

## **Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held 6 November 2017**

Present: Cllrs A Anscombe (Chairman), Mrs A Arnold, Mrs E Cain, Miss J Canham, C Harvey, B Lacey, J Leadbetter, Mrs C Nickson, County Cllr A Stringer and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, T Alston and Ms S Payne.
2. **Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **Presentation from Mendlesham Parish Council representations on producing a Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Sharon Jones and Mr Terry Moore to the meeting.

Mr Moore gave an overview of the process used by Mendlesham to prepare a plan:

Time taken to complete the plan approximately four and a half years.

A working group, not necessarily parish councillors, formed comprising a good mixture of age ranges and life skills.

Area of the plan to be defined – usually the parish boundary.

Mr Moore emphasized a plan would not stop development but would try to guide the authorities on what the parish wanted and where and to that end the plan had been a worthwhile exercise.

Parishioners would need to be consulted on what they wanted for the village at an early stage via a questionnaire.

This information would form the basis of the plan.

The first draft, to the questionnaire stage, could take 9 months to a year to prepare.

The Working Group would need to liaise with the District Council to ensure the housing requirement agreed with the District Council's NPPF.

The working group would need to work with community groups and school.

The final draft would need to go through a health check by accredited inspectors prior to a final draft.

The cost for the health check was approx. £1000.

The expertise required to prepare the plan would need to be identified, ie communication skills, project management, report writing etc. Community Action Suffolk could help with village profiles. Other expertise included: document control, generation analysis, statistical analysis and google.com for documents

Good interaction with MSDC was important.

Records of decisions and supporting evidence was necessary.

The overall cost of the Mendlesham plan had totalled £8780 and £4300 of this had been covered by a locality grant.

Some items the plan would need to include: a parish profile, housing needs survey, statements of consultation, policies that apply, history of the parish, parish location and facilities, landscape and visual assessments and conservation area appraisal

Mr Moore stated the presentation had only been an overview of the process, it had been a worthwhile experience for Mendlesham and MSDC had been available for advice where required.

The Chairman thanked Mr Moore and Mrs Jones for their time and the presentation which would be very helpful to Wetheringsett councillors on deciding the type of plan suitable for the village.

#### 4. **Town Lane**

The Chairman gave a brief report on the meeting held 13 October with Dr Dan Poulter MP and the invited stakeholders. The Chairman had requested a copy of the notes from the meeting and he understood letters had been sent to Suffolk CC, MSDC and Suffolk Constabulary outlining the action points agreed and a report on the responses would be made when received.

County Cllr Stringer stated he had spoken to Officers regarding the speed limit on Town Lane and the view put forward was that speed was not the problem but the volume of traffic - the incidents reported were not necessary speed related. It was clear the County Council needed to work closer with the Traffic Commissioner and Operator's Licensing Dept on any future applications. The signs were now available and awaiting installation. An estimate of £3m had been obtained to improve Town Lane or to move the business from the site.

#### 5. **Reports**

Police – report available online.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his report – copy attached to the minutes. Questions raised included the unauthorized development of a field in Mendlesham Road. Cllr Stringer stated

planning enforcement officers were investigating and he was awaiting their report.

District Councillor – no report

Footpaths – all footpath maintenance had been reported awaiting response from Suffolk CC.

6. **Minutes of the meeting held 2 October 2017**

Cllr Harvey proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain and agreed.

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

8. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Town lane - A member of the public stated residents had met after the meeting with the MP on 13 October and residents were willing to take legal advice on the Town Lane issues – an initial quote for advice had totalled £45,000. Residents asked whether the parish council would be willing to contribute to the cost. Item to be included on the next agenda for consideration.

Local Plan – Town Lane residents summarized their response to the local plan in relation to the industrial sites identified in the Town Lane area. The summary had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Chairman raised comments from Cllr Ms Payne as to whether designation of these sites had been highlighted by the District Councillor at previous meetings.

Brockford Street - items relating to Brockford Street were raised by another parishioner: 1. Unauthorised development of a field in Mendlesham Road – an overflow field for the River Dove, a category 2 and 3 overflow area. 2. Encroachment into Wetheringsett parish south of Brockford Garage 3. Unmarked cul de sacs off Brockford Street and 4. Town Lane had no street sign. The Chairman thanked the parishioner for bringing these items to attention. Action to be agreed under item 12.

9. **To consider Panning Applications for recommendation to MSDC**

1. DC/17/05172 : land west of Old Station View, Hall Lane – erection of dwelling and 3 bay detached garage with improvement to existing vehicular access. It had not been possible to access the application documents on the MSDC website. Members were therefore unable to comment.

10. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**

1. DC/17/04911 : Rectory Cottage – notification of tree works in conservation area – reduce canopy by 30% on one yew tree. **MSDC does not wish to object.**
2. DC/17/03492 : Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of two dwellings. **Planning Permission Granted.**
3. DC/17/04912 : Manor Bungalow, Church Street – notification of tree works in conservation area – coppice one sycamore tree near garden. **MSDC does not wish to object.**
4. DC/17/04518 : Land adjoin 1 Knaves Green, Brockford Green – erection of one detached dwelling and construction of vehicular access. **Planning Permission Granted.**

Members stated they were uncomfortable with the number of recent applications granted against recommendation from the Parish Council and queried whether comments were taken into consideration. It was suggested this was raised with the Districted Councillor.

11. **MSDC/Babergh Joint Local Plan Review** – to agree response to consultation document

The following response to proposed development in the village was agreed:

Brockford Street – SS0570 support. SS00599 not supported due to difficult access to the A140.

Hockey Hill boundary – the red boundary line at the rear of properties was supported due to unsuitable access should the area edged green be put forward for development.

Wetherup Street – no change supported.

Mendlesham Airfield: SS0536 – supported

SS0325 which would involve industrialization of a huge area south of Town Lane – not supported.

Members endorsed support of the document put forward by Town Lane residents (copy attached to the Minutes).

12. **To consider planning concerns raised by parishioner**

This item related to the issues raised in the public session. All items to be reported to MSDC for action.

13. **Village Hall Report**

Cllr Leadbetter reported a balance of £1749 in reserve. The School had paid the annual rent due and the public meeting on 13 October had been well attended.

14. **Proposed New Village Hall**

The Chairman reported he had been through the papers relating to the project covering action taken over the last 5 years. It was clear that a working group made up of parish councillors and parishioners would be needed to progress the project. Members would need to look to recruiting help from a select number of parishioners.

**15. VAS speed awareness report**

Cllr Harvey reported that high vehicle speeds were still being recorded. He would continue to move the equipment weekly.

**16. Request for extension of speed limit – Station Road.**

Having been informed by Suffolk CC Highways that Station Road did not meet the criteria for a designated speed limit it was agreed this item was removed from the agenda for the time being.

**17. Wetheringsett Primary School** – concerns raised over the school run

Suffolk CC Highways had not supported a short strip of double yellow lines on the Hockey Hill bend. Item to be removed from the agenda.

**18. Grass cutting** – Cemetery and Play Area. Include on next agenda

**19. Play Area report**

Cllr Mrs Nickson would arrange for the deteriorated fencing posts to be replaced.

**20. To consider a village autumn clean** – item deferred.

**21. Clearance of highway pavement Brockford Street** – it was reported the pavement had now been cleared.

**22. Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

Mid Suffolk CAB – Cllr Mrs Nickson proposed a donation of £50, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.

2. Accounts for payment

Mymow Grass cutting – final payment £200.00

Clerk sal/expen – Oct 2017 £256.80

Mid Suffolk CAB – donation £50.00

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

4. Finance Report – Cllr Leadbetter stated he would be preparing a draft budget for consideration at the next meeting.

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

SALC – Notification of AGM 7 November at Haughley

MSDC – notifications of Parish Liaison Meeting 7 and 9 November.

Suffolk Minerals and Waste consultation document circulated – comments to be submitted by 11 December

**24. To consider Twitter items** - none

**25. Chairman's Urgent Business** – the Chairman stated he would be unable to attend the December and January meetings.

**26. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests** – none.

**27. Date of next meeting – Monday 4 December 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

Meeting closed 10.10pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: