

## **Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 6 September 2021 at 7pm in the STABLE BLOCK, WETHERINGSETT MANOR SCHOOL, CHURCH STREET, WETHERINGSETT, IP14 5QX.**

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs H Green, C Harvey, Mrs R Leech and M Pease. County and District Cllr A Stringer

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs E Estcourt and B Lacey.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**  
Agenda item 8.2 and 8.5 – Cllr T Alston
3. **Reports**
  1. Police available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk>
  2. County Council – Cllr Stringer presented his written report – copy attached to the Minutes.
  3. District Council – Cllr Stringer reported on the proposed solar carport at Stowmarket.
  4. Footpaths  
Nos 48 – 50 – Cedars Hill to Brockford damaged style. Cllr Mrs Aldred would contact the landowner.  
Handrail across bridge – Wetherup St still to be fitted. LC to contact Public Rights of Way.
  5. Trees – no report.
4. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – none.
5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the meeting held 6 September 2021**  
Subject to the following amendment – item 14, the VAS report had been sent to Suffolk Constabulary. Cllr Pease proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain and agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report**  
MSDC Welcome Back Funding – 15 litter pick sets had been requested.
7. **Report on Parish Council Vacancy**  
A new resident to the village had expressed an interest in joining the Council. Councillors agreed the parishioner was asked to attend the October meeting.
8. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
  1. DC/21/04363 – 1 Blue House, Mendlesham. Erection of 1 single storey dwelling and garage.  
A recommendation of support was proposed seconded and agreed.
  2. DC/21/04353: Brockford Railway Sidings, Brockford Green – change of use of agricultural land to campsite to provide 18 pitches including associated sanitary facilities, charging points and waste disposal.  
*Cllr Alston left the meeting*  
Members considered the application. Some concerns were raised with regard to the access, particularly from the A140 through Brockford Green. A recommendation of support was proposed, seconded and agreed with the condition that access and exit to the site was from the east only and suitable signage was provided.  
*Cllr Alston returned to the meeting*
  3. DC/21/03976: The Acorns, Nursery Gardens – erection of 1 dwelling and cart lodge. The application was considered by council members. Although the number of dwellings had reduced from two to one, members took the view there were no other changes, the site was outside the settlement boundary and MSDC had a 5-year land supply. A recommendation of refusal on the previous grounds was proposed, seconded and agreed.
  4. DC/21/04476: Land at Norwich Road, Wetheringsett part in parish of Stoke Ash – application for Outline Planning Permission (access to be considered) for erection of 14 dwellings comprising 5 two bed units, 7 three bed units and 2 four bed units. A recommendation of refusal was proposed, seconded and agreed on the grounds the increased number of dwellings from 9 to 14 would represent overdevelopment of the site, an increased number of vehicles accessing and exiting the development from the A140 at a known accident blackspot, lack of provision for visitor parking, loss of affordable housing.
  5. DC/20/04692: Land east of Hockey Hill – erection of 11 dwellings including 4 affordable dwellings, construction of access, associated parking and landscaping. Council members considered the re-submitted application and were of the same view as recommended for the previous application. A recommendation of refusal was proposed and seconded on the grounds previously submitted. 7 in favour, 1 abstention.
  6. DC/21/04611: Shrublands Cottages, Brockford Green – severance of garden and erection of 1 dwelling, double garage and creation of new vehicular access.

Members considered the application. A recommendation of refusal was proposed, seconded and agreed on the following grounds:  
MSDC already had a 5-year land supply for new dwellings  
The claimed land ownership was incorrect. Part of the plot shown within the red line did not belong to the property.  
The proposal was a large detached dwelling not in keeping with the surrounding cottages and area.  
The proposed site was not sustainable. NPPF

**9. Planning Decisions received from MSDC**

1. DC/21/01535: The Old Airfield, Town Lane - Planning Application. Change of use of part of the wider site (the easternmost portion) from the current B2 Industrial land use to class B8 (Storage or Distribution) using former shipping container units. Provision of boundary treatments and erection of new 2 metre fence and access gates. **Planning Permission Granted.**
2. DC/21/03828: Oaklands, Church Street – notification of tree works in Conservation area – row of Conifers: fell to ground, group of Laurels: fell to ground level. **MSDC did not wish to object.**

**10. Planning correspondence – none.**

**11. Village Hall Management Committee report** including report on Village Celebration 29 August 2021

Cllr Pease reported on a recent meeting with the builder carrying out the refurbishment. The refurbishment work had revealed the majority of the floor would probably need to be replaced. Cllr Pease would enquire as to grants available to fund the additional work. Work had already commenced on removal of the south wall and the replacement windows had been ordered.

The committee and helpers were congratulated and thanked for their work on the success of the Centenary Tea Party afternoon on Sunday 29 August.

Prospective users of the hall had been advised it would be closed until 30 November 2021.

The wedding previously booked had been re-scheduled for August 2022.

Future hirings would incur a £10.00 charge for wc cleaning.

A Christmas Quiz was planned for Saturday 11 December 2021 once all work was complete and the Hall had re-opened. A Christmas Tree would be provided for the event.

Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee had been discussed. A Tea Party event was the preferred option and this would be planned for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June/Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Events to be incorporated would be a live band/ music entertainment, children's entertainer – i.e., Punch & Judy and presents for children. The Village Hall Committee were also looking into arranging a Platinum Jubilee gift for all children in the village up to the age of 11. Possibly a Jubilee mug or a coin?

There was currently approximately £13,000.00 in the Village Hall account, with bills to go out for £100.00 electricity and £75.00 water.

A request had been received from the Primary School for permission to mark out a temporary evacuation route across the car park from the School to the Field. The school regularly used the field for PE and to access the Forest School, it was also the School's fire evacuation route. A path would ensure the safety of the children.

The VH Committee and Parish Councillors were agreeable to the suggestion. The Chairman would inform the school and also request removal of the stored cooking oil bottles.

**12. Play Area maintenance report** – the play area had been tidied in preparation for the Centenary event.

**13. Grasscutting report** – cemetery and play area

Following parishioner concerns raised over some overgrown areas of the cemetery, members agreed that with limited parish council resources available for grass cutting it would be helpful if relatives/visitors to the cemetery could assist with keeping areas around family memorial stones clear of weeds and nettles.

**14. VAS speed equipment including Brockford Street and Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera Project (ANPR) report**

Brockford Street - Request to turn VAS equipment to face south. Cllr Harvey was of the view the equipment would not be effective if turned to face south but it was agreed this would be tried for a trial period. The Chairman to organise.

Cllr Harvey was in the process of completing and submitting the ANPR project forms to Suffolk CC Highways.

**15. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan report**

Cllr Mrs Green stated that parishioners would be encouraged to attend the Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition to be held in Wetheringsett Church over the weekend of Friday/Saturday 17/18 September 2021.

**16. Festival of Suffolk 2022**

It was agreed the Festival of Suffolk 2022 event including the Queen's Green Canopy Project and Light a

Beacon project would be incorporated into the village Platinum Celebrations over the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

## 17. Finance

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

2. Accounts for payment & Receipts

PGM Home & Garden Services – grasscutting Aug 2021	£250.00
Clerk sal/expen Aug 2021	£282.94
M Pease – Centenary event expenses	£133.30
E Morris – Centenary celebration cake expenses	£21.00
S Stannard – Centenary event expenses	£42.72
S Surl – Centenary event expenses	£204.52

Cllr Harvey proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Alston, 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

Receipts:

7.6.21: Barclays interest	.23p
28.6.21: Suffolk Comm Council – refund	5.00
27.8.21: HMRC – vat refund 20-21	792.88

3. Finance report - review of internal audit report 2020-21

Members considered the items raised in the Internal Audit report as follows:

Section 2 – Financial Regulations – Update thresholds in footnotes Item 11 Contractors – these would be updated at the next annual review

Section 3 – evidence that signatories/councillors had initialled invoices – this would re-commence at face to face meetings.

Section 5 – Standing Orders - review of budget against income. It was agreed this was amended to six monthly.

Section 6 – income to be recorded in the minutes

Section 6 – Cil funding to be recorded in earmarked reserve (currently £15.73)

Cil annual report to be uploaded to website by 31 December in any year.

Section 8 – Council to complete pension duties.

Section 11 – publication on website in accordance with Accounts & Audit Regulations Transparency Code – analysis of variances, bank reconciliation at 31 March and expenditure over £100 – these items were being progressed following completion of the audit.

GDPR – procedure for dealing with data breaches to be included within the policy documents.

Members noted the above. These items would be actioned during the current financial year. Proposed Cllr Pease, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech and agreed.

18. **Wetheringsett Village History Booklet** – report on updated version

Cllr Pease stated he was in the process of converting the booklet into a digital document which would be available to view on the website.

19. **To review and consider for adoption the following policy documents:**

1. GDPR Policy compliant documents – Data Breach – Cllr Pease to review template. Deferred to next meeting.

2. Standing Orders – item 17c iii to be amended. Deferred to next meeting.

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

SALC – notification of Area Forum meeting via Zoom 23 September 2021.

MSDC – notification of examination hearing of the BaberghMidSuffolk Joint Local Plan 22 September 2021, 9.30am at Endeavour House, Ipswich.

MSDC – Hackney Carriage Private Hire Operator Vehicle & Driver Policy Consultation and Gambling Act 2005 : Statement of Principles (Revision) – both consultations open for comment until 16.9.21 via the MSDC website at: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

21. **Chairman's Report**

On behalf of the Parish Council and community the Chairman recorded huge thanks to all those involved in organising the Centenary Tea Party on Sunday 29 August including Mr Sam Surl, the Church Ladies and the Village Hall Committee. The event had been very successful and many glowing reports received.

Congratulations were also recorded to Cllr Mrs Claire Escourt and her husband on the arrival of their newborn daughter.

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

Details of additional items of expenditure for repairs and replacement of the Village Hall roof would be included in the next village hall report for consideration at the October meeting.

23. **Date of next meeting** - Monday 4 October 2021, 7pm at the Stable Block, Wetheringsett Manor

School, Church Street, Wetheringsett, IP14 5QX

Meeting closed: 8.55pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

## **County Cllr Report – September 2021**

### **Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan**

This document was released in June by the ‘Suffolk Leaders Group’ (County, District and Borough Council leaders) as a follow up to the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership report of 2019.

This sets out broad goals for change in behaviours and technology to achieve zero carbon by 2030 by means of measures of: ‘transitioning to a fully decarbonised heat supply for homes; improving energy efficiency; behavioural change to use less energy; low carbon travel; reducing car use; more efficient freight transport; reductions in commercial and industrial carbon use; improvements in renewable energy production and a flexible grid’ among others.

The Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group on Council will be putting a motion forward to the next Council Meeting to require the Council to set specific benchmarks and targets each year up to 2030 to encourage the modal shift in behaviour and technology required as without this we believe that the targets set out, laudable though they are, are unlikely to be achieved in practice.

For example:

In July 2020 the Government's Gear Change paper called for a doubling in the amount of journeys walked or cycled. This spring, Suffolk Conservative's county council election manifesto said "we have identified over £20m of upgrades for our cycle network"

We will ask for this money to be allocated to specific projects to improve our cycle network, such as across our Peninsula where the current state is pitiable and completely unfit for purpose.

### **Review of SEND provision**

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed.

The report, with any recommendations, is due to be published this month on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. We await it with interest.

### **Suffolk's expression of interest in discussions with Government on Devolution for Suffolk**

A 'levelling up' white paper is to be produced by Government and Robert Jenrick MP (Sec of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) has invited Councils to express interest in involvement in this. The aim appears to be to allow local 'leaders groups' to have more power in local decision making including 'greater financial efficiency, administrative streamlining and/or more joined up services'. It is not necessary to be a unitary authority although Government want evidence of working together.

It is not clear yet what the benefits and draw backs or any details of these proposals are yet.

The 'Suffolk Leader's Group' (Leaders of County Council, District Councils, Ipswich Borough Council, and Police and Crime Commissioner) have written to the Government expressing interest in this proposal.

### **Zero Carbon battle bus visiting Suffolk**

The purpose of the Zero Carbon Tour is to discuss the concept of net zero carbon and why it is critical for businesses. Suffolk's businesses, organisations and community groups will share their stories about how they have started their journeys to net zero. This will inspire and give confidence to those considering how to reduce their carbon emissions.

Steve Malkin, Founder and CEO, Planet Mark, said:

"There is no doubt, we are living in a seminal and historic moment in time. 2020 – 2030 has been coined the Decade of Action, a period in which we need to tackle the climate crisis and halt biodiversity loss. The global

pursuit of net zero carbon emissions is a huge undertaking, and only possible with help from businesses and communities alike.

“We are excited to bring the net zero message to Ipswich, and share the ‘carbon stories’ of organisations, community groups and individuals playing their part in creating a sustainable future for Suffolk, the United Kingdom and beyond.”

This event and others are taking place across Suffolk in the lead up to COP26, as part of Suffolk’s collective campaign of Creating The Greenest County, and be net zero by 2030. As part of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, these events look to encourage collaborative action by educating and engaging with residents and businesses to develop net zero journey.

Other events which are being planned in Suffolk in the lead up to COP26 include:

- 1 September – Zero Carbon Tour visits Ipswich
- 12 October – Ten Steps to Net Zero (Suffolk Chamber of Commerce)
- 21-22 October – Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council)
- TBC October - A Greener NHS day
- 12 November – Greenest County Awards (Suffolk County Council)
- 23-25 November – Low Carbon Homes

All events are subject to change, visit [www.greensuffolk.org](http://www.greensuffolk.org) for the latest details and information about starting your journey to net zero.