

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 7 June 2021, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain (Chairman), Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs H Green, C Harvey, B Lacey, Mrs R Leech and M Pease. County and District Cllr Stringer and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred and Mrs C Estcourt.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**
Item 8.1 – Cllr T Alston
3. **Reports**
 1. **Police** available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk>. No queries were raised.
 2. **County Council** - County Cllr Stringer presented his written report - copy attached to the Minutes below. Queries raised included the Boundary Commission consultation which proposed the removal of Wetheringsett from the Upper Gipping division. Cllr Stringer stated individual councillors could make comment direct to the Commission. The chairman stated she would make objection to the proposal on behalf of the Parish Council.
 3. **District Council** – Cllr Stringer presented his written report – copy attached to the Minutes below. A query was raised with regard to the underspend and whether this was due to highway verges no longer being cut and if so whether a grant could be given to individual parish councils to enable them to arrange to cut back verges which were now overgrown and dangerous. Cllr Stringer stated verges were a County Council responsibility and Suffolk CC did not have the abundance of finances to provide grants. Verges were normally only cut at junctions. Cllr Stringer stated he would feed back the comments to the County Council.
 4. **Footpaths** – the following maintenance items were raised for report to Suffolk CC:
Footpath 5 – the footbridge was deteriorating and in need of repair.
Footpath 2 off A140 – overgrown and causing obstruction.
 5. **Trees** – no report.
4. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments
5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the video link meeting held 4 May 2021**
The Village Heritage booklet was first published in 1982. Subject to the said amendment Cllr Pease proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech and agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
7. **Report on Parish Council Vacancy**
There were possibly two parishioners interested in the vacancy at the moment. Item deferred to next meeting.
8. **Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/20/04921: Land east of Hockey Hill – Outline Planning Application (access, layout and scale to be considered). Residential development of 14 dwellings (including 4 affordable dwellings), garaging, construction of access and associated parking. ***Cllr Alston having declared an interest left the meeting.***
Members considered the application for re-consultation following documents submitted on 12/5/21. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to reiterate the Parish Council's recommendation of objection on the following grounds:
The flood report highlighted the existing and future flooding concerns, in particular surface water runoff - Hockey Hill is already subject to flooding during heavy rain, water cascaded down Hockey Hill and collected in the road at the bottom of the Hill (cemetery gates).
The agricultural access track had been omitted from the re-consultation plan. The track was subject to flooding and would sink during use.
Parish council members had serious concerns regarding the balancing pond. This would be dangerous for residents, in particular children. Members were concerned as to how the pond would be fenced, monitored and maintained to ensure safety?
Ten existing Hockey Hill residents' garages would be lost and less parking spaces provided for existing residents. The query was raised as to where existing Hockey Hill residents would park? The central area was already overcrowded and had parking issues?
MSDC already had in excess of a 5 year housing land supply for new dwellings - 7.6 as at October 2020.
The revised plan had re-sited some of the proposed dwellings nearer to neighbouring properties on Hockey Hill resulting in loss of amenity.
The proposal did not satisfy the requirements of the NPPF with regard to economic, social objectives and the environment.
Wetheringsett did not have the infrastructure to cope with a development of the size proposed.

Cllr Alston returned to the meeting

2. DC/21/03109: Town Lane Farm, Town Lane – Application for listed building consent. Renovation of 3 bay garage to create living/guest wing with roof extension, replacement conservatory with guest bedroom extension, renovation of home office, creation of gabled garden room and link in place of outbuilding. Erection of detached 6 bay cartlodge to west boundary. Insertion of doorway in modern lean-to north wall to create access to link. New garden wall feature.

Members considered the application and a recommendation of refusal was proposed, seconded and agreed on the following grounds:

The proposal represented overdevelopment of the site

The proposal was within the curtilage of the adjoining listed building

The proposal would have a detrimental impact on the adjoining listed building
MSDC currently had a 5 year land supply

3. DC/21/03108: Town Lane Farm, Town Lane – Householder application. Renovation of 3 bay garage to create living/guest wing with roof extension, replacement conservatory with guest bedroom extension, renovation of home office, creation of gabled garden room and link in place of outbuilding. Erection of detached 6 bay cartlodge to west boundary. Insertion of doorway in modern lean-to north wall to create access to link. New garden wall feature. Members considered the application and a recommendation of refusal was proposed, seconded and agreed on the following grounds:

The proposal represented overdevelopment of the site

The proposal would have detrimental impact on the adjoining listed building
MSDC currently had a 5 year land supply

9. Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/21/02545: Wetheringsett House, Church Street. Non-material Amendment to DC/20/01479 - Relocation of Cartlodge in relation to the house on Plot 2; Reposition of dwelling at Plot 2 house; Amendments to hardstanding; Alterations to the internal layout of Plot 2; Reposition of living room windows to accommodate fireplace internally. **Approved.**
2. DC/21/01774: Dane Lodge, Church Street – erection of single storey extension. **Planning Permission Granted.**
3. DC/21/02113: Dane Lodge, Church Street – notification of tree works in conservation area. Two Wild Cherry – cut back to allow perpendicular growth. Two Bay – cut back approx. 2m. Three variegated Bay – reduction of approx. 2m. Horse Chestnut – removal of horizontal limb. **MSDC did not wish to object.**

10. Planning Correspondence

Town Lane haulage depot – report on stacked containers. Cllr Stringer reported a planning application had been received and was due to be validated by MSDC Planning.

11. Village Hall Management Committee report

Maintenance - Cllr Pease reported the Village Hall Committee had decided to focus all activities on restoration of the existing Hall for the foreseeable future. Given the internal refurbishment during 2020, and pending roof replacement due August 2021, the Committee had agreed not to explore the potential of a new Hall. The main issue to be addressed now were the condition of the windows and the state of the South wall. Discussions had taken place to address replacement of the South wall. Once costs had been received a decision would be taken as to the best course of action to bring to the Parish Council. Current thinking was that the anonymous donation may fund the wall and the Parish Council funded the windows. If the wall was to be replaced, work on replacing the roof would be delayed until the south wall was completed. This decision was expected within the next month.

Approval was therefore sought from the Parish Council to utilise the new Village Hall fund to provide replacement UPVC windows, 400mm loft insulation, guttering (if not supplied with the new roof) and replacement of the old electric heaters in the hall (approx. 7) with the newer models, some of which were installed in 2019. The total budget for this would not exceed £20,000.

On completion of the work, the Village Hall would be in a serviceable condition for many years to come.

Further work to add a path and decking to the South side of the Hall would also be investigated after discussion with the Diocese about increasing the Hall footprint, there was a potential donor for this work.

Cllr Stringer suggested applying to MSDC for grant funding towards the costs.

Cllr Pease would prepare a breakdown of anticipated costs for consideration at the next meeting and make enquiries at MSDC regarding funding.

Village Hall Birthday Party & Village fete - It was proposed to hold a Village Birthday Party and Village Fete on Sunday 29th August (the Bank Holiday weekend) utilising the £500 set aside from the Parish Council budget for 2021. Details would be published in next month's parish magazine. All parishioners would be invited via a separate invitation insert in the parish magazine.

Lease discussions with Diocese

Following the decision on the future of the Hall, discussions with the Diocese would now focus on the lease extension and the increase in footprint to cover the proposed South wall decking and path.

Revised Charges

New charges for use of the Village Hall had been agreed by the Committee as follows:

£7.50 per hour, £25 per half day (9:00-13:00, 13:00-17:00), £50 per day, £30 per evening, £80 all day & evening.

Scottish Power

Having provided Scottish Power with actual meter readings, a credit of over £900 had been generated on the account. A second reading would be taken at the end of June to enable a revised direct debit to be agreed.

Accounts and Banking

The HSBC internet banking application was being processed, a further application for telephone banking had been raised. The current bank balance stood at £4,303.75.

Charitable Status – no further progress to report.

Music Licence

A new Performing Rights Licence would be obtained for the Hall at an approximate cost of £200.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Pease and the committee for their report and for their work on the maintenance and running of the Hall.

Cllr Stringer left the meeting

12. Play Area maintenance report

Cllr Lacey reported he was in the process of obtaining the replacement sleepers. He would obtain 10 sleepers first of all, these would be at a cost of £20 each. The overgrown brambles along the fence had been cut back and Cllr Lacey was looking into the cost of a replacement picnic table and bench.

13. Grasscutting report – cemetery and play area. Cllr Lacey reported the next grass cut was due very shortly.

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

The VAS equipment was currently sited in Brockford Street. A resident in Brockford Street had raised concerns over the speed of traffic entering the 30mph limit travelling north into Brockford Street and had requested that the equipment was sited on the west side of the A140 near Nursery Gardens. Cllr Harvey believed it would not be possible to position the equipment on the other side of the A140 due to visibility but he would look into the possibility of turning the equipment round at that location to face traffic travelling north. The Chairman would inform the parishioner of the Parish Council's proposed action.

ANPR scheme – Cllr Harvey was progressing.

15. Report on repairs to road sign at Wetherup St/Debenham Road

The Chairman would contact Cllr Stringer for information on progress for the repairs and/or a replacement sign.

16. Report on operational procedure for Parish Magazine- deferred.

17. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan report

The following report had been received from Andrea Long, the Neighbourhood Plan consultant:

- Locality Funding had been agreed for 2021/2022.
- Work on the Design Code had begun, it would be undertaken by consultants AECOM and funded by Locality funding. A draft document was due in September 2021.
- Work on the Housing Needs Assessment was due to begin shortly, it would be undertaken by consultants AECOM and funded by Locality.
- The Steering Group had met to identify some early policy ideas following the feedback from the questionnaire in the Newsletter.
- First public consultation event – this was proposed for September. A drop-in exhibition at the Village Hall – details to be confirmed.

18. Report on Litter Pick arrangements - Saturday 12 June 2021, meet 1pm at the Village Hall

Details had been published in the parish magazine. Cllr Stringer would be providing the litter pick equipment.

19. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

St Elizabeth Hospice – Cllr Mrs Leech proposed a donation of £100.00, seconded Cllr Pease and agreed.

Conservative administration to account and challenge them on doing the very best they can for the people of Suffolk.

Boundary Commission Review: consultation reopens

An additional phase of public consultation has opened in the Boundary Commission's review of Suffolk County Council's electoral arrangements. The consultation focuses on new proposals for council division boundaries. This includes removing Wetheringsett from Upper Gipping and adding Stowupland and Rishangles.

The consultation closes on June 21st and can be completed at the link below:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council>

Launch of The Queen's Green Canopy In Suffolk

The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting and preservation campaign commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Partners including Suffolk County Council are working together to preserve and enhance existing woodland while increasing both canopy cover and access to green space.

Tree Wardens will work with communities and parish councils to link up existing woodland with woodland walkways and hedgerows as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This tree planting will create natural corridors for biodiversity and link up existing footpaths and bridleways.

Different organisations are invited to get involved. Find out more at www.suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy

Developers' Guide consultation open

Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation on an updated version of the Developers' Guide. The guide is a document to support all those involved in major planning applications in the county.

To make sure that new developments result in improvements to local communities, developers must make financial contributions to local authorities, known as Section 106 agreements, or through the Community Infrastructure Levy. The updated guide aims to support developers and make them aware of what they should consider with their plans. The consultation runs from 17 May to 28 June and can be filled out at the link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk/>

New electric taxi-bus service launches in East Suffolk

Suffolk County Council has launched a 12-month trial of Katch – a new sustainable electric taxi-bus service running in East Suffolk. Katch provides a travel solution for local residents and visitors in Wickham Market and Framlingham, as well as for those who need to meet their rail connections at Wickham Market train station in Campsea Ashe. The service will be available seven days a week from 6.30am to 10.30pm on Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm on Sunday. All journeys must be booked in advance via the Katch App or telephone by calling 01728 55 44 55. The cost of a return journey is £7 and a single journey is £4. If successful and is regularly used by commuters and rail passengers, Suffolk County Council is keen to facilitate further schemes across the county.

For further information about Katch, please visit www.katchlift.com

District Councillors' Report for Parish Councils – June 2021

Annual Meeting	The Annual Meeting of the District Council took place, on the 24 th of May, this was the first face to face meeting of the Council for over a year. It had to be held at Wherstead Park, as this was the only venue that could accommodate this
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	<p>amount of people at Social Distances.</p> <p>The meeting elected the Chairman of the Council and Committees for the next year, and almost all decisions went through on the Chairman's casting vote as the council is technically "hung" with 17 councillor's (12 green 5 libDem) in one group and 17 in another (16 conservative 1 independent) the conservatives refuse to work together as they will not amend their policy on outside investments and having an office back in Mid Suffolk.</p>
Enforcement & Heritage service review	<p>Mid Suffolk are working through a review of how we conduct our Heritage and Enforcement service, this move should lead to no obvious changes from the public front of house perspective, but should lead to a faster, and more informal approach, leading to a greater understanding of the process with more realistic outcomes for all.</p>
Budget Underspend Workshops	<p>The District Council has for many years had consistent underspends on its circa £9000,000.00 annual budget, this has led to a £4000,000.00 reserve that the Council's administration has decided to parcel up into £1000,000.00 pots and look at how this should be spent.</p> <p>Workshops have been organised to ask elected members for ideas on areas that could be funded.</p> <p>I have my own views on this policy, but if you have any ideas that you would like sent in please let me know.</p>
Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan	<p>The Mid Suffolk & Babergh Joint Local Plan has now been formally passed to the Inspector for examination. This is another step towards having an up-to-date Local Plan, The appointed inspector has now set out the timetable for inspection and this is happening later this month, a lot earlier than expected.</p> <p>On the one hand this is good news as the plan could be "made" earlier than hoped, the downside is all 1400 objections need their replies to be written up and put before the inspector, within the next two weeks.</p>