

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 6 June 2022, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs A Arnold, Mrs L Drury, Mrs H Green, C Harvey, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech. County and District Councillor A Stringer, 5 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Mrs E Aldred and T Alston.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**
Item 8(1) – Cllr Mrs R Leech
3. **To receive the following Reports**
 1. Police available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk>. No queries were raised.
 2. County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). Queries raised included overgrown grass verges dangerous to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Cllr Stringer stated that currently only junctions that were dangerous due to lack of visibility would be cut. Cllr Stringer advised any areas known to be causing such obstruction should be reported via the County Council Highways reporting tool.
 3. District Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his District Council report (copy attached to the Minutes). No queries were raised.
 4. Footpaths – deferred to next meeting.
 5. Trees – deferred to next meeting.
6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Three members of the public expressed their concerns and further objections relating to the planning appeals at 8, 1 and 2 of the Agenda – both applications for developments on Hockey Hill. Items raised included inaccuracies in the appeal statement, ie reference to a bus service – this appeared to be inaccurate. That the proposals were for sites in the wrong place, the land at Cedars/A140 junction appeared more than adequate. Research via the Neighbourhood Plan showed no real demonstrable demand for further housing. One of the applications was for an outline design which could change at the planning permission stage if granted.

The Architect for application AP/22/00016 stated the Trust owning the site wanted to use it for small scale mixed housing and not executive style dwellings. The site was within easy walking distance of the Primary School. The site in Brockford Street would require pupils to arrive by car. Six of the dwellings would be available to rent. Agricultural vehicles would be able to access the field at the rear of the site via a rear field access. Vehicular access for residents of the site could have been via the agricultural access but MSDC had asked for the existing Hockey Hill garages to be removed to provide vehicular access. The garages would be replaced with parking spaces. Cllr Stringer confirmed MSDC had demolished many of its owned garages in the district. The site was not amenity land.

The Chair thanked all for their comments, these would be taken into consideration at item 8. 1 and 2.

Meeting closed to the public

4. **To consider for approval Minutes of the annual parish council meeting held 9 May 2022**
Cllr Mrs Leech proposal adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Harvey and unanimously agreed.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
6. **Report on Parish Council Vacancies and to consider co-option**
Confirmation had been received from the Returning Officer at MSDC that following display of the statutory notice notifying the vacancy to the parish, no election had been requested by 10 or more parishioners, the council was free to co-opt to fill the vacancy.
Mr Nigel Lingard had expressed an interest in joining the council and he gave a brief address to members outlining his interest in the village and the council. He was involved with the Neighbourhood Plan working group and had previous experience of committee work. The Chair thanked Mr Lingard for his address. Cllr Mrs Leech proposed Mr Lingard was co-opted to join the Council, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and unanimously agreed. Mr Lingard was welcomed to the Council.
7. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC** – none received
8. **Notification of Planning Appeals** – to consider representation/s to the Planning Appeal Inspector
 1. AP/22/00016: Land east of Hockey Hill – Outline Planning Application (access, layout and scale to be considered). Residential development of 14 dwellings (including 4 affordable),

garaging, construction of access and associated parking

Having declared an interest, Cllr Mrs Leech left the meeting

It was noted the Parish Council's original recommendation of refusal submitted to MSDC Planning would be forwarded to the Planning Appeal Inspector.

Following further discussion, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the following additional comments would be sent to the Planning Appeal Inspector:

The Parish Council was not in the least opposed to appropriate and sustainable development. Nine dwellings were currently being built in a location close to shop and transport facilities and a further equivalent and larger site had been red-lined for development, again close to shop and transport facilities.

Wetheringsett village itself had no services whatsoever, apart from a primary School, Village Hall and a church.

Transport into the village centre was largely by single track roads with limited passing places.

The Parish Council understood there was no public transport to the village Centre and believed the availability of this should be checked.

School funding was not relevant and the school was not underfunded.

The MSDC housing land supply had increased from 5 years in 2020 to 9.34 as at April 2022.

Cllr Mrs Leech returned to the meeting

2. AP/22/00008: Land to the east of Hockey Hill – planning application. Erection of 11 dwellings including 4 affordable dwellings, construction of access, associated parking and landscaping. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed the Parish Council would reiterate its recommendation of refusal with the following additional comments submitted to the Planning Appeal Inspector:

The Parish Council was not in the least opposed to appropriate and sustainable development. Nine dwellings were currently being built in a location close to shop and transport facilities and a further equivalent and larger site had been red-lined for development, again close to shop and transport facilities.

Wetheringsett village itself had no services whatsoever, apart from a primary School, Village Hall and a church.

Transport into the village centre was largely by single track roads with limited passing places.

The Parish Council understood there was no public transport to the village Centre and believed the availability of this should be checked.

Access to the site was via a single high sided track unsuitable for pedestrians. School funding was not relevant and the school was not underfunded.

The MSDC housing land supply had increased from 5 years in 2020 to 9.34 as at April 2022.

9. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/22/01576: Dove Cottage, Church Street – Householder Application – replacement of all white Wooden windows with white uPVC windows, replace brown wood front door with Painswick Green composite door and replace rear dining room window with Agate Grey uPVC patio doors. **Planning Permission Granted**
2. DC/22/01525: Willow Barn, Hall Lane – conversion of and alterations to 3 bay garage to provide annexed accommodation ancillary to host dwelling. **Planning Permission Granted**
3. DC/22/01405: Land at Norwich Road, Wetheringsett – discharge of conditions application DC/20/00324 – condition no 7 details of illumination, condition 17 refuse bins and collection areas. **Approved Conditions.**

10. Planning correspondence

Development at Norwich Road/Brockford Street, Wetheringsett. The Chair was pleased to report there had been no breaches of the development working times since the Enforcement Notice had been issued.

- 11. Parish Council Loan application to the Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to fund replacement of Wetheringsett Village Hall floor - Application progress report.** Still awaiting response from the Levelling Up Dept.

12. Village Hall reports

1. Management Committee – no report.
2. School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease – The Chair to progress via the Diocesan Agent.
3. Platinum Jubilee celebrations 2022

Cllr Harvey reported on the very successful Platinum Jubilee event held on Friday 3 June on the Village Hall field. The event had been very well attended and huge thanks were recorded to all those involved in the organization. The Village Hall Committee had set aside £500 to contribute to the cost but that fund would probably not be needed.

13. Play Area Report:

1. To consider participating in the MSDC Group Play Area Annual Inspection scheme.
It was agreed the Council would take part in the MSDC annual play inspection scheme as per last year the fee being some £47.00. Cllr Lacey stated he would like to attend the inspection. The Inspector would be asked to inform Cllr Lacey of the date if possible.
2. Maintenance – Cllr Lacey reported the grass had been cut and bolts tightened on the playframe.

14. **Grasscutting report** – Cllr Lacey stated there had been no cut as yet in the cemetery, he would speak to the contractor to arrange the first grass cut.

15. Report on damaged and missing highway sign at A140/Town Lane junction

The sign had still not been reinstated. Cllr Mrs Arnold agreed to report this again via the Suffolk CC highways reporting tool.

16. **Report on Hockey Hill/Church Street surface water flooding** – the Chair stated she had reported the blocked drain and large pothole at the drive entrance to the Primary School and was awaiting a response.

17. VAS speed equipment and Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera Project (ANPR) report

Members discussed installing an average speed camera. Item to be included on the next agenda.

18. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan – working group report

The public consultation on the draft Plan was to begin on Monday 20 June 2022 and end on Friday 5 August 2022. Councillors and parishioners were encouraged to comment on the draft.

19. **Parish Pond, Wetherup Street** – to consider provision and cost of Pond Sign. Cllr Lacey to obtain the sign.

20. **Wetheringsett Village Sign** – report on repairs to the sign due to storm damage. Deferred to next meeting.

21. Finance

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

- 2 Accounts for payment

MSDC – Litter and Dog Bin emptying 2022-23	£357.68
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Clerk – sal-expen May 2022	287.24
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Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Harvey and unanimously agreed.

3. Finance

1. Receipts – vat totalling £4658 had been refunded by HMRC.

2. Banking – to facilitate transfer of funds between the two Barclays accounts the Online Painsentry Banking system would be investigated.

22. **To consider for adoption the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020** – deferred to next meeting

23. **Clerk’s report/correspondence** – none.

24. **Chair’s Report** – following the success of the Platinum Jubilee event the Chair recorded her thanks to all those involved in making the afternoon such a success with special thanks to Mrs Sue Stannard for instigating the event.

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

26. **Date of next meeting - Monday 4 July 2022, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett**

Meeting closed: 8.50pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – 6.6.22

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Welcome Guidance for Ukrainians arriving in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

1) Motion Passed, Further Commitment to Suffolk Rivers

Full Council convened on the 19th May. Our Group proposed a motion for greater commitment towards improving rivers in Suffolk. Currently, all Suffolk rivers have been reported by the Environment Agency to have failed government standards. Increased pollution comes from a rise in sewage discharges, as well as chemicals used in agriculture that run off into waterways.

Our motion committed SCC to improving rivers, investigating what more can be done to enhance waterways, and increase engagement and support with farmers and environmental groups in any future strategies. Our motion was passed unanimously.

Below is a picture of our Group campaigning a successful protest outside Endeavour House:

2) Successful Protest on Suffolk Rivers



3) Current petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract

Our Group has started a petition, demanding that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year.

Since Kier's arrival, our Group has seen astronomical prices for the maintenance of Suffolk's highways. Some of these prices include £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs, £7,500 to cut down a single tree, and £10,000 to design (not build) four humps in a road.

Our Group believes an in-house bid from SCC to take back control of Suffolk Highways is needed to get things done. The bid would also provide a necessary benchmark for any competitive bid coming from external companies, making sure Suffolk taxpayers money is not exploited.

We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. Please sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won't count!): <https://www.petitions.net/for-suffolk-county-council-to-develop-an-in-house-bid-for-suffolk-highways-maintenance>

(4) National Grid consultation

National Grid have released proposals to increase pylon networks across Suffolk's countryside, in light of the Government's strategy to grow the East of England's offshore electricity generation. Our Group are strongly against the development of more pylon networks impacting Suffolk's rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals are even criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartlidge.

Our Group will put pressure on this Council to respond to the consultation, in collaboration with Essex and Norfolk, stressing the significant need for sea-level cables that reduce the community impacts of National Grid's proposals. Our Group will respond ourselves if the Conservative fail to address our concerns.

If you would like to voice your opinion on the matter, click here (Deadline is the 16th June):

<https://eastangliagreen.participatr.io/index.php?contentid=13>

Follow us on:

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

Instagram (New!) - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

District Councillors Parish Council Report - June 2022

Cost of Living Report & Action Plan	<p>Mid Suffolk has agreed an action plan linked to a cost of living report, looking into how we can support residents in the future, to make sure as many as possible can cope with the upcoming inflationary pressures.</p> <p>This five point plan covers, Co-ordinating government support, Exercising discretion when providing welfare support, maximise partnership working, maintain good health by discounting Gyms & Swimming Pools and engaging in community led “wellbeing” initiatives etc.</p> <p>One area this report our group would have liked to include was fuel poverty advice and practical help in insulating homes etc given MSDC gives out Building Control Advice, as well as grants for housing upgrades, we believe this area should have been in the report and been given all urgency.</p>
Pylon Consultation	<p>Mid Suffolk has unanimously agreed to object to the recent National Grid Consultation titled East Anglia Green, The project raises issues including impact on biodiversity as well as heritage concerns and landscape character, The District Council suggests that the undersea option should be given priority.</p>
Planning Reviews	<p>The recent reviews of the planning service and the planning enforcement regime are nearing completion, with many recommendations for making the service more transparent and easier to engage with. When the final outcomes are agreed I will update, and go through the changes so we can get a better understanding of how we can remain effective on behalf of our residents.</p>

Councillor Andrew Stringer andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk