

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held 5 February 2018, 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, T Alston, R Anscombe (Chairman), Mrs E Cain, Miss J Canham, C Harvey, B Lacey, J Leadbetter, Mrs C Nickson and Ms S Payne. County Cllr A Stringer and two members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Mrs A Arnold.

2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**

Item Cllr Miss J Canham

3. **Town Lane Haulage site report – *the meeting was opened to the public***

Cllrs Ms Payne and Anscombe had attended a meeting with Tom Barker, Head of Development at MSDC on 5 February 2018 – the Chief Executive had been unable to attend.

Following the meeting of 13 October 2017, MSDC had been asked to look at possible options in relation to the current issues around the site and provisions Mid Suffolk might make within the law, this had included discontinuance, revocation or doing nothing which was not really an option.

Variation of existing conditions and implications on the rateable value of the site had been discussed at the meeting. This would be looked into further by MSDC as well as possible compensation associated with any variation of the conditions. Another option discussed was the possibility of the landowner entering into a s.106 agreement varying conditions associated with the planning permission. MSDC would be looking into the options discussed over the next two months as well as having discussions with the landowner.

In the meantime Cllr Miss Canham raised the problem of the condition of the Town Lane road surface.

Cllr Stringer added that local authorities do have discretion to deal with business rates for the benefit of the community in special circumstances and there would be another meeting within the next two months with the MSDC Chief Executive to discuss the options and future of the site.

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

Police – report available online. No comments were raised.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer reported on the proposed rise in the County's council tax, the first for a number of years, and the proposed budget cuts – Cllr Stringer expressed his concern over the number of proposed cuts. A £20m road surfacing scheme will take place over the next 3 years and Cllr Stringer encouraged members to look and comment on the school bus consultation (copy report attached to the Minutes).

Queries raised included the numerous road and speed signs down as a result of the recent high winds, particularly along the A140, and the large pothole on the A140 from Brockford. Cllr Stringer stated he would report these to County Highways.

District Councillor – no report available.

Footpaths – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported a footpath sign was broken between Nos. 45 and 44 at Station Road.

It was reported dog fouling was still a problem on the Wetherup Street footpaths. Cllr Ms Payne offered to put up laminated Dog Fouling signs.

The dog waste bin at the junction of Hall Lane/Station Road had not been emptied and was overflowing.

5. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments.

6. **Minutes of the meeting held 8 January 2018**

Cllr Mrs Aldred proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Alston, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

7. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none

8. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC**

1. DC/17/00263 : Mill House, Station Road – demolition of outbuilding and erection of one and a half storey outbuilding. A recommendation of support was unanimously agreed.
2. DC/18/00077/78 : Deerbolts Cottage, Blacksmiths Green – conversion of barn to dwelling. Erection of detached cartlodge and new vehicular access. Installation of sewage treatment unit. Following discussion of the proposal, 9 members were in support of the application and 1 objection.
3. DC/18/00425 : Meadow Barn, Blacksmiths Green – change of use of agricultural barn to residential. Following discussion of the application, Cllr Alston proposed a recommendation of refusal on the grounds the proposal would spoil the nature of the building, seconded Cllr Harvey and unanimously agreed.
4. DC/17/06101 : Wetheringsett Manor – update safety and security systems. A recommendation of support was unanimously agreed.

9. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**

1. DC/17/05892 : The Old Forge, Church Street – rebuild brick chimney, replacement external door, removal of c20 brick fire surround and installation of 2 extractor fans.
Planning Permission/LBC Granted.
2. DC/17/05603 : Fox House, Park Green – erection of cartlodge. **Planning Permission Granted.**
3. DC/17/05622 : The Old Forge, Blacksmiths Green – demolition of workshop building and redevelopment and extension of the Old Forge building as a dwelling.
Planning Permission and LBC refused.

10. **Planning Correspondence/Street Naming**

The Paddocks, Mendlesham Road, Brockford - unauthorized occupation of site

Notification had been received that MSDC planning had carried out an inspection of the site and confirmed the landowner was seeking to regularize the current breach by submitting a planning application. The Parish Council would be notified when the application had been registered and if not valid within the next 28 days planning officers would need to consider enforcement action.

It was reported that the ditch at the entrance to the site was blocked and full of water due to filling in a section of the ditch to gain vehicular access.

There also appeared to be a breach on the adjoining field due to the very bright lights constituting possible light pollution and causing a nuisance to neighbouring parishioners. These items would need to be reported to the environmental authority.

Street Naming signs – Brockford Street – Cllr Mrs Cain reported she still had to speak to the residents concerned.

11. **Telephone Kiosk, Church Street**

The kiosk having fallen into a poor condition, Cllr Alston had suggested it was in need of refurbishment, re-painting and an electricity supply before any decision could be made as to its use. A book exchange/library had been suggested although this facility was already available in the church porch. Cllr Ms Payne stated some villages had replaced the glass panels with stained glass and suggested the kiosk could be converted into a village feature with stained glass panels on a Hakluyt theme, possibly with grant assistance from the Hakluyt Society.

Cllr Ms Payne offered to contact the Hakluyt Society to enquire whether grant funding could be available and would also speak to Mr Mark Baker regarding cleaning and repainting of the kiosk.

12. **Village Hall report**

Cllr Leadbetter reported a balance of approximately £1826 in the reserve account. A new heater was due to be fitted, another had been ordered and the fire equipment had been serviced. Rehearsals for the pantomime were going well and a recent art event had been well attended. Eastern Angles were due to perform on the 14 April.

Cllr Harvey mentioned the village fete – if it was to take place this year helpers would be required. Cllr Harvey would put a note in the parish magazine asking for help. If helpers did not come forward it was suggested there should be no fete this year and that efforts were put into holding the fete next year.

13. **Proposed new Village Hall report**

Cllr Alston had put a note in the parish magazine asking for volunteer helpers to join a new village hall working group, there had been no responses so far. It was probable an approach to individual people would be required. Cllr Harvey suggested mentioning the need for a working group at the beginning of the pantomime shows.

Cllr Mrs Aldred mentioned the PCC was looking to increase the use of the church and possibly the church building could take over as a village hall. Cllrs Alston and Anscombe agreed to speak to Rev Llal before the next meeting.

14. VAS speed awareness report

Cllr Harvey had circulated the latest survey results showing one recorded speed of 84mph in Park Green. The survey was showing regularly recorded high speeds and it was agreed pressure should be put on local police to take action despite their view that as the equipment is parish council owned they were unable to take action. Cllr Harvey offered to draft a letter to PCC Tim Passmore setting out the survey results and asking for local police action to combat the high speeds in 30mph areas.

15. To consider grasscutting 2018

Cllr Lacey to report at the next meeting.

16. Play Area report

Cllr Mrs Nickson reported she had carried out regular inspections of the equipment, play areas and fencing and there were no issues to report. Waste bin emptying arrangements would need to be discussed with Cllr Mrs Arnold.

17. Spring litter pick and clean

It was suggested that cleaning village equipment (signs etc) could be combined with the spring litter pick, the date of which was not yet known. The Chairman to obtain the date from Mrs Clare Tilbury.

18. Proposed Wetheringsett Cycle Route

Cllr Ms Payne reported on discussions she had had with Suffolk County Highways and she had been put in touch with a Thurston parishioner where a cycle route had been established. A 6 mile circular route around the village had been suggested, possibly connecting with the Hakluyt theme by starting and ending at the telephone kiosk. Members agreed this would be another attractive feature for the village. Cllr Ms Payne would pursue with Suffolk Highways and Sustrans, the National Cycle Network.

19. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

A letter requesting support had been received from Age UK Suffolk setting out the services offered to older people in the county and the costs of the services provided. In principle members were agreeable to supporting the charity but requested further information as to the method of reaching out to the elderly in rural communities and the nature of assistance given to Wetheringsett over the last few years.

2. Accounts for Payment

Clerk's sal/expenses Jan 2018 - £257.58

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

3. Finance report

In accordance with NALC/SALC recommendations Cllr Leadbetter reported the clerk's hourly rate had been due for review with effective from 1.4.17. At spinal column 26 (current level) the rate had increased from £12.04 to £12.16. Cllr Leadbetter proposed the increase and that it was backdated to 1.4.17 and that with effect from 1.4.18 the clerk was moved to spinal column point 27 (£12.56) of the NALC LC scale. It was agreed this item was deferred and included for consideration on the next agenda.

4. To consider contribution to Town Lane legal fees fund

It was agreed this item was removed from the agenda pending any further request.

5. To consider review and adoption of the Parish Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and adoption of Internal Control statement

The documents had been circulated to members prior to the meeting for

consideration. No changes were proposed to the Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Cllr Leadbetter therefore proposed adoption of both documents, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed. The model statement of Internal control document provided by SALC had been completed by Cllr Leadbetter, no queries or amendments were requested, Cllr Alston proposed adoption of the document, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain and agreed.

6. GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) review

A revised table showing slightly reduced fees from the DPO Centre had been circulated by SALC. Arrangements for taking part in the scheme were still however to be finalized by SALC.

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

MSDC – invitation to parish councillors to a Cil workshop, 6pm on 19 February 2018 at Eye Community Centre.

Suffolk CC – highway maintenance survey, responses by parish councillors online by 28 February 2018.

Shared VAS equipment – Thwaite and Stoke Ash villages had been asked whether they would be interested in sharing the equipment for use in their villages. Both villages did not wish to take up the offer at the present time.

Hockey Hill/Church Street traffic congestion during school pick-up – Cllr Ms Payne was trying to arrange a site meeting with the highways engineer.

21. **To consider twitter items** – none. It was agreed this item was removed from the agenda unless further twitter items occurred.
22. **Chairman's urgent business** – none.
23. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests** - none
24. **Date of next meeting – Monday 5 March 2018, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed: 9.35pm

Signed:

Chairman Date: