recorded to him and all members of the Working Group for their work on behalf of the village.
Mr Townshend left the meeting
4. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments
5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the meeting held 6 September 2021**
Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** - none
7. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/21/05318: Paxes House, Hockey Hill – application for Listed Building Consent – erection of front porch extension following removal of existing, replacement casement windows to south elevation, erection of extension to existing outbuilding to provide boiler room for biomass boiler and pallet/woodstore and associated works details in the Design and Access Statement. A recommendation of support was proposed and seconded. 6 in favour, 1 abstention. Proposal carried.
 2. DC/21/05273: Paxes House, Hockey Hill – application for erection of front porch following removal of existing, replacement casement windows to south elevation, erection of extension to existing outbuilding to provide new boiler and pallet/woodstore and associated works. A recommendation of support was proposed and seconded. 6 in favour, 1 abstention. Proposal carried.
8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**
 1. DC/21/03976: The Acorns, Nursery Gardens – application for erection of one dwelling and cartlodge. **Planning Permission Refused.**
 2. DC/20/04921: Land east of Hockey Hill – Outline Planning Application for 14 dwellings (4 affordable), garaging and construction of access and associated parking. **Outline Planning Permission Refused**
 3. DC/21/04110: Plots 1 and 2 – land adjoining Wetheringsett House, Church Street – application under

Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act relating to DC/20/01479 for variation of Condition 2 to allow development to be delivered in three phases. **Planning Permission Granted**

4. DC/21/04353: Brockford Railway Siding, Brockford Green – change of use of agricultural land to campsite to provide 18 pitches including associated sanitary facilities, charging points and waste disposal. **Planning Permission Granted**

9. Planning correspondence

MSDC – notification of hearing date for Planning Enforcement Appeals – plots 1 – 8 Brockford Road - 10am 12 October 2021 at Endeavour House, Ipswich

Plot 1 - Primrose Place, Land To The East Of Brockford Road, Wetheringsett-cum- Brockford

Plot 2 – Meadow View, Land To The East Of Brockford Road, Wetheringsett-cum- Brockford

Plot 3 – Oak’s Meadow, Land To The East Of Brockford Road, Wetheringsett-cum- Brockford

Plot 4 – Woodlands, Land To The East Of Brockford Road, Wetheringsett-cum- Brockford

Plot 5 – Two Oaks, Land To The East Of Brockford Road, Mendlesham

Plot 6 – Woodview, Land To The East Of Brockford Road, Mendlesham

Plot 7 – High Field, Land To The East Of Brockford Road, Mendlesham

Plot 8 – One Acre Stables, Land To The East Of Brockford Road, Mendlesham

10. Village Hall Management Committee report

Refurbishment - Cllr Pease reported the replacement of the south wall was progressing well. The windows for the south wall were due to be delivered in early October. Once the south wall was complete the roof would be replaced and loft insulation installed, this was due for completion before the end of November. However following the discovery of the rotted wooden floor a quotation for replacement had been received from the builder totalling £10,000 plus vat. The floor was rotted to such an extent it could not be repaired but would need to be replaced from the wc block up to the stage.

Cllr Pease stated work could not progress until the floor was dealt with, it was possible the anonymous donor would loan the funds so that work could continue without delay but funding for the floor would need to be obtained elsewhere. Cllr Stringer suggested contacting MSDC for emergency funding from their annual underspend. Cllr Mrs Aldred suggested making an application to the Wetheringsett Town & Church Estate Charity for either a grant or loan. Pending resolution Parish Council members agreed work should go ahead. Cllr Pease and the Chairman would prepare an application letter to the Wetheringsett Charity.

At the next Parish Council meeting payment would be required for the loft insulation and guttering.

Hall re-opening - The Quiz night was to go ahead on Saturday 11 December at 7pm and it was anticipated the school would start using the Hall again from 6 December.

Lease discussions with Diocese - no progress to report.

