

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 6 November 2023, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett.

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, Mrs L Drury, C Harvey, Mrs J Weir and Mrs K van Zyl.
County and District Cllr A Stringer and twenty-two parishioners

1. **Apologies and consent to absence** had been received from Cllrs T Alston, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech and N Lingard
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’s written report had been circulated (copy attached to the Minutes).
 3. **District Councillor** – Cllr Stringer’s written report had been circulated (copy attached to the Minutes).
Following flooding as a result of Storms Babet/Kieran Cllr Stringer stated he would like to hear how parishioners had been affected and views as to how the authorities can do better and extended his thanks to those parishioners who had helped others whose travel and homes had been badly affected by the storm and floods. Householders were being urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council’s reporting tool. The Government had announced some financial support and the council was waiting to hear how this would be distributed
 4. **Footpaths** – no issues to report.
 5. **Trees** – Cllr Mrs Aldred stated young seedling trees would be available. Parishioners would be notified when they were available. Cllr Harvey reported a tree on Church land had taken out the surrounding internet connection. This would be raised with the PCC.
6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Town Lane – a parishioner enquired as to the current position with regard to the excess number of trailers at the site. Cllr Stringer reported MSDC were still awaiting a date for the appeal hearing.

Storm Babet/Kieran – flooding – parishioners reported on individual incidents of severe flooding to their own properties, roads and surrounding area during the storm on 20 October 2023. The lack of maintenance of the waterways, tributaries and River Dove itself were raised as being the main contributor to the flood. The traffic catastrophe on the A140 and lack of police to manage the situation was raised as well as a lack of an emergency plan coming into action from the Parish Council. With regard to the current damage Cllr Stringer reported Government funding would be available to help parishioners and businesses. All those affected were encouraged to report flood damage via the Suffolk CC reporting tool as soon as possible, this would enable them to be contacted when the funding became available.

Going forward parishioners requested action by the three bodies responsible for the river and waterways, the Environment Agency, Suffolk CC and landowners. Parishioners stated it was imperative that all waterways were now dredged and cleared of trees and debris, that vulnerable areas were identified for improved drainage ie. Church Street and Brockford Street. Suggestions included a hydrologist report and flood plan and an emergency plan from the Parish Council including identifying respite centre.

Volunteers offered to walk footpaths and waterways to identify pinch points – a map would need to be supplied.

The Chair thanked all parishioners for attending and the information provided – it was important the Parish Council reviewed its emergency plan. This would be an item for the next agenda. In the meantime parishioners were urged to keep updated on developments via the Suffolk CC and MSDC websites and floodmary.com for flood advice.

Meeting closed to the public 8.30pm
4. **To consider for approval Minutes of the meeting held 2 October 2023**
Cllr Harvey proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred – unanimously agreed.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
6. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/23/04844: Mill Cottage, Church Street – notification of tree works in Conservation area – pollard lime tree, reduce garden hedge, reduce lime tree and re-pollard willow tree. A recommendation of support for the tree works was proposed, seconded and agreed.
 2. DC/23/04806: Deerbolts Cottage, Blacksmiths Green – application for Listed Building Consent –

removal of existing lean-to log store, relocation of existing oil tank and erection of new ground floor extension to provide new bedroom and shower. A recommendation of support was proposed, seconded and agreed

7. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/22/04448: Appeal – White Thorn, White Horse Corner – erection of detached single storey dwelling. Appeal Dismissed.
2. DC/23/02948: Rectory Cottage, Church Street – Discharge conditions application DC/22/03542. Condition 4 implementation of below ground works. Condition 5 proposed insulation and underfloor heating build-up. Condition 8 wall insulation. Approved.DC/23/03402:
3. DC/23/03402: Rectory Cottage, Church Street - Application for Listed Building Consent. External addition of Air Source Heat Pump, fencing and addition to existing brick wall boundary. Listed Building Consent Granted.
4. DC/23/02946: Rectory Cottage, Church Street - Installation of external heat pump, surrounding Fencing, build up of existing brick wall to provide barrier between property and neighbour. Planning Permission Granted.
5. DC/23/04244: Land to south west of Brockford Campsite, Brockford Green – change of use of agricultural land for use as Dog Park. Planning Permission Granted.
6. DC/23/04512: Rectory Cottage, Church Street – Discharge of Condition 6,DC/22/04668 (brackets). Approved Condition.

8. **Planning correspondence** – none.

9. Report on proposed changes to Village Hall parking spaces

Confirmation had been received from the School that it was looking into obtaining quotations for the proposed improvements to the car parking spaces and designation of a disabled space on the school section of the car park.

10. Village Hall

1. Management Committee report – Cllr Harvey reported a number of events were planned over the next few months. The cost for iPad for the Internet Café project was estimated at £750 - £800.
2. Report on School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease – the licence review was still pending. When agreed the agreement would continue on a rolling monthly basis.
3. Proposed Solar Panels on part Hall roof report
Approval had been received from MSDC for a Capital Grant and Section 106 funding totalling £8,500. County Match-Funding to reach the project's needs was still required.
The MSDC offer would need to be accepted within a month. Cllr Lingard sought Council approval to accept the grant. This did not commit the council but would secure funding availability assuming the project progressed. Cllr Harvey proposed acceptance of the funding, seconded by the Chair and unanimously agreed.

11. **Grasscutting report** - no report.

12. **Play Area report** – no report.

13. VAS speed equipment and ANPR report

It was reported the recent data received from the ANPR report did not appear to be accurate possibility due to a defective battery. The Chair would query this with the ANPR Officer at Suffolk CC.

Cllr Mrs Weir requested consideration of Kill your Speed Signs be included on the next agenda.

14. **Community Speed Watch Scheme** – no progress to report.

15. Reinstatement of Wetheringsett Village Sign report

The sign was completed and now reinstated. Thanks were recorded to Mrs Sally McKenna for her restoration work on the sign. The two invoices for the work totalling £1314.37 would be submitted to the Council's insurers.

16. **To consider a community First Aid Course** – deferred to next meeting.

17. To confirm Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service arrangements – 12 November 2023

Poppy Wreaths had been received and it was confirmed Cllr Mrs Aldred would attend the Wetheringsett Memorial Service on behalf of the Parish Council and Mrs Ann Arnold would attend on behalf of the Parish Council at the Mendlesham service.

18. To consider MSDC review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Councillors confirmed the current arrangements using the Village Hall.

19. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

An annual donation request had been received from Suffolk Accident Rescue. Cllr Mrs Cain proposed an amount of £100, seconded Cllr Mrs van Zyl, unanimously agreed.

2. Accounts for payment

Wetheringsett Church & Town Estate Charity - annual loan instalment	£2148.67
Ben Reeves Garden Maintenance – final strim	£75.00
Compass Point Planning – NP printing costs	£163.27
Wetheringsett VH – hire charges Sept 23 – March 24	£120.00
S McKenna – repainting Village Sign	£676.00
Clerk sal-expen Oct 23	£318.45
Poppy Appeal – 2 poppy wreaths	£40.00
Suffolk Accident Rescue – donation	£100.00

The above payments were unanimously agreed.

3. Finance report including draft precept 2024-25

The current bank balance stood at £20,249.17. The proposed budget and precept figures had been circulated to members. The item was deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

20. **To consider for approval Parish Council Risk Assessment and Asset Register documents**

Asset Register deferred to next meeting pending consideration of Village Sign value.

Risk Assessment – the Risk Assessment had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. No queries were raised. Cllr Mrs Cain proposed adoption of the document, seconded Cllr Mrs K van Zyl – unanimously agreed.

21. **Clerk’s report/correspondence**

January 2024 meeting – the first Monday of the month was a bank holiday. Monday 8 January 2024 was agreed.

22. **Chair’s Report**

The Chair thanked residents for attending the meeting to pass on their concerns and reports on the recent flooding and thanks were recorded to all those that had helped parishioners suffering from the flood. Pending further information from the responsible authorities’ parishioners were encouraged to contact the chair or clerk with any further issues at this stage. The Parish Council would do its best to help. The Chair reiterated the information available on the Suffolk CC website for those affected.

Reports of excess litter on the forecourt at the Brockford Garage had been received, this was being blown out on to the road and other areas of the village. The chair suggested a letter was sent to the garage asking them to carry out regular litter picks.

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

Parish Emergency Plan review - to be included on the next agenda.

Carol Service – Cllr Mrs Aldred stated representatives from village organisations were being invited to attend and read at the Service. The Chair agreed to attend and read on behalf of the Parish Council.

24. **Date of next meeting - Monday 4 December 2023, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett**

Meeting closed: 9.27pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – November 2023

Supporting Suffolk Farmers

The council meeting on Thursday 19 October saw councillors vote to approve a motion supporting local farmers and food producers by ensuring that local meat and dairy, as well as plant-based produce, is served at council events. The council’s facilities and catering arm, Vertas, has 68% of its spend with Suffolk suppliers and 86% with regional suppliers. In order to tackle the county’s environmental priorities and boost the local economy, the council also pledged to encourage Suffolk residents to buy local produce and shop locally wherever possible.

Walking and Bridleway Access

At Cabinet on Tuesday 10 October, members of the Suffolk Local Access Forum joined the meeting to provide their annual report, which included the work they are doing to improve and maintain footways and access around the county, particularly with Network Rail and National Highways to make sure that new developments take foot traffic and walkers into account. They are keen for the council to promote the East Anglian sections of the newly named King Charles III England Coast Path. The forum expressed concern about the significant large-scale energy infrastructure projects planned for the county and could impact on Suffolk residents' enjoyment of the green access network and impact on the county's natural environment.

Suffolk Pharmacies

On 11 October, councillors from my group attended Health Scrutiny which was looking at the service provided by pharmacies in Suffolk and the challenges they face with funding, staff recruitment, medicine shortages and pharmacies closing. Representatives from the NHS, Suffolk GPs and the Suffolk Pharmaceutical Committee joined the meeting and recommendations were made to write to minister about funding, and work with local schools and the University of Suffolk to promote pharmacy as a career path. It was noted that in order to provide extra services (such as blood pressure checks, cholesterol tests and asthma advice) which take pressure off GP surgeries, more space and consulting rooms would be required than Suffolk pharmacies currently had available.

Budget Consultation

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities as it decides how it will spend money next year and has launched an online consultation to give Suffolk residents a say in budget setting for the financial year 2024-25. There will also be a number of focus groups to explain the council's current financial situation, along with the chance for Suffolk residents and businesses to have a say on Council Tax proposals.

There are three key questions, the first is on which services people have recently used, the second asks for thoughts on seeking a greater contribution to Council Tax to help fund public services, and the third on which service area you would like to see more money spent. The online survey can be found at the link below – please give us your views!
http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget24_25/

Storm Babet Flooding

Suffolk County Council and my group would like to extend their thanks to those of you around the county who helped other residents whose homes and travel were affected by the rains and flooding that struck Suffolk on Friday 20 October. The way the emergency services, volunteers, farmers and local communities worked together to help children get home from school, move people to safety and protect buildings from flooding was truly inspirational.

If you have been affected by the Storm Babet and the recent flooding, please use link below for SCC support and advice: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

Follow us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkqli_group/

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

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


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>

District Councillor Report – November 2023

<p>Flooding</p>	<p>After Storm Babet, the Council has been working hard to help residents in affected homes and businesses. Householders are being urged to report flood damage via Suffolk County Council’s reporting tool. Government has announced some financial support and we are waiting to see how this can be distributed. Affected businesses should also contact Mid Suffolk to register for support. Please visit www.midsuffolk.gov.uk for full details.</p>
<p>Solar and Low Carbon Energy</p>	<p>As Mid Suffolk’s Council meeting on 26th October, a position statement on Low Carbon Energy was agreed. In absence of Government policy, the Council cannot make planning policy regarding renewable energy such as solar farms or solar PV on roof-tops. We can only provide a statement of intent in terms of how we wish to see developments proceed. In January next year we expect to produce a full Supplementary Planning Document on this which takes longer to put together as it has to be consulted on and provide relevant evidence.</p>
<p>Sustainable Transport</p>	<p>At the same meeting it was agreed to form a working group to review sustainable integrated transport in the district – particularly for walking and cycling. It is hoped to review this in relation to commencing schemes in villages in the district.</p>
<p>Home insulation</p>	<p>The <i>Cosy Homes</i> initiative is being launched on 15th November. Eligible households will be able to apply for energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including if privately rented. Full details to be available soon. Particularly vulnerable households can continue to access this via the wider Suffolk scheme, www.warmhomessuffolk.org</p>
<p>Council housing repairs</p>	<p>The new Administration at Mid Suffolk is focussing on the backlog of housing repairs that are needed. This backlog will be dealt with via a separate contractor allowing the in-house team to concentrate on day-to-day repairs.</p>
	<p>The consultation to get residents’ feedback on the planned priorities for the District is open until 15th November. We are hoping to engage with as wide a section of the district as possible, including some groups which seldom get involved, as well as businesses and Town and Parish Councils. Please have your say via our online survey: https://baberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils</p>
<p>Locality Award</p>	<p>A reminder that this year’s locality awards are still open for applications. Any group or organisation can apply for amounts of £250 or more. Please contact me for an application form.</p>

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