

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held
Monday 7 February 2022, 7pm at the VILLAGE HALL, Wetheringsett

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

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Mrs E Estcourt.
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 went through his written report (copy attached to the Minutes). Queries raised included a large pothole 80cm x 40cm at the bottom of Dale Hill and the fallen highway sign at the A140/Town Lane junction still to be repaired. Cllr Stringer would chase both items.
 3. District Councillor – Cllr Stringer went through his written report (circulated and copy attached to the Minutes). Cllr Stringer added the approved Town Lane application was not personal to the applicant as requested by the Parish Council. Cllr Stringer was investigating that issue.
4. Footpaths - Cllr Mrs Aldred reported a broken plank in the bridge at footpath No. 43 and a rotted footpath sign post on footpath 28 at Broad Green.

Dog fouling had become a problem on footpaths in the Wetherup Street and Station Road areas and used dog bags left on footpaths 56 and 55 in the airfield area. A reminder to dog owners to clear up after their dogs would be included in the parish magazine.

It was reported the horse rider previously using the Griffin Lane footpath appeared to be walking her horse on the adjoining cropped field.
5. Trees – Cllr Mrs Aldred stated she had been invited to attend a course on managing hedges, taking place at Holbrook during March.

Cllr Mrs Green understood parish and town councils had been offered a supply of Oak trees and enquired whether Wetheringsett had received an offer. It was reported no offer as yet had been made to Wetheringsett
6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – none
7. **To consider for approval Minutes of the meeting held 10 January 2022**

Cllr Pease proposed approval of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and unanimously agreed.
8. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
7. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/22/00313: Wetheringsett Manor, Church Street – notification of tree works in a Conservation area – fell small group of self-sown poplars due to excessive shading. A recommendation of approval was proposed seconded and unanimously agreed.
8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**
 1. DC/21/06082: Riverside, Church Street – erection of detached garage (following demolition of existing). **Planning Permission Granted**
 2. DC/21/03140: Clay Cottage, Pitman’s Corner – change of use of domestic outbuilding to workshop (as amended by site location plan received 29 November 2021). **Planning Permission Granted**
 3. DC/21/05891: Dove Cottage, Church Street – replacement rear patio doors with window and utility door with stable door and repaint render, fascia’s, garage and front door. Work to trees. **Planning Permission Granted**
 4. DC /21/06758: Wetheringsett House, Church Street - Discharge of Conditions: application DC/20/01479, Condition 6 (proposed landscaping scheme), Condition 8 (materials), Condition 11 (surface water discharge). **Conditions approved.**
9. **Planning correspondence**

Town Lane haulage site – Cllr Stringer stated he was waiting for a reply from County Highways regarding its response to the to the planning application.

Development next Brockford Garage – Cllr Stringer explained the position relating to the approved application for 9 dwellings and the pending application for 14. There was no change proposed for the dwellings along the west boundary, that section of building work could continue.
10. **Parish Council Loan application to the Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities** to fund replacement of Wetheringsett Village Hall floor
 1. Application progress report – the completed application form had been submitted to the Dept for Levelling up by SALC. A response could take several weeks.
 2. Report on consultation with parishioners – The Chairman reported an article reporting on the village

hall refurbishment had been included in the February edition of the Parish Magazine welcoming parishioners comments on the work and costs involved.

11. Village Hall

1. Refurbishment and Management Committee report

Cllr Pease reported all heaters and windows had now been replaced. The outside rendering was ready for painting in the Spring. Volunteers were due to carry out a deep clean at the end of February.. An August booking for a wedding had been made. £500 from Village Hall funds had been allocated for the Platinum celebrations. A Welcome to Your New Hall for parishioners would be held on a Sunday afternoon during March. Mid Suffolk Council Inspectors were due to sign off completion of the works. Hire rates would be reviewed in September. An increase would probably be necessary to cover increased electricity costs. Thanks were recorded to those involved in building the stage. Further work included the kitchen floor refurbishment, stage covering and rubber matting on the floor slope.

2. Report on Platinum Jubilee celebrations 2022 - see above.

12. Play Area Report:

1. To consider replacement of sleepers with grassed slope – MSDC Public Realm had confirmed the sleepers could be replaced with a grass slope. The slope surface would need to be suitable material. It was agreed to go ahead with the change. Cllr Lacey would get a working group together to help with the work. At the site meeting with Mr Chris Knock, the MSDC External Funding Officer, he had suggested bark chippings underneath the climbing frame to a depth of 5/6 inches. Cllr Lacey had obtained a quote from County Mulch for the chippings. 5cm would cost £467.50 including vat. Cllr Alston had a supply of bark chippings. The chippings would need to be of a certain grade. Cllr Lacey would check the grade of the chippings, if not suitable Cllr Harvey proposed purchase of the chippings quoted, seconded Cllr Mrs Drury, unanimously agreed.
2. To consider Play Inspection Report 2021 including report on basket swing and general – with the exception of the Basket Swing (moderate grade) all items raised had been graded low or very low risk. Cllr Lacey would continue to monitor these and was in contact with the Play Equipment provider regarding the height of the basket swing.
3. Report on meeting with MSDC External Funding Officer
Following the site meeting, Mr Knock had stated he could supply a grant for additional items but a village survey would be required to determine parishioners' preference for the type of equipment. A grant of up to 40% of equipment purchased totaling £15,000 could be available. It was agreed the grass slope and basket swing items be resolved before deciding on any further equipment.
Cllr Lacey suggested grasscutting was included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

13. To consider a Spring Litter Pick

A date of Saturday 26 March 2022, meeting at the Village Hall at 10am was agreed. The Chairman would include an article in the February/March edition of the Parish Magazine informing parishioners and asking for volunteer to help.

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

Worrying details of excessive speeds had been recorded in the latest VAS data – speed in excess of 100mph in Brockford Street at varying times of the day and night. The data would be forwarded to Suffolk Constabulary and the Police & Crime Commissioner requesting early action.

15. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan report and confirmation appointment of Parish Council representative

Cllr Mrs Arnold had volunteered to join the working group and would report back progress on the Plan to parish council meetings. The current report had been circulated.

16. Parish Pond, Wetherup Street – to consider provision and cost of Pond Sign. Deferred to next meeting.

17. Defibrillator – report on maintenance

Cllr Mrs Leech stated reports were being sent regularly to Web Nos. The equipment was well maintained and in good working order. Thanks were recorded to Cllrs Mike Pease and Mrs Leech for their regular checks on the equipment.

18. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

A request for financial support had been received from Freshstart, Ipswich. It was agreed this be deferred to the next financial year.

2. Accounts for payment

C Harvey – replacement VAS Battery	45.94
Clerk sal-expen Jan 2022	282.48
Robin Moore Electrical – village hall heaters (s.106)	1848.97
The Window Centre – village hall replacement windows (north)	12,275.00

Cllr Mrs Green proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Alston and unanimously agreed.

3. **Finance report**

Bank balances at 20 January 2022 were reported as follows:

PC Community Account:	£13,137.49
New VH Comm Account:	£4,059.73
PC Business Premium Account (4/2/22):	£9,344.47

Receipts during second half financial year:

6.9.21 – Bank interest	.23p
13.9.21 – MSDC second half precept	£4425.00
17.11.21 – M Pease reimbursement for VH loft insulation	£706.80
6.12.21 – Bank interest	.23p

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

1. **Financial Internal Controls**

The Council's Internal Control document had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Pease had carried out the annual review. Cllr Mrs Cain proposed adoption of the document, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and unanimously agreed.

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

21. **Chair's Report**

Green Farm, Pages Green - The Chairman reported she had been contacted by a resident regarding the Parish Council response to the Green Farm planning application. The resident had been supplied with the Chairman's contact details should he wish to discuss his concerns but no contact had been made.

Village Hall – The Chairman recorded the Parish Council's thanks for the donation made to enable the south wall of the hall to be re-built and on behalf of the Parish Council and community recorded huge thanks to Cllr Mike Pease for all his hard work on the whole village hall refurbishment project, without his enthusiasm the project would not have taken place. The Parish Council's gratitude for his work would be included in the parish council's report in the Parish Magazine.

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

23. **Date of next meeting** - Monday 7 March 2022, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett

Meeting closed 8.38pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor report – February 2022

COVID-19

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

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

Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: www.sneevaccine.org.uk

Levelling up!

At midnight on the 1st of February, the government announced that Suffolk had been given the go ahead to negotiate a "county deal" although no agreement has been reached regarding if this deal will include a mayor, or the need to have unitary government etc. The leaders of Suffolk County Council are at pains to declare that no decisions have been made etc, but governments rarely relinquish power and funding to the regions without strings attached.

Budget Scrutiny Meeting, 11th January

The Scrutiny Committee met on 11th January to discuss the Conservative's budget proposals for this year. Our Group believes the budget did not raise the Social Care Precept tax to the necessary amount. Suffolk GLI believes this needs to be raised to a 3% increase instead of the proposed 2%, to aid in Suffolk's social care crisis. This recommendation was rejected by the Conservatives.