Accounts and Banking - the HSBC internet banking application was being processed, a further application for telephone banking has been raised, again. Current balance £12,915.61. (£715 rent from the school was due). £8,000 allocated to South Wall windows.

Charity Status – no progress to report

11. Play Area maintenance report

Cllr Lacey reported he had taken delivery of the second table and bench for the play area. This would be put up shortly.

12. Grasscutting report – cemetery and play area.

Cllr Lacey reported he would ask the contractor to carry out a further cut and strim before end of the grasscutting season.

13. VAS speed equipment including Brockford Street and Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera Project (ANPR) report

The Chairman stated the VAS equipment would be moved to Brockford Street facing south for a trial period during the next 3 weeks.

14. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan – see item 3 Reports.

15. Platinum Jubilee 2022 report

Cllr Pease stated the Village Hall Committee would take over arrangements as part of their events during 2022. A similar event to that held on 29 August to celebrate 100 years of the Village Hall was envisaged.

16. Defibrillator – to appoint additional person to monitor equipment

Cllr Mrs Leech had volunteered to join Cllr Pease to check the defibrillator equipment on a rotated fortnightly basis. Community Heartbeat Trust would be informed. The meeting recorded thanks to both Cllrs Pease and Mrs Leech for volunteering for the role.

17. Village Sign Cleaning

Cllr Pease stated he would clean the sign at the War Memorial. Cllr Stringer stated he would request clearance

of the debris at the A140 damaged sign.

18. Hockey Hill surface road damage and flooding

Cllr Pease stated the damaged road surface due to flooding had been reported to County Highways. He would continue to monitor.

19. Parish Council Vacancy – to consider co-option to fill current vacancy

Mrs Lizzie Drury, having expressed an interest in joining the council, was in attendance at the meeting. Having observed the earlier part of the meeting Mrs Drury gave a brief presentation about herself for the information of councillors. She had recently moved to the village and was keen to become involved in the community through the work of the parish council. The Chairman thanked Mrs Drury for the presentation. Cllr Pease proposed Mrs Drury was co-opted to join the Council, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and unanimously agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance form was completed.

20. Parish Council Insurance – to consider for approval policy renewal documents

The renewal documents had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. No queries or amendments were suggested. Cllr Alston proposed renewal of the policy, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech, proposal agreed.

21. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none received.

2. Accounts for payment

Community Action Suffolk – annual insurance premium £560.73

Community Action Suffolk – One Suffolk Website Hosting annual fee £60.00

Clerk sal-expen September 2021 £279.46

Compass Point Planning – Neighbourhood Plan Stage 2 payment £2290.10

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

3. Finance report

1. Bank reconciliation to 17/9/21 had been circulated prior to the meeting. This showed reconciled balances in the Council's three accounts as at that date as follows:

VH Community a/c £4,059.73

Business Saver a/c £9,344.01

Community a/c £28,451.12

Within the community account grant funding of some £7,000 was held on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan

2. Statement of income and expenditure against budget to 30.9.21 – a six months summary had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Although overall income and expenditure was currently in line with the budget 2021-22 there was some overspend on defibrillator maintenance and purchase of dog waste bins.

22. Wetheringsett Village History Booklet – Cllr Pease reported he was progressing digitalising the booklet which would be available on the website when complete.

23. To review and consider for adoption the following policy documents:

1. GDPR Policy compliant documents – Data Breach. Deferred to next meeting.

2. Standing Orders

3. Financial Regulations

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. No further queries were raised. Cllr Pease proposed adoption of the documents, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain and unanimously agreed.

24. Clerk's report/correspondence – none.

25. Chairman's Report – none.

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

Cllr Mrs Leech offered her apologies for the November meeting.

27. Date of next meeting - Monday 1 November 2021, 7pm at the Stable Block, Wetheringsett Manor School, Church Street, Wetheringsett, IP14 5QX

Meeting closed: 8.55pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Andrew Stringer (SCC Councillor) October Report

Review of SEND provision Report

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed, and the report made public.

The report, was limited to some specific areas of the service (communications etc) It does make a seriously worrying read, 195 children had not had an assessment by the legal deadline, as well as 45 children had no school placement at all, as well as parents and teachers were not kept informed in a consistent manner. The report points out we have some good people but within a poor system, a system were Suffolk County Council failed to meet its statutory deadlines for EHC (education health & care) plans, a clear breach of compliance.

Some parents were made to feel pressured and some felt bullied into taking unsuitable placings.

Our group have called for the Education Scrutiny Committee, not due to sit until December, to be re-convened at the earliest opportunity. The administration has rejected these calls.

One of the worrying aspects regarding the report, is that it calls for a better culture in how as a council communicates, yesterday the Council briefed journalists on the contents of the report, 2 ½ hours before councillors were given access to the findings.

If anyone has any issues regarding the need for this provision, please tell them to get in touch.

Fuelling Debate

The Green Suffolk website is promoting the District Councils local energy event at Wherstead Park Ipswich is running for two days, the free to attend event will showcase opportunities for energy generation etc, and a chance to speak to those in the trade to get the latest information on products and technological advances in the renewable energy sector. Mid Suffolk ran a similar event in 2008, and we ran out of room for the visitors wishing to attend.

On area for debate is whether hydrogen would be classed as a renewable technology, and like many things on politics, there isn't a straight answer because it depends on the type.

Hydrogens use in fuel production takes many forms, and is split into colours, Black, brown, grey, pink blue and green hydrogen are all forms of this technology, but only one of them could be classed as renewable,

- 21-22 October – Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council)

Andrew Stringer

County Councillor for Upper Gipping Green, Liberal Democrat, and Independent Group Leader

District Councillors' Parish Report: - October 2021

MSDC Council meeting	<p>The full Council meeting was on 23rd September with a very full agenda due to the cancellation of the July meeting. Items included: a No Casino motion, senior staff pay review, CIFCO business plan, changes to Neighbourhood Plan procedures, wellbeing strategy, wildlife friendly streetlighting motion and a motion on proposed voter ID. The meeting adjourned after 4.5 hours meaning the last two items were not heard.</p> <p>The senior staff pay review was withdrawn after Babergh District Council voted against it two days earlier. The proposal was to significantly increase senior staff pay without a review of a majority of staff.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Strategy is very welcome and received unanimous approval.</p>
Council: No Casino policy	<p>At the meeting, Councillors defeated the Administration motion which was asking <i>not</i> to have a "No Casino" policy. The majority wanted to have a No Casino policy meaning we do not welcome casinos in Mid Suffolk, giving certainty to developers and residents.</p>
Council: CIFCO	<p>The business plan for CIFCO, the Council's investment arm, was discussed. The commercial property portfolio is from an investment of £100 million by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils in which each council had £5 million equity. This equity is now at zero although expected to improve over the next 10 years. There is currently a</p>

	book value of £83 million on this portfolio. The business plan was approved by a margin of six votes.
Council: Scrutiny Committee	A review the health provision in and around Stowmarket – particularly regarding the current shortage of GPs and lack of dental services. The Scrutiny Committee is currently reviewing rural transport such as access to bus services.
Joint Local Plan examination	The public hearing for the draft Joint Local Plan has re-started and all sessions are online via Microsoft Teams. For details on how to take part, go to www.midsuffolk.gov.uk and search for Joint Local Plan. Various witnesses have been contributing to this including Myself – notably on housing and environment issues. Once complete, a report from the Planning Inspectors will then be provided to the Council for Mid Suffolk to act on.
Locality Awards	The planning appeal for the 8 plots in Brockford road that have appealed against their enforcement action are due to be heard beginning on October the 12 and are due to run for four days.

Councillor Andrew Stringer