

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the video meeting held Monday 6 July 2020 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs C Harvey, Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs E Cain, Mrs C Estcourt, Mrs H Green, M Pease and County Cllr A Stringer

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs D Brown, Mrs S Gibbs and B Lacey
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **Reports:**

Police – report available online – no queries were raised.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer went through his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). A large amount of County business was currently covid-19 related. The County continued to work with schools to assist them remaining open where possible. There would be changes to school transport at the beginning of September, no free school places would be available due to the required social distancing on buses. Cllr Stringer urged parishioners to remain vigilant as far as the virus was concerned, Suffolk was still showing an increase in numbers possibly due to the catching up process.

District report – Cllr Stringer reported the District Council Emergency Committee was looking at the dramatic effect of covid-19 on environmental emissions and looking ahead, at the way the District Council works in future due to many members of staff now working from home.

Footpaths – the following had been reported as being overgrown:

No. 26/27 leading to 55 – narrow towards Mickfield Road and overgrown with sugar beet.

Footpath behind Wetheringsett Manor – reported as soggy. The complainant had offered to cover the affected areas with rubble. It was stated this would need the permission of the land owner.

Trees – no report.

4. **Meeting open to the public**

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, Mrs Melanie Woods, had joined the meeting to update councillors on progress.

It was agreed items 9 and 14 were brought forward to enable Mrs Woods to take part in the meeting.

Item 14 - Mrs Woods reported the Group had been meeting virtually. A dedicated website had been set up and a direct link was available from the parish council website. The parish council representative, Mrs Hilary Green, attended meetings. The next stage would involve designation and agreement by MSDC of the designated plan boundary and grant funding to complete the plan. Throughout the process consultation with parishioners would be important. Mrs Woods reported it had been difficult to make good progress due to the small number of parishioners making up the working group.

Members agreed wider representation from the village was needed to ensure views from all areas of the village were taken into account. Recruitment of further volunteers would need to be implemented via village social media and the parish magazine. Cllr Mrs Arnold stated she was aware of parishioners who may be interested in joining the group. Members thanked Mrs Woods for her report and offered their full support for her work so far and those of the working group members.

Item 9 – Thorndon Neighbourhood Plan consultation – the content of the plan appeared to cover a wide spectrum and the majority of the designated area was close to the village. It was agreed comments were deferred to the next meeting, in the meantime councillors were asked to view the document in preparation for a response.

5. **To consider Minutes of the meeting held 1 June 2020**

Cllr Mrs Aldred proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and agreed.

6. **Items arising from the Minutes for report** – none.

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

1. DC/20/02278: Waveney Cottage, Church Street – insertion of 4 velux conservation roof windows to north and side elevation and associated internal works. A recommendation of approval was proposed and seconded. 7 members in favour, 1 abstention. Proposal carried.

8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC:**

1. DC/20/01338/9: Town Lane, Park Green – Renovation of 3 bay garage to create living/guest wing with roof extension, replacement conservatory, renovation of home office, creation of gabled garden room, erection of 6 bay cart lodge. **Planning Permission Refused.**
2. DC/20/01479: Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of 2 dwellings and detached cartlodes. **Planning Permission Granted**

3. DC/20/01003: Mid Suffolk Light Railway, Hall Lane – erection of new footbridge. **Planning Permission Granted.**
4. DC/19/05769: Land to north of Gracechurch Street, Debenham – erection of up to 295 dwellings. **Application Withdrawn.**
5. DC/20/02076: Dale Farm, Green Lane – application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed building for agricultural or forestry use. **Application Refused** - Full Planning Application required for the proposed works.

9. **Planning Correspondence** – see above.

10. **Village Hall**

1. Village Hall Management report – Cllr Mrs Gibbs had submitted a written report stating the existing electricity contract with Eon had been cancelled and would be transferred to Scottish Power in early August making a saving of £500 pa for electricity supply. Remote meter reading equipment had been requested.

The situation with Wave for water supply was still being investigated. Unless the Parish Council decided to waive part of the cost of the licence agreement to the school an invoice for the next payment was due to be raised. Cllr Mrs Gibbs proposed this went ahead as usual and contact would be made with the Headteacher to obtain the view of the School. Cllr Mrs Gibbs would be keeping the Village Hall Committee informed of the position with regard to expenditure and funds available and details would be circulated to parish council members.

2. Maintenance

Cllr Pease reported the maintenance items in the main hall were complete. The kitchen would now need to be looked at as well as the floor in the meeting room and hand sanitisers installed.

3. Additional items

The committee were of the view there was very little signage for the village hall which was difficult for visitors locating the building. The committee were looking into organising a village competition for a Village Hall sign on the outside east gable wall and a sign on a post at the drive entrance.

An internet feed as an option for people working from home and an automated booking system were also being looked into.

11. **Play Area report**

Cllr Mrs Gibbs reported that on a recent visit to the play area it appeared alcoholic drinks parties had taken place with glass bottles and plastic rubbish strewn around the play area and the waste bin was overflowing. A query was raised as to how and when the waste bin was emptied. Due to lack of recent use the play equipment was in need of cleaning. It was reported Cllr Lacey emptied the waste bin. Cllr Mrs Gibbs had offered to clean the equipment subject to parish council approval. Members thanked Cllr Mrs Gibbs for her offer to clean the equipment and were in agreement for her to do so.

A notice for information of parents supervising children on the equipment during the current covid situation setting out strict terms of use had been supplied by County Cllr Stringer, the equipment only to be used under the supervision of parents. Cllr Pease offered to print and laminate the notices for display on the play area fencing. The chairman recorded thanks to Cllrs Pease and Mrs Gibbs.

12. **Cemetery and Play Area grass cutting**

Cllr Lacey would ask the grass contractor to carry out a further cut of both areas.

13. **VAS speeding equipment report**

Cllr Harvey produced stats for Brockford Street, these had not varied from the last statistics. Cllr Mrs Cain would forward them on to the County Commissioner Mr T Passmore.

14. **Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan progress report** – see item 4.

15. **Finance**

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

2. Accounts for Payment

PGM Home & Garden Services – May 2020 grasscutting	£250.00
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Clerk sal-expen June 2010	£281.16
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Geosphere – Parish Online subscription (1 year)	£84.00
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Cllr Pease proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Alston and agreed.

3. Finance report

Cllr Pease reported the majority of the £10,000 grant awarded to the Village Hall due to lockdown would go towards the maintenance costs. The committee were thinking of an event to celebrate the work on the hall when lockdown eased.

16. **To consider for adoption the following policy documents:**

The Suffolk Code of Conduct – the document had been circulated prior to the meeting. No queries were

raised.

GDPR Policy Compliant documents – all document had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. No queries were raised. Cllr Pease stated he would update the documents due for review in one year. Cllr Pease proposed adoption of both the above documents, seconded Cllr Mrs Estcourt and agreed.

17. To consider a Parish Council Office 365 System

The current remote Teams video meetings were administered by Cllr Pease from his personal system. With the current remote meeting arrangements due to continue Cllr Pease outlined the 365 System which would be a dedicated parish council system able to be administered by nominated councillors. The system had a cost of £6.00 per month and could incorporate the village hall booking system. It was agreed the system used should be designated as a parish council system, Cllr Mrs Cain proposed acceptance of the recommendation, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and agreed. Cllr Pease would look to setting up the system with effect from September. The Chairman recorded thanks to Cllr Pease for his research of the system.

18. Clerk's report/correspondence

NALC – review of the Members Code of Conduct – consultation document, comments due by 17.8.20. Item to be included on next agenda.

SALC – notification of virtual AGM Thursday 30 July 2020 at 7pm. Details circulated.

19. Chairman's Urgent Business – none.

20. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Town Lane gateway to Airfield – it was reported the Dog Rose hedge was overhanging the road. To be reported to Cllr Lacey.

Dale Hill signpost – it was reported a CCTV camera had recently been attached to the signpost for 2/3 days recording traffic movement

New Village Hall site - Cllr Pease raised the possibility of land being available opposite the Middy as a potential site for a new Village Hall. The land was currently used for Middy car parking events.

Dog Waste Bin – The Chairman reported the new dog bin for Blacksmiths Green had arrived. He would arrange for installation by a local builder.

Wetheringsett Village sign/speed limit sign, Cedars Hill – Cllr Mrs Cain reported one of the posts holding up the sign was rotten. She had been in contact with a Highway's Officer to arrange repair.

Road sign at Corner Cottage, Wetherup Street - deferred to next meeting.

Meeting closed: 8.40pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – July 2020

COVID-19 Update

Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

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

Suffolk Local Outbreak Control Plan published

Suffolk County Council has published a Local Outbreak Control Plan which sets out how Suffolk would prevent and respond to a localised outbreak of COVID-19. A copy of the full plan and an executive summary can be viewed here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolks-response/>

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Suffolk has received £2.79m from the Government to support the delivery of the plan. The plan focuses on:

- Preventing and managing outbreaks in 'complex settings and groups' e.g. care homes, schools, health settings, workplaces, public spaces, BAME communities and those that are shielded;

- Strategic and coordinated approach to COVID-19 testing in Suffolk, with a focus on care home testing, hospital testing, lab capacity and workforce for swabbing;
- Suffolk COVID-19 Data Centre, which will continue to monitor the local situation;
- Providing clear guidance on NHS Test and Trace and what to do in the event of a local outbreak.

Concessionary travel rules reintroduced on public transport

Suffolk County Council has announced that concessionary travel rules, which had been relaxed during lockdown, will be reintroduced from July 6.

This means that from Monday 6 July, concessionary bus passes in Suffolk will only be valid Monday to Fridays from 9:30am to 9pm, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. The council has stated this is necessary to support social distancing on peak bus services, as more people return to work and school.

All passengers are now required to wear a face covering on public transport.

Planning Inspectorate accepts plans for Sizewell C and begins examination process

On 24 June, the Planning Inspectorate agreed that EDF Energy's DCO application for Sizewell C could proceed to the examination stage.

The formal pre-examination stage of the process (Section 56 Notification Stage) will begin on 8 July and run to 30 September. Anyone who wishes to be involved in the examination process will need to register on the Planning Inspectorate website to become an 'Interested Party' and provide a written summary of their views on the DCO application.

All registered Interested Parties will be kept informed of progress and about opportunities to participate in the next examination stage.

More information about the application and how to register as an Interested Party is available here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/?ipcsection=overview>

Both Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council have raised concerns about the adequacy of EDF's consultations so far, particularly with regards to the level and quality of information that has been made available throughout the consultation exercises.

On 9 July, my group will be proposing a motion to Suffolk County Council asking the Council to oppose the development of Sizewell C. If you are interested in watching the debate, the Council meeting will be available to watch on Suffolk County Council's YouTube channel.

Cabinet approves 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk

On 16 June the Cabinet approved a 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk, which identified 148 potential routes to be prioritised. This is as a result of a motion proposed by my group in July 2018, which called on the council to produce a strategic costed 5-year cycling plan.

Funding has not yet been secured for these routes, but the cycling plan will provide a strong basis to bid for funding as and when it becomes available.

The 148 routes identified by the plan are intended to be starting point, rather than a fixed programme of works. The Cabinet's approval of the plan means that discussions can begin with district and borough councils on developing the five-year-plan further. If the parish council has known routes in the area it would like to see improved or created, please let me know and I can feed this into the process.

Road closures to support cycling and walking

As part of the Covid-19 recovery and to support social distancing, the Department for Transport has told local authorities that they are expected to make significant changes to road layouts to support cycling and walking, with all measures implemented within the coming weeks. The Government has also asked that evaluation is included in the emergency interventions put in place so that authorities can make temporary measures permanent where possible, enabling a long-term shift to active travel.

Suffolk County Council plans include closing off sections of roads to motorised vehicles, widening existing footpaths and cycle lanes, providing temporary footpaths and cycle lanes and changing traffic signal timings to reduce waiting times at puffin and toucan crossings. The Council has been allocated £337k from the Department of Transport, with the potential for further funding if the measures they put in place are successful.

Details about the various schemes are available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/active-travel-improvements-for-cycling-and-walking/>

No spare seats will be offered on Home to School Transport buses

Suffolk County Council normally allows families who are ineligible for free school transport to purchase a spare seat on the council's school buses. However, due to social distancing requirements, school buses will only be able to transport a smaller group of children. The council have therefore stated that they are not in a position to be able to offer spare seats for September.

All affected families will be emailed directly to inform them of this change. If changes are made to social distancing rules, the council will review the guidance to see if they can safely offer spare seats.

Individual family circumstances will be considered under the usual review and appeal procedures, and the council will use its discretionary power to offer transport arrangements where it is clear that this is absolutely essential to enable a non-eligible child to attend school. The usual cost of a spare seat will apply where a discretionary seat can be provided exceptionally.

Any parents who are concerned by this change can call 0345 606 6173, and information will also be available on www.suffolkonboard.com.