Furthermore, the administration did not provide the Carbon Budget to work alongside the core budget. The Carbon Budget is aimed to help us understand the level of emissions the Council are responsible for and helps to achieve the Council's ambition of being carbon-neutral by 2030. It is important the Carbon Budget is scrutinised, as there are many issues with data collection and performance measures that are yet to be addressed.

Cabinet Meeting, 1st February

The Cabinet has met to discuss the core budget, and vote on whether to pass the budget through to Full Council to be finalised on 17th February. The Cabinet are also voted to approve adoption of the Carbon Budget, as well as the recommendations to enhance Suffolk Biodiversity – making this a key priority moving forward.

Agreed Cabinet documents can be found here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(01-02-2022\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(01-02-2022),%20The%20Cabinet)

Transport East

Suffolk County Council's regional transport body, Transport East, has drafted its new strategy for the future. It explains the investment and priorities Transport East aims to provide, to develop a leading transportation network.

Suffolk GLI are concerned with the emphasis on profit and growth. Instead, a strategy for the future should focus on improved public transportation, greener energy, and walking and cycling infrastructure. Suffolk GLI submitted their comments to Transport East, in the hope they reconsider their strategy. Visit the Suffolk GLI website for our response.

For more information, visit: <https://www.transporeast.org.uk/>

New Discovering Suffolk App

As part of the two year 'Discovering Suffolk' project, Discover Suffolk has launched a free mobile app to help access and enjoy the countryside. The app provides over 100 guided walking, cycling and riding trails to explore.

To download the app for free head over to the Discover Suffolk website

<https://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk/discover-suffolk-app/> or search for 'Discover Suffolk' in the app catalogue on your phone.

Suffolk Libraries Day 2022

Suffolk Libraries Jumpstart January wellbeing campaign ran again throughout January. Working with Wellbeing Suffolk, Suffolk Libraries offered a programme of free online fitness activities and wellbeing drop-ins. Hundreds of people enjoyed the activities already which include yoga, pilates, and creative dance.

Suffolk Libraries is running an online book festival in March, as part of Suffolk Libraries Day 2022.

Suffolk Libraries Day is a celebration of the county's library service and the organisation's main fundraising event. Libraries will also be confirming special events nearer the time.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on/festival/suffolk-libraries-day-book-festival>

Follow us on:

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

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

District Councillor Parish Council Report

February 2022

EV/Taxi Policy	Mid Suffolk is conducting a review into its Taxi Licensing Policy, this policy was last fully looked at 10 years ago, Our group asked why Mid Suffolk was not including a policy to assist Taxi Owners to migrate to zero emissions vehicles, Our groups successful call in of this policy
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	is now being worked up into a clear plan For how we can support as well as challenge our licensed Taxi Drivers.
Peer Review	Back in November, The District Council had a Peer review into our planning service, a number of parishes and members of the public have expressed concerns regarding the experience of the current system being, challenging and at times a waste of their time, this situation needs to be improved. The review looked into how we might improve our practises, but to date the report has not been published, we have asked for this report to be urgently made published, so we can get on with implementing any recommended changes and begin to improve our service.
Mid Suffolk review of office space in Ipswich	Mid Suffolk is recommending that we helve the space we rent from Suffolk County Council in Ipswich, even before the restrictions brought about by Covid 19, Mid Suffolk was only using 65% of the space we rented on a regular basis, so this review recommends we should be able to reduce the space we rent by a half.
Town lane Wetheringsett	The planning application DC 21/04191 Town Lane Wetheringsett, has been approved, the highways response was that they felt the road could accommodate the potential extra HGV movements, I have sent them a copy of a letter regarding the issue from the existing yard working at full capacity, and asked them to make comment on why they have changed their minds, and if they have found the £750,000.00 it would cost to upgrade town lane to accept any extra traffic generated. The reply has stated that the officers could not establish “severe” harm from the approval of this application. We still await the outcome of the lawful development claim from the container stack.
New Energy Infrastructure	<p>Mid Suffolk is now being consulted on a number of new Energy Development s that are of National significance.</p> <p>On top of the Drax funded Gas Fired station at Eye, we have;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statkraft solar applications (in duplicate as the site is cross boundary BDC / MSDC) have now been submitted and are with our validation team for checking and starting. Publicity and consultation will start shortly. • We have received an EIA Screening Opinion for a 49.9MW solar panel proposal at Badley • The statutory consultation on the Bramford to Twinstead proposal is running until 21st March and National Grid are now including some face to face information events

Cllr Andrew Stringer

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