

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

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs A Arnold, Mrs L Drury, Mrs H Green and B Lacey.
County and District Cllr A Stringer and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence and to agree consent to apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, T Alston, C Harvey, Mrs R Leech, N Lingard and Mrs K van Zyl. The apologies were noted and consent agreed.

2. Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda – none.

3. To receive the following Reports

1. Police available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk> - no comments were raised.

2. County Councillor - Cllr Stringer presented his report (copy attached to the – see Minutes below). Cllr Stringer highlighted the cost of living link in the report. The link detailed support available to parishioners during the coming winter months.

A query was raised regarding the large concrete blocks on the S bend on Town Lane, these were on the edge of the highway verge and some protruding onto the road. Cllr Stringer state any obstruction should not be within the first meter from the highway. The obstruction would need to be reported to highways via the Highway Reporting Tool.

3. District Councillor - Cllr Stringer went through his report (copy attached to the Minutes).

4. Footpaths - no report.

5. Trees - see meeting open to the public

6. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Black Poplars - Joe's Lane: a member of the public raised the recent removal of 8 black poplars on Joe's Lane. An attempt had been made to remove one of the trees some two/three years ago there had been but this had been stopped by MSDC. There appeared to have been no permission granted for their removal and there was no evidence the trees suffered rot or disease. The trees appeared to have been on land owned by Meadow Farm Barn.

Cllr Stringer stated there had been no Tree Preservation Orders on the trees but due to the amount of timber involved he understood a Forestry Commission Licence should have been obtained, their removal had therefore been reported to the Forestry Commission. Any action would need to await a report from the Commission. The Chair thanked the member for attending the meeting to inform the Council of their removal.

4. To consider for approval Minutes of the parish council meeting held 3 October 2022

Subject to the following amendment – item 23 Magpie Sign – amend First Giving to Just Giving - the Chairman proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and unanimously agreed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes for report - none.

6. Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC – none received

7. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/21/06605: Land to rear of Ceva Logistics, Norwich Road – Erection of three warehouse units and external storage area (use class B8), new access from Norwich Road, parking, associated drainage and landscaping. **Planning Permission Granted**

2. DC/22/03675: The Laurels, White Horse Corner - Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/19/05102 dated 19/12/2019. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to enable amended design for Plot 2 as per revised drawings. **Planning Permission Refused.**

3. DC/22/03416: Industrial Building at Mendlesham Industrial Estate, Norwich Road - Change of use from B2 with ancillary B8 use to Mixed B2 and B8. **Planning Permission Granted.**

4. DC/22/03521 -: Plot 7, Plot 6, Plot 3, Plot 2 and Plot 1, land east of Brock Road - Discharge of Conditions Application for Appeal References APP/W3570/C/3238576 and APP/W3570/C/3238577 - Condition 4 (Scheme for the means of foul and surface water drainage) and Condition 6 (External lighting, areas for refuse/recycling bins and areas for parking, loading, unloading and manoeuvring of vehicles) – **Approved with Conditions**

5. DC/22/04164: 13 Hockey Hill – construction of dropped kerb and driveway. **Planning Permission Granted.**
6. DC/22/04710: Clay Cottage, Pitman’s Corner – erection of a part 2 storey/part single storey side extension. **Planning Permission Granted.**
7. DC/22/04488: Whitethorn, White Horse Corner – erection of one detached single storey dwelling (following removal of existing structure). **Outline Planning Permission Refused.**
8. **Planning correspondence** – none received.
9. **Report on Parish Council loan from the Wetheringsett cum Brockford Church & Town Estate Charity** – to confirm completion of loan arrangements – deferred to next meeting.
It was noted the first annual repayment on the loan was due at the beginning of November.

10. Village Hall

1. Management Committee report

including : Installation of Electricity Consumption Reader
Installation of Village Hall Wi-fi

In the absence of Village Hall representatives, the Chair reported the Committee had decided to increase the hourly hire charge to £12.00 with effect from 1 January 2023 for current users of the hall and effective 1 December 2022 for all other hirings.

Installation of an electricity consumption device attached to the meter had been agreed, this would enable school consumption to be measured to provide an accurate charge. The equipment would need to be installed by an electrician.

Discussions were still taking place regarding the proposed internet café and provision of wifi. Access to the hall was now via a code safe system and the Warm Space sessions would co-incide with book events. Warm space grants were available from MSDC and an application to assist with the sessions had been made to MSDC.

2. Diocesan Lease and School Licence Agreement reports

The Chair and Cllr Harvey had held a meeting at the Village Hall with two representatives from the Diocesan Board, Dawn Gillett and Daniel Jones plus the new school Headteacher and Mrs E Morris. The Diocesan representatives will look into preparation of a new lease which would be at a rent of £250 pa (the lease was protected under the 1954 Landlord and Tenant Act). The Diocesan will also look into whether alcohol can be sold on the premises. A copy of the lease for the Play Area had been supplied. Use of the school kitchen for functions would be looked into as would the Middy holding its Friday Night Bar at the Hall.

The use of the Playing Field for community events was discussed (the school used the top section of the field only). Under the terms of the Village Hall lease the Parish Council was responsible for maintenance of the fence between the car park and the field.

Regarding the possibility of vehicle charging points at the Village Hall, some concern was raised about people using the car park during school time. It would therefore be necessary for these to be positioned at the bottom of the drive.

The Chair was discussing with the school removal of the brambles along the school boundary.

11. Wetheringsett Play Area Report

Cllr Lacey reported the brambles growing through the fencing had been cut back by the contractor and the grass seed on the new slope was growing. The cost of removing the sleepers and landscaping totalled £485.00.

12. **Grasscutting report** – Cllr Lacey reported the strimming work would be carried out during the next month.
13. **Drain clearance and large pothole at School drive entrance report** – remedial work still pending.
14. **VAS speed equipment report** – it was reported the ANPR equipment would be located in Brockford Street during December 2022.
15. **Thermal Imaging Project report**
The Chair reported equipment currently being used in Stowmarket could be made available for use in Wetheringsett.
16. **Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan** report
Time would be allocated at the December meeting for review of the final draft plan.
17. **Parish Pond, Wetherup Street** – report on installation of Deep-Water Pond Sign
Cllr Lacey reported the sign would be put up in the next few days.
18. **Wetheringsett Village Sign** – report on repairs to the sign due to storm damage February 2022
It was reported the repainting work would take place shortly after which the sign would be ready for

reinstatement.

19. **Little Stonham – damaged Magpie Sign** – to consider Parish Council contribution to the sign Just Giving fund

Members were of the view the Magpie Sign was a landmark sign, only one of a handful in the country. In support of attempts to reinstate the sign Cllr Mrs Cain proposed the Parish Council made a contribution of £100 to the Just Giving fund, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and unanimously agreed.

20. **Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

A request for support had been received from Headway Suffolk. Cllr Mrs Cain proposed a donation of £100, seconded Cllr Mrs Green – unanimously agreed.

2. Accounts for payment

Community Action Suffolk – annual website hosting	60.00
PGM Home & Garden – play area removal of sleepers & Landscaping	485.00
Clerk sal-expen Oct 2022	288.94
Wetheringsett Church & Town Estate Charity – annual loan Installment repayment	2168.67
K Goudy (RBL) – Two Poppy Wreaths	40.00
Headway Suffolk – donation	100.00

Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Mrs Green – unanimously agreed.

3. Finance report

1. Bank Mandate update and report on closure of BP account

The Chair reported she had been in contact with Barclays Bank regarding the requested closure of the BPA and transfer of funds to the community account. Barclays had stated they were unable to carry out the transaction as the mandate change submitted earlier in the year had not been completed. Further mandate forms had been supplied and completed with fresh instructions given for closure of the account and transfer of funds.

2. Half year expenditure against budget to 30.9.22

The half year expenditure against budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. Expenditure was keeping in line with the proposed budget. No queries were raised.

3. Bank balances and receipts:

Receipts: 5.9.22: £2.90 - Bank interest June – Sept '22

7.9.22 : £16867 – loan from Wetheringsett Church & Town Estate Charity

12.9.22: £4915.00 – second half precept payment from MSDC

Balances: 19.10.22 – community a/c £24,850.11

4.10..22 – business premium a/ £9,408.04

21. **Clerk's report/correspondence** – none.

22. **Chair's Report**

The Chair reported she had responded to the transport and facilities survey on behalf of the council and the Winter response fund.

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

24. **Date of next meeting - Monday 5 December 2022, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett**

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – November 2022

Cost of Living Budget Survey – SCC Open up for your thoughts

SCC has released a survey to local residents, asking for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. A summary of responses will be considered when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, our Group expects government to seek spending cuts – meaning public services could be cut and council Reserves may have to be used.

To share your thoughts on how the Council should prioritise their budget, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing.

For a link to the online survey, click here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

Cost-of-Living Leaflet: Updated to Show Support

Over 85,000 leaflets, highlighting information and guidance during the crisis, were distributed amongst Suffolk communities. The leaflet shows all the help Suffolk offers with finances and household expenses, as well as how to stay warm this winter. I would encourage anyone to take a look at how Suffolk can help.

For a link to the leaflet, click here: <https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>

SCC's Launch of 'Winter Matters' Campaign

SCC have launched their Winter Matters campaign, which aims to help ease the pressures of winter for Suffolk residents. This is a signposting campaign that centres around five key themes: Finances, Safety, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Highways.

For more information and advice on how SCC can support you during winter, visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters

Full Council – 20th October – GLI Motion

Suffolk GLI submitted a motion calling for Suffolk County Council to reject the idea of an “Anti-Growth Coalition” exists. The term, coined by former PM Liz Truss, suggests anyone who criticised the government’s economic policy was part of a coordinated group against growing our economy.

Our Group wanted Suffolk County Council to denounce this term and acknowledge the importance in different opinions – including the view that growth should consider social responsibilities, community voices, sound financial policy, and environmental limits. Something we believed the government was not adhering to.

Conservative councillors voted against our motion, however we still feel it is important that our local authorities debate untruthful and divisive claims made by any Prime Minister.

Cabinet Meeting – 11th October

The Cabinet met for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on new care provision for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide another round of specialist units in Suffolk. Our Group was hugely supportive, as we want to remove the pattern of families travelling cross-county, or even country for support.

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. Our Group have strongly campaigned in support of the Forum’s position, and we will continue to voice concerns over the damaging effects of energy infrastructure on our coastal landscape and biodiversity.

In addition, the Cabinet endorsed Transport East’s new 2050 strategy, which focusses more on green travel and linking rural communities to local economies. Our Group recognises the importance of connecting isolated residents for both profession and pleasure, and we will ensure SCC adopts all priorities into its own policy.

Avian Flue Outbreak

“Suffolk has declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone to mitigate that risk of further outbreaks of disease occurring. The disease has been detected at more than 70 premises since the beginning of October, as well as multiple reports in wild birds. The Zone, meaning mandatory housing measures for poultry and captive birds, will be in place until further notice and will be under regular review.

Bird keepers and members of the public should report dead wild birds to Defra’s national Dead Wild Bird Helpline on 03459 33 55 77 and keepers should report suspicion of disease in their birds to the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 03000 200 301.

For more information on your local area, visit the Government’s Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map at <https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8cb1883eda5547c6b91b5d5e6aeba90d>

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District Councillor Report: Mendlesham Ward

November 2022

Cllr Andrew
Stringer
07774
199061

Name that lorry	The District Council has asked if the public would like to help name the new fleet of 22 bin lorries, these lorries run off hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) if you have rush of inspiration, there is a link on Mid Suffolk's website, closing date November 14 th
See the light	<p>Photovoltaic panels are now among the cheapest ways of generating electricity, with current government policy encouraging its use on lesser quality agricultural land, and rocketing prices for wholesale energy, the pressure to build out grid scale solar is relentless, however recent applications have seen significant resistance from host communities with the most recent application for 4 acres of grade 3c land in Rickinghall refused, with many councillors stating that they wanted solar panels to be installed on new buildings rather than agricultural land.</p> <p>A recent planning application for 3 commercial warehouses in Wetheringsett with a roof space of almost 3 acres was approved, with plans showing not one square metre of Solar Panels in the whole project, and the recent approval of the range warehouse on gateway 14 a single shed 27 acres in size has only achieved 20% roof space solar panelled.</p> <p>These cases outline the challenges of a slow moving policy framework in a fast moving energy transition. Mid Suffolk has promised updated policy next spring.</p>
Electric Bus work party meets	A new group of councillors has been set up to oversee the procurement of two electric buses Mid Suffolk agreed in our last annual budget, The group has now met, and agreed the demand responsive model using an existing service provider is the best way forward to roll out of these buses. We have asked if this could progress as soon as possible.