

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the video meeting held Monday 4 May 2020 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs C Harvey (Chairman), Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, David Brown, Mrs E Cain, Mrs S Gibbs, Mrs H Green and M Pease. County and District Cllr A Stringer.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs B Lacey and Mrs C Estcourt
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none
3. **To receive the following reports:**
 - Police – report available online. No queries were raised.
 - County Council – Cllr Stringer presented his written report – circulated to members and attached to the Minutes – Cllr Stringer reported County and District Councils were working closely together to co-ordinate services relating covid 19 and he urged any parishioners in need of assistance to get in touch with him. Additional items reported included a mobile sound system being organized for a neighbouring parish council, a similar system could be arranged for Wetheringsett if required. From 14 May the A14 would be closed overnight for 12 weeks for maintenance work. Diversion would be via the A1120 from Stowmarket to Claydon.
 - The VAS equipment was currently positioned on the A140 at Brockford. Speeding appeared to have increased during the day possibly due to their being less traffic on the road.
 - District Council – written report circulated and attached to the Minutes.
 - Footpaths – the parish footpath map had been uploaded onto the village website.
 - It was reported that cycling on footpaths had increased. A fallen hawthorn branch was blocking the Collingford Bridge/Griffin Lane footpath. Cllr Alston would arrange to have the branch removed.
 - Trees – no report.
4. **TO RECEIVE/CONSIDER ITEMS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS** – none.
5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the video link meeting held Monday 6 April 2020**
Cllr Mrs Gibbs proposed approval, seconded Cllr Alston and agreed.
6. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC:**
 1. DC/20/01338: Town Lane Farm, Park Green – householder application for renovation of 3 bay & DC/20/01339 garage to create living/guest wing with roof extension. Replacement of conservatory with guest bedroom extension. Renovation of home office. Creation of gabled garden room and link in place of outbuilding. Erection of detached 6 bay cart lodge to west boundary. Insertion of doorway in modern lean-to north wall to create access to link. New garden wall feature.
A recommendation of approval was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.
 2. DC/20/01479: Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of two dwellings and detached cart lodges.
A recommendation of refusal was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed on the following grounds:
 - Church Street was a narrow village road unsuitable for an additional access and outside the 30mph speed restriction
 - The proposed access visibility splay was not adequate for a 60mph limit
 - VAS equipment had recorded speeds as high as 70mph along the stretch of Church Street where the new access was proposed
 - The proposed driveway was too close to an existing dwelling affecting the residential amenity of that property
 - The proposed dwellings were too close to the adjacent Wetheringsett Manor a listed property of historical importance
 - The proposal was next the Wetheringsett conservation area
 - MSDC has a five year land supply
 - The parish council believed the proposal was contrary to the following policies: T10, H16, HB8 and HB1.
 3. DC/20/01003: Mid Suffolk Light Railway, Hall Lane – erection of new footbridge.
A recommendation of approval was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.
7. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC** – none received.

8. Planning Correspondence

Notification of the following had been received from MSDC:

DC/20/00449: Willow Cottage, Pitman's Corner – removal of thatch, insulate and apply layer of breathable membrane, batten and replace roof using clay ridge tiles, provide leaded valley to junction dormers. Application withdrawn.

9. Village Hall

1. Management Committee report:

Cllr Mrs Gibbs reported payment for use of the hall by the Yoga group had now been received. The year end annual accounts to 31.3.20 had been circulated to members (copy attached to the minutes). These showed a year-end balance of £1,692.16. Following the village hall closure due to covid 19 the direct debits for Wave and E.on had temporarily been cancelled. In the meantime Cllr Mrs Gibbs was investigating a Smart meter for electricity supply. The Wave meter reading had still to be resolved. A date for the Fire Inspection would be re-arranged due to covid.

2. Maintenance report

Cllr Pease reported the LED panel lights had been fitted and ceiling heater replaced. The contractor and his wife would be prepared to go ahead with the redecoration work and the floor maintenance. An application would be made to MSDC for a Government business support grant for eligible village halls following closure due to covid 19. Grants up to £10,000 were available.

Two further maintenance items had arisen, the fire alarm battery had failed and the water heater in the ladies wc had failed. Cllr Pease had obtained a quotation for the repairs as follows:

Battery - £54.68

Replacement Water Heater Unit - £196.64

Cllr Pease proposed the parish council funded the above, seconded Cllr Mrs Gibbs and agreed.

10. Play area report

A written report from Cllr Lacey stated there were currently no issues with the equipment.

11. Cemetery and Play Area grass cutting

A written report from Cllr Lacey stated the cemetery was currently enjoying a show of wild flowers. He would ask the grass contractor to carry out the first cut in the cemetery and play area in approx. two weeks when the flowering was over.

12. VAS speeding equipment report

The Chairman reported the equipment was currently placed at the A140 location following which it would be moved to Wetherup Street.

13. Neighbourhood Plan progress report

Cllr Mrs Green reported a virtual meeting was due to be held in two weeks time.

14. Finance

1. S.137 donation requests – none received.

2. Accounts for Payment

MSDC – Litter & Dog bin emptying 2020-21	£195.29 (incl vat)
Local Council Review magazine annual subscription	£17.00
RME Electrical – village hall repairs (heater & switch, 6 LED Lighting panels & dimmer)	£1185.50 (incl vat)
Clerk sal-expen April 2020	£277.18

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

3. Finance Report

Draft annual parish council accounts for the year end 31.3.20 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Payments made by the parish council for village hall repairs/survey costs had totalled £2104.23. Cllr Pease proposed this sum was deducted from the current village hall reserve of £3461.33, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain – proposal carried.

The parish council year end accounts with above amendment together with the annual audit documents would be included on the next agenda for consideration and approval.

15. Report on the Good Neighbour/Home but Not Alone Scheme

Cllr Stringer reported that in neighbouring Mendlesham volunteers were working with the Doctors Surgery to co-ordinate deliveries to parishioners unable to leave their homes. Cllr Stringer urged anyone in need of help to contact him.

16. **Clerk's report/correspondence** – nothing further to report.

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

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

Primary School outside light – it was reported the outside light was on during the day. Cllr Mrs Gibbs would inform the headteacher.

Speeding – there had been reports of motorists speeding in Wetherup Street. The Chairman reported the next location for the VAS equipment was Wetherup Street.

Concrete pad at Blacksmiths Green – it was reported a large amount of manure had been deposited on the concrete pad, it had been there for 7 – 10 days and the smell was causing some nuisance to neighbouring residents. Cllr Stringer advised if the manure was there beyond 2 weeks it would need to be sprayed for flies. If not dealt with after 2 weeks he suggested reporting to Environmental Health.

Meeting closed 8.35pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: