

Wetheringsett Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held 4 September 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, T Alston, C Harvey, Mrs C Nickson and Ms S Payne. County Cllr A Stringer and 4 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs R Anscombe, J Leadbetter, Mrs A Arnold, Mrs E Cain, B Lacey and District Cllr G Horn. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr Alston proposed Cllr Mrs Nickson chaired the meeting, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and agreed.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none
3. **Town Lane Haulage site-** reports from County, District, Parish Councillors and Parishioners ***Cllr Alston proposed the meeting was opened to the public, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and agreed.***

County Cllr Stringer reported that since the last parish council meeting he had met on site with both operators to discuss short-term solutions in terms of improving how the site is managed. The operators offered some re-assurance on ways of stacking lorry traffic before coming to the site to avoid backing-up and stacking on Town Lane. They had been informed that recent parking on third party premises was unacceptable. It was agreed that signs would be placed to improve directions for drivers and County would be kept informed as to progress with these. The peak time for operations at the site was now over, this was normally during the summer and it was likely traffic would decrease during autumn and winter months. Light and noise pollution was also discussed and the operators stated they had already audited lighting but would be happy to look at it again if further measures were needed. Long term aspirations for the site had been discussed – this would require further discussion. On the whole the meeting had been constructive and clear lines of communication established. The owner of the site had since contacted Cllr Stringer with the suggestion of a hardstanding area at the front of the site. Cllr Stringer stated he would be speaking to those involved first to establish whether this was possible or acceptable.

Parishioners queried the long term aspirations for the site. Cllr Stringer stated the operators like the site, they have a 2 year lease with the option to purchase it. A lengthy discussion took place between parishioners and County Councillor regarding the suitability of the site for an operation of that size, the activity having moved so far from its original use. Concerns over highway issues, the lane being totally unsuitable for the level of hgv's now using it, the unsuitability of the access to the site, stacking of vehicles, damage to the road surface and verges and the environmental issues were raised.

Cllr Ms Payne stated if there was no likelihood of a change in the current situation, MSDC could be asked to consider a discontinuance order or asked to limit activity on the site.

A parishioner raised the light pollution concern stating the single light was still very bright. Cllr Stringer would speak to the operators again about the single light.

Details of the meeting called by Dan Poulter MP were confirmed. This would be held on Friday 13 October 2017, 7pm at the Village Hall. County, District and Police representatives would be invited by Dr Poulter to go through options available. Parishioners were invited and would be encouraged to put forward their views.

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

Police – report available online. No queries were raised.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his report – copy attached to the Minutes. Queries were raised with regard to last minute changes to bus timetables affecting the village. These decisions had now been reversed but would remain under review.

Cllr Ms Payne recorded thanks to County Cllr Stringer for all his efforts in trying to resolve the own Lane issues.

District Councillor – No report, Cllr Horn had sent his apologies.

T

Footpaths – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported footpaths were in a good condition but dog fouling was still a problem, particularly Park Green and grass banks outside properties. A further note regarding the problem to be included in the parish magazine. Cllr Ms Payne offered to obtain and laminate a supply of Scoop the Poop notices to display in the village.

Cllr Alston reported he had made no progress with Suffolk CC for a Parish Footpath map. County would only be able to help with funding for a tourism map.

The Vice Chairman Cllr Miss Canham arrived and took the chair

5. Minutes of the meeting held 7 August 2017.

Item deferred. Councillors at the meeting had not been in attendance at the August meeting.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes for report – none.

7. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – no comments.

8. To consider Planning Application for recommendation to MSDC

1. DEC17/03492 – Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of 2 dwellings. Revised block plan. There were no significant changes to the application. A recommendation of refusal was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Alston reported on his attendance at the SALC Planning Workshop as follows:

Planning applications required a response within 21 days, unless an officer was able to give an extension an extraordinary meeting would be required to make a decision or the council could appoint a planning committee to deal with applications received between meetings. 98% of applications received by Mid Suffolk were now dealt with by planning officers with only 2% referred to committee. Cllr Alston had enquired about neighbourhood plans and was told preparation of a plan could cost approx. £30,000 and take almost two years to complete. The benefit was that district councils would be required to take note of a neighbourhood plan. The Community Infrastructure Levy (Cil) was now set at £70 per square metre and 15% should go back to a parish. This increased to 25% if a parish had a neighbourhood plan in place. Permitted development allowed up to 10% of a dwelling's footprint to be developed without requirement for planning permission. Cllr Alston was thanked for his report.

9. Planning decisions received from MSDC – none.

10. Wetheringsett Village Hall report – none.

11. Proposed New Village Hall report - Cllrs Alston and Anscombe to progress

12. Report on VAS speed awareness equipment

Cllr Harvey reported he had been in contact with the Police Safety Team regarding speed data. This had not as yet been forthcoming. Cllr Harvey had also attended a Police Locality Meeting at which it was suggested a Community Speed Watch Scheme was set up – this would require 7 volunteers. Cllr Alston suggested the equipment was hired to other parishes. The equipment did slow traffic down, sharing the equipment would help reduce speed over a wider area.

13. Extension of speed limit on Station Road

Suffolk CC had confirmed that Station Road did not meet the criteria for a speed limit sign, ie too few dwellings. Members suggested that a quiet lane or cycle lane be put forward to County Highways. Deferred to November meeting.

14. Wetheringsett Primary School – concerns over the school run

A letter had been received from a Hockey Hill resident listing traffic issues during school drop-off and pick-up times: excessive speed, unsafe parking, blocking narrow road to passing traffic blocking driveway access, pollution (cars sitting with engines running while on mobile phones), noise (sitting in cars with loud music playing & engines running), sounding car horns, car alarms, shouting and screaming of children and parents. The letter went on to state the congestion and nuisance was having a detrimental effect on local residents requesting the co-operation of the parish council. Cllr Ms Payne stated she would ask that the letter was included on the next school governors' meeting agenda. In the meantime it was agreed that County Highways was asked to make a site visit to the school during a busy time to make recommendations for improvements. A representative from the parish council to attend a site meeting.

15. Grass cutting – Cemetery & Play Area

Cllr Alston reported he had been in contact with Mymow who would continue to cut the grass in the cemetery and play area where necessary up to the budget of £800 for the remainder of the grass cutting season. Mymow to be asked for a report on cuts remaining for the current year.

16. Play Area Report

Cllr Mrs Nickson reported the grass was in need of a cut particularly the thistles around the edges. There was also a problem of birds mess on the equipment, a panel missing in the wooden fencing and the picnic table and benches were rotting. Cllr Mrs Nickson reported that Mr Andrew Nickson would repair the fencing. Cllr Ms Payne stated there was still a sum in the Wetheringsett Community fund for play area maintenance. Usage of the play area was queried and it was reported the area was usually only used during the school term. Overhead brambles on the path from the school to the play area were also dangerous. Cllr Ms Payne to ask the school to cut back. Cllr Mrs Arnold to be asked whether a village autumn clean could be arranged.

17. To consider a Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan - Mendlesham PC to be asked to make a presentation to members on the cost and process to produce a plan.

18. Finance

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

2. Accounts for Payment

Clerk's sal/expenses August 2017 £254.92

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

3. Finance report including report on internal audit 31.3.17

Finance report deferred pending report from Cllr Leadbetter. Internal audit report to be reviewed at the next meeting.

19. Clerk's report/correspondence

SALC – notification of North Area Meeting 21 September, 7pm – 9pm at Eye Town Hall.

MSDC Local Plan Review – document for consultation circulated

Local Plan Review briefing session Thorndon VH 12 September, 6.30pm. Cllr Alston to attend.

Notification of revised Bus Services 114 and 113 – details circulated.

20. To confirm Twitter items

Scoop the Poop notices

21. Chairman's urgent business – none.

22. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Village Fete Lottery Return – Cllrs Mrs Nickson and T Alston offered to sign the return letter.

23. Date of next meeting – Monday 2 October 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.25pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: