

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 4 September 2023, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett.

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, T Alston, Mrs L Drury, C Harvey, B Lacey and Mrs R Leech.
County and District Cllr A Stringer and two members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence had been received and accepted** from Cllrs N Lingard and Mrs K van Zyl.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **Reports**
 1. Police available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk>. No queries were raised
 2. County Councillor - Cllr Stringer went through his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). No queries were raised.
 3. District Councillor – Cllr Stringer went through his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). With regard to the Joint Local Plan. The document had now been through all hearings and a recommendation from the Examiner was expected any time.
 4. Footpaths
Cllr Mrs Aldred reported she and the Chair had met with the County Council Area Rights of Way Officer, Mr Ken Larcome. It appeared footpath 47 had deviated from the official footpath but the officer would arrange for the used path to be cleared. Mr Larcombe had advised on Hemlock and Giant Hogweed and he would arrange for more footpath signs to be put up.
 5. Trees – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported she had attended two very useful tree warden seminars via zoom.
 6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments.
4. **To consider for approval:**
 1. **Minutes of the meeting held 3 July 2023** – Cllr Mrs Leech proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Harvey – unanimously agreed.
 2. **Notes from the inquorate meeting held 7 August 2023** – noted.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes and Notes for report** - none
6. **Report on Parish Council Vacancies and to consider co-option to fill vacancy**

There were currently two vacancies following the earlier May parish council elections. One application for co-option had been received from Mrs June Weir. Mrs Weir was in attendance at the meeting and had already observed meetings in progress at two previous meeting. The Chair invited Mrs Weir to give a short presentation about herself and her interests in the village to the meeting.

Mrs Weir stated she had been living in the village for some two and a half years and had become involved in the community particularly with regard to traffic issues in the Brockford Street area.

Mrs Weir was thanked for her presentation, no queries were raised. The Chair proposed Mrs Weir was co-opted to join the council, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and unanimously agreed. *Mrs Weir completed and signed the Councillors Acceptance of Office form and joined the meeting.*
7. **Mid Suffolk Light Railway – to consider proposed changed wording to MSLR Tourist Sign A140/Brockford Green junction**

A report had been received from the MSLR outlining their proposed change to the wording on the sign from MSLR Museum to Mid Suffolk Light Railway, retaining the Train logo. This was in an attempt to attract more visitors to the Middy it not being just a museum but an operational heritage railway.

The Chair proposed support of the proposal, seconded Cllr Harvey and unanimously agreed.
8. **Report on request for bus service through village (including shoppers service) following notification of Transport East Funding for increased bus services**

It was noted the funding available was for improvements to the current bus service infrastructure and not for The provision of new services. Full details of the service available to Wetheringsett residents had been Included in the September Parish Magazine.
9. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC** – none received
10. **Notification of Appeal** – APP/W3520/C/23/3327399: Road Haulage Depot, The Old Airfield, Town Lane, Wetheringsett – to consider Parish Council comments to the Planning Inspectorate regarding Appeal against MSDC Enforcement Notice served 10 July 2023 for change of use of the land for the purposes of stationing shipping containers.
Parish Council members discussed the appeal against the MSDC enforcement notice – the following response to the Appeal Inspectorate was proposed and seconded, 7 Councillors in favour, 1 abstention – proposal carried as follows:

The Parish Council is in full agreement and fully supports the enforcement action being taken by MSDC.

The Parish Council strongly believes the access road to the site is totally unsuitable for the current level of regular heavy HGV traffic.

The stored containers are wholly unsuitable and unsightly in a very rural location.

11.Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/22/03136: Rectory Cottage, Church Street – Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/04668 - Condition 5 (Eaves, Verges and Abutments) and Condition 7 (Roof Covering Materials) – Approved.
2. DC/23/02228: Ceva Logistics, Norwich Road, Wetheringsett - Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/21/06605 - Condition 16 (Construction Surface Water Management Plan) - Approved.
3. DC/23/03058: Barns at Green Farm, Pages Green - Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/21/06866 dated 15/02/2022. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of 2no new residential units - To vary Condition Number 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to enable alterations to Plot 2. Planning Permission Granted.
4. Appeal (DC/21/04611): 4 Shrublands Cottages, Brockford Green – Erection of a new dwelling. Appeal Dismissed.

12.Planning correspondence

1. MSDC notification of re-issued enforcement notice - Road Haulage Depot, Old Airfield, Town Lane. Noted.
2. Other received since agenda issued – none.

13. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan – no report.

14. Village Hall

1. Management Committee report – Cllr Harvey reported the Broadband connection would require closure of the road, this was due to take place on 21 September 2023. The bank reserves were at a similar level to last month.
2. Report on School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease – the School Licence was due for review in November 2023. No report available regarding the Diocesan Lease.
3. Proposed Solar Panels on part Hall roof report – deferred to next month.

15. Grasscutting report

Cllr Lacey reported the cemetery was in need of a further cut and he would contact the contractor to ask when this would be carried out.

16. Play Area report

Notification of the Annual Inspection of play equipment scheme had been received from MSDC. The cost was similar to last year. Members agreed to take part in the scheme the inspection would be carried out during the autumn.

17. VAS speed equipment and ANPR report – no report.

18. Community Speed Watch Scheme – report on parishioner volunteer meeting held 21.8.23 to set up speed watch scheme

Cllr Harvey was pleased to report seven possibly eight parishioners had volunteered to train in use of the speed equipment. Thanks were recorded to all volunteers showing an interest. Cllr Harvey would look into obtaining Community Speed Watch signs and progressing the scheme with Suffolk Constabulary.

19. Reinstatement of Wetheringsett Village Sign report

Cllr Alston reported the sign should be complete and ready to be re-instated during the next week.

20. To consider organizing a community First Aid Course – Cllr Mrs Drury would look into courses available through the St John’s Ambulance Service.

21. To consider request to Suffolk CC Highways for extension of 30mph speed limit – A140 at Brockford towards Mendlesham turning

Due to the number of serious incidents occurring at the southern end of the Brockford Street 30mph limit it was proposed that the speed limit was extended further towards the Mendlesham turning. Incidents occurring at the northern section were also raised. Cllr Stringer offered to speak to the Officer responsible at Suffolk Highways with a request for extension of the speed limit at both the southern and northern sections.

22. Finance

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

2. Accounts for payment

Ben Reeve Garden Maintenance	£166.66
SALC – internal audit fee 2022-23	£313.20
MSDC – uncontested election charges May 2023	£149.20
Clerk – sal/expen Aug 2023	£319.65

The Chair proposed payment of the above, seconded Cllr Alston – unanimously agreed.

3. Finance report – to consider annual audit report 2022-23 and report on balances

The internal audit report 2022-23 had been circulated to all members. Queries raised included publication of the Cil annual returned. The relevant return form had now been received from MSDC, approved by council members and posted on the parish council website. Cllr Harvey was looking into the use of email addresses as raised by the internal auditor.

Cllr Harvey proposed adoption of the Report, seconded by the Chair and unanimously agreed.

The bank reconciliation to 19.7.23 stood at £12,147.51. This was verified by the Chair.

23. **To consider for adoption the following policy documents**

1. Standing Orders 2023-24

2. Financial Regulations 2023-24

The above documents had been amended to include the £30,000 procurement threshold as recommended by the internal auditor. No further queries were raised. The Chair proposed adoption of both documents, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech – unanimously agreed.

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

A new cheque book would shortly be required. The clerk would try to order this from the bank if not successful and cheque signatory would need to do so.

25. **Chair's Report** – a large pothole had appeared in Church Street opposite the ex-telephone kiosk. Clerk to report via the Suffolk CC reporting tool.

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

Cllr Alston reported a meeting of the Mendlesham Airfield Association had been called – this was a meeting for interested parties.

27. **Date of next meeting - Monday 2 October 2023, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett**

Meeting closed 8.25pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – September 2023

Pylon plan not supported by SCC

Suffolk County Council is objecting the latest proposals by the National Grid to install 114 miles of electricity pylons across the county as part of the “Norwich to Tilbury” project. A number of objections have been raised about the 33 mile stretch of the new works which would run through Suffolk, which includes installing a stretch of cabling under the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The council is continuing to press for an offshore solution to be fully researched and considered.

Onshore facility proposal for Suffolk Coast

Suffolk County Council was disappointed to learn that the LionLink interconnector project from National Grid Ventures has identified an alternative landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing making its way to the north of Southwold.

The Lionlink project aims to connect multiple offshore wind farms in the North Sea, instead of individual wind farms connecting one by one to the shore. The project is a joint venture between the UK and the Netherlands, supplying energy to both countries.

The Council will study the details of the new proposals, and will prepare its response to the National Grid's second public consultation, which opens on 8 September.

2023 Tour of Britain Cycle Race

The world's best cyclists will be taking to the roads of Suffolk on 7 September, including Tour de France champions. This fifth stage of the national race will start in Felixstowe at 10.45am and go through Kesgrave, Ipswich, Hadleigh, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Framlingham, Leiston and Woodbridge before finishing back in Felixstowe at around 3.30pm. For details of the route and timings, please see the plans for Stage Five on the Tour of Britain website:

<https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-five/>

New Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Training Centre at Wattisham has had a £1.3m upgrade and was formally opened on 24 August. This includes a new tactical firefighting facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with and help them prepare for the dangerous work they undertake in the community.

Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023

Suffolk County Council's social workers and social care teams have been shortlisted for six awards at the annual Social Worker of the Year Awards. This is the only major national awards event for social work in England, attracting hundreds of entries every year and reaching millions of people with positive stories of outstanding social work. We are really proud of our social workers, who work so hard to help people in often challenging circumstances. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in November this year.

Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation

In May, Suffolk County Council announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment is available to any Ukrainian refugees moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. This funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment and completing the application form on the Suffolk County Council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>

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Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Joint Local Plan	We have now completed the planning Inspectors hearings into the remaining objections to part 1 of the Joint Local Plan, we now await the inspector’s decision, we hope will be very soon. At present the Local plan has limited weight, if the part 1 is approved it weight in decision making will increase. Part one will also encompass the water resource policy LP 24, which recognises the lack of water in the Hartismere water catchment area, and requires any new non-domestic high water users to demonstrate how water will be obtained before granting any new planning permissions. Meanwhile we are preparing the remaining policies that are deferred into part 2 . These are housing number allocations to different towns villages etc, as well as The Gypsy & Traveller call for sites and site allocations.
Planning Appeals	We have had a result to an appeal for a solar farm in Somersham in Mid Suffolk, the appeal was allowed and the solar farm and battery storage approved, despite much of the site being part of a special landscape area. The decision does show in stark terms the governments planning inspectorate does agree that solar farming should go ahead even on a mixture of grade 2 and grade 3 land. (the most productive in Mid Suffolk)
National Grid “pylons”	National Grid launched its latest public consultation on plans for a new high-voltage power line across East Anglia, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh. The Norwich to Tilbury project has previously been opposed by both councils amid significant concerns, The District Council has agreed that the Council to lobby the relevant Government minister, again, to review this process, objecting to the pylon line and to ask National Grid to re-consider their current approach, in favour of a co-ordinated off shore approach
Pride in Place	<p>Mid Suffolk District Council has launched a campaign to clean-up neighbourhoods, build community pride and tackle the doorstep issues that voters said mattered to them.</p> <p>The new ‘Pride in Your Place’ campaign will give every town and village the opportunity to apply for funding for projects which improve the appearance and cleanliness of their community. Once awarded, the money can be used for initiatives like litter picking, sign cleaning, graffiti removal, the maintenance/enhancement of open public spaces and more. These projects will complement routine grounds and maintenance work already carried out by the council and partner authorities, but Mid Suffolk’s new administration also wants to help communities to tackle local frustrations and issues that voters said were important to them during the recent local elections.</p> <p>Under the funding scheme, parishes with a population over 1,500 are eligible to apply for up to £400 in funding. For those with a population below 1,500, up to £250 can be applied for.</p> <p>Applications can also be made by voluntary, community and social enterprises with support from their local town or parish council.</p> <p>They must be received by the council by 31 October 2023 and awards and payments will be made within 21 days of receipt of an eligible application.</p> <p>More information about the ‘Pride in Your Place’ campaign and an application form can be found on the council’s website.</p>

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