

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 5 August 2019, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett

Present: Cllrs C Harvey (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs E Cain, Mrs H Green, B Lacey and M Pease. County & District Cllr A Stringer and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Mrs S Gibbs.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **Election of Vice Chairman**
Cllr Pease proposed Cllr Mrs E Cain for Vice Chairman, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred. Cllr Mrs Cain indicated her willingness to act as Vice Chairman. The proposed was unanimously agreed.
4. **To receive the following reports:**
Police – report available online.
County Councillor – Cllr Stringer went through his written report – copy circulated and attached to the minutes.
District Councillor – Cllr Stringer reported on the planning presentation meeting held earlier with parish councillors and he would circulated notes in support of the presentation.
Public Rights of Way – the following footpath was reported as overgrown – footpath 59 Knaves Green to Station Road. The following hedges/vegetation were reported as overgrown and obstructing visibility - Town Lane/A140 turning north; The Grange, Throndon Road, Wetheringsett – hedge overhanging the road.
Trees – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported there would be approximately 150 sapling trees available to distribute in the village during the autumn provided by the Suffolk Tree Warden Scheme. Several parishioners and the School had already requested a few. Parishioners should contact Cllr Mrs Aldred direct to obtain a supply.
5. **Minutes of the parish council meeting held 1 July 2019**
Cllr Pease proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded Cllr Lacey and agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes for report** – none.
7. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Two parishioners indicated their willingness to be considered for co-option to the council and wished to observe the meeting in the first instance.
A parishioner raised concerns over planning application DC/19/02386 – erection of a detached dwelling at 1 Knaves Green. Members noted the concerns raised.
8. **To consider planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/19/02386: 1 Knaves Green, Brockford Green – erection of a detached dwelling.
Members gave consideration to the application and a recommendation of refusal was proposed, seconded and agreed on the following grounds:
The proposed dwelling was sited in front of the existing building line
The site was within the defined open countryside
The proposed dwelling would require removal of the entire surrounding hedges
The site was unsustainable for any new housing
The highway access would not give sufficient visibility
Mid Suffolk District Council had a 5 year land housing supply
An application for a dwelling on the site had previously been rejected.
The proposal was contrary to MSDC Policies SB1, SB2, GP1 and the NPPF.
 2. DC/19/03473: Moat Farm, Wetherup Street
9. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**
 1. DC/19/02974 : Land east of Brockford Road, Mendlesham – change of use of land for siting 4 residential caravans. **Planning Permission Refused.**
 2. DC/19/02413 : Land to east of Park Hall Cottages, Wetherup Street – erection of 2 single storey dwellings and associated garages. **Planning Permission Refused.**
 3. DC/19/02240 : Meadow Farm, Blacksmiths Green – discharge of conditions application 3246/15, condition 3, 4 and 7. **Action required in accordance with specific timetable.**
 4. DC/19/02239 : Meadow Farm, Blacksmith Green – discharge of conditions application 1767/15 – condition 8 agreement of materials. **Refused condition.**
10. **Planning correspondence**
Notification had been received from MSDC enforcement that nine planning enforcement notices had been served by them in connection with unauthorised development at Bockford/Mendlesham Road.

11. To consider co-options to join the council following uncontested parish council elections May 2019

There were currently two vacancies, one open for co-option the other subject to statutory notice following the resignation of Mr Richard Anscombe.

Two parishioners were in attendance to observe the meeting having expressed an interest in joining the council and a third parishioner had expressed an interest via email direct to the clerk. Item to be included on the next agenda when it was hoped the vacancies would be filled.

12. To confirm the appointment of parish councillors on working groups and/or representatives on the following :

Finance – Cllr M Pease

Public Rights of Way – Cllr Mrs E Aldred

Trees – Cllr Mrs E Aldred

Village Hall – Cllr Mrs S Gibbs (admin)

Refurbishment/New Village Hall – Cllrs T Alston and C Harvey. Mr A Nickson and Mrs G Murray

SALC – all councillors

Play Area – Cllr B Lacey

Emergency Planning – Cllr T Alston

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Mrs H Green. Mrs G Murray, Mrs C Nickson and Mr E Payne.

13. Wetheringsett Village Hall report

A written report from Mr John Leadbetter stated the current bank balance stood at £1448.77. Curtains Up would be using the Hall for rehearsals for their Murder Mystery production on 5 October and the Hall was booked for the village Harvest Supper on 12 October.

Cllr Mrs Gibbs had offered to take over the administration of the Hall. Mr Leadbetter had suggested a Village Hall Committee was set up to progress improvements to the Hall and fund raising events.

It was reported a letter had been received from the Diocesan Board asking for a list of repairs intended for the building and the time scales for the work to ensure the hall was maintained in accordance with the lease. The DB would be informed the parish council was looking into options to maintain the building and the costs involved.

14. Use and maintenance of current hall – medium term plan for village hall

Cllr Harvey reported on the three options for the Village Hall, drawings and quotations received for refurbishment and/or replacement as follows:

Refurbishment of the current hall - £650,000

Re-locate the kitchen to the wc area and rebuild hall over existing - £855,000

New Village Hall - £1.2m

Cllr Harvey stated these figures were a starting point and the working group would be meeting shortly to discuss the next step.

15. VAS speed awareness report

Cllr Harvey reported the VAS machine was currently located on the A140 due to the closure of the A14 for maintenance work, the closure having had the effect of increasing the volume of traffic on the A140.

16. Play Area maintenance report and to consider invitation to join the MSDC annual ROSPA scheme inspection at a cost of £45.62

Cllr Lacey reported the replacement panel and a few other minor repairs had still to be carried out.

Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed joining the MSDC ROSPA inspection scheme, seconded Cllr Pease and agreed.

The inspection would take place during the autumn.

17. Cemetery and Play Area grass cutting and to consider visitor/parishioner concerns re. condition of the grass

Cllr Lacey reported the last cut had taken place on 21 June although grass around the headstones was still quite high. As explained at the last meeting, the contractor did not use a strimmer around the headstones due to possible damage to the stones. It was however believed the headstones were mainly secure and a suggestion was made that the next grass cut was used to trim around all the headstones instead of cutting the grass. This would leave one grass cut later in mid autumn. Cllr Lacey to arrange this with the contractor.

In the meantime Cllr Mrs Aldred suggested that another working party was set up to carry out additional maintenance work. A note would be included in the parish magazine asking interested parishioners to contact Cllr Mrs Aldred who would arrange a date for the work when sufficient volunteers had been identified.

Cllr Alston mentioned the overgrown condition of the churchyard and suggested grass cutting for both the churchyard and cemetery were combined next year.

18. Proposed Neighbourhood Plan report

Cllr Harvey reported the working group were due to meet to agree the next stage following completion of the village survey. Members agreed in principle reimbursement for the cost of the website survey, currently three months at £35.00.

19. Wetheringsett Cycle Route

Planning permission for the final design to the telephone kiosk had yet to be received from MSDC. In the meantime Ms Sarah Payne had requested approval for reimbursement of her planning application printing expenses totalling £7.00 and approval to order the kiosk maintenance parts, ie specialist paint, glass and glazing frames at a cost of £1019, subject to some slight adjustment from the specialist company X2Connect. Cllr Alston proposed approval of the order, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain and agreed.

20. To consider support for provision of a concrete kerb edging at Brockford Street/Nursery Gardens

A request had been received from a parishioner at the above location for parish council support for the provision of a concrete kerb along the roadside in front of their cottage, due to excessive soiling of mud and tree debris from passing traffic. Suffolk Highways had been in contact with the parishioner and suggested a kerb would prevent the soiling but this would need the support of the parish council. Members noted kerbing was the responsibility of Suffolk CC Highways and there had been no mention of costs involved. Parish Council members agreed to support the parishioner so as to address the ongoing nuisance. County Cllr Stringer to be copied into reply.

21. Finance

1. Section 137 donation requests

A request for financial support had been received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

Cllr Mrs Cain proposed a donation of £100, seconded Cllr Pease and agreed.

2. Accounts for Payment

SARS – donation	£100.00
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Grass Cutting 21 June 2019	£250.00
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MSDC – Parish election costs	£110.78
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Clerk – sal/expenses July 2019	£277.62
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Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Pease and agreed.

3. Finance Report

Cllr Mrs Aldred reported on the change of cheque signatories position. The two new signatories, Cllr Mrs Arnold and Mrs Cain would be required to complete the necessary paperwork and return it to Barclays Bank.

22. To consider Parish Council responses to the following documents:

1. Babergh/MSDC Joint Local Plan Consultation 22 July – 30 September 2019.

A Town Lane resident had expressed some concern regarding possible development of the airfield site. The Chairman requested that members peruse the document before the September meeting when a formal response would be agreed.

**2. Babergh/MSDC Housing Land Supply Position Statement Consultation 19 July – 16 August 2019 –
Having considered the document, members agreed to make no response.**

23. Clerk's report/correspondence

1. Suffolk CC consultation document – Ipswich Northern Route Bypass 5 July – 13 September 2019. Cllr Stringer had covered this topic in his report, particularly the concerns as to where the additional 15,000 homes would be located. The Chairman urged members to make responses to the document before the deadline date.

2. EACH – a letter had been received thanking the Parish Council for its donation of £50.00. Such donations enabled Each to continue to deliver vital care across East Anglia.

24. Chairman's Urgent Business

The Chairman felt meetings had become a little too informal and stated he would be circulating a copy of the Council's Standing Orders as a reminder to members of the manner in which meetings should be run.

25. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Waste Collection - Cllr Mrs Cain reported some problems with bin collections following the recent changes. Cllr Stringer requested details were forwarded to him. He would take up the problem with Mid Suffolk Waste Collection.

Parish Council meetings – Cllr Mrs Cain requested that meetings start at 7pm instead of 7.30pm to enable everyone to leave for home earlier, particularly now that the evenings were pulling in. Members

supported an earlier start time of 7pm.

26. **Date of next meeting – Monday 2 September 2019, 7pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed: 9.25pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: