

**Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held 7 August 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett**

Present: Cllrs R Anscombe (Chairman), Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs E Cain, B Lacey and J Leadbetter. County Cllr A Stringer, District Cllr G Horn and five members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, Miss J Canham, C Harvey, Mrs C Nickson and Ms S Payne.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **Town Lane Haulage Site** – reports and actions from County/District/Parish Council  
***Cllr Alston proposed the meeting was opened to the public, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.***  
Cllr Stringer reported that since the last meeting a site meeting had been held with a County Highway officer and engineer to look at safety measures along Town Lane to make current use by HGV's safe for all users. Rough costings would be looked at. Cllr Stringer had also had conversations with the owner of the site as to whether it was worth exploring other options, ie review of the local plan or allocating for housing. It was reported the owner has an onerous business rate and there was a need to generate business to cover this.  
The meeting went on to discuss alternative uses of the site as part of the local council review as well as invoking article 4 (quashing the site). Parishioners reported there had been no improvement in the vehicle situation, police had recently attended due to an hgv blockage between two vehicles, onsite activity through the night and crane activity. There was a preference from parishioners that the site returned to its former use. Cllr Stringer stated the realistic way forward would depend on a further meeting with the owner as well as submissions to the Traffic Commissioner when the Operators Licence was due for review in 2018.  
Other reports included that one of the lorries using the site was not taxed and aerial photographs of the site show that land being used is outside the site boundary and trespassing onto neighbouring land. The Chairman reported that he was due to meet with local MP, Dr Dan Poulter to discuss the site. Cllr Stringer reported costings for signage to the site was now available.
4. **To receive the following reports:**  
Police – online monthly report available online.  
County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written monthly report – copy attached to the Minutes. Questions raised included agenda item 14, request for a Two Way Traffic Sign from a Mendlesham Road resident. The request for a two-way sign had been made to Suffolk Highways with the response that the site was not considered a high priority there having been no recorded accidents in that area. Cllr Stringer supported the response. It was therefore decided to take no further action.  
District Councillor – Cllr Horn reported on the Joint Local Plan review due to go out for consultation on 21 August 2017. The consultation document would be available to view online and all parish council members/residents were encouraged to submit comments on the review as part of the consultation process. Briefing sessions would also be held and parish council members were encouraged to attend.  
The MSDC move to Endeavour House, Ipswich would take place during September and there would be a customer access point available in Stowmarket, details as yet to be released.  
Some locality grant monies were available for community projects, a £6250 contribution having been made to the Rural Coffee Programme leave a sum of £6000 available until next March. Cllr Horn stated he would be very willing to consider a contribution to a community project and requested that community groups were encouraged to make an application to him.  
Footpaths – Footpath 52, repairs were required to the first footbridge.
5. **To approve Minutes of the meeting held 3 July 2017**  
Cllr Mrs Cain proposed approval of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Lacey and agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
7. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments.
8. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC**
  1. 02818/17 : The Old Forge, Mendlesham Road – removal of staircase, insertion of new staircase, creation of additional space above using existing storage space. Cllr Leadbetter proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Alston and agreed.
  1. 03492/17 : Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of 2 dwellings. Following consideration of the application Cllr Alston proposed a recommendation of refusal on the basis of

the Parish Council's previous grounds for refusal: 1. *The site suffers from severe waterlogging. The proposed two dwellings would add to this existing problem.* 2. *The restrictions put in place when the neighbouring property, Wetheringsett Lodge, was built, ie that any dwelling should be kept to single storey, should also apply to this application.* 3. *Two 5 bedroom dwellings are not modest in scale and do not meet the criteria for local housing needs.* 4. *Church Street is very narrow along the boundary of Wetheringsett House and the proposal does not conform to Suffolk CC Highways criteria. Any addition vehicles accessing and exiting the area would be unsafe and any new dwellings should share the existing vehicular access, ie there should be a shared drive with the existing dwelling and only one vehicle access point.* 5. *The road surface at the drive access point to Church Street is prone to flooding during rain.* 6. *There is no provision in the application for suitable screening of the dwellings for the benefit of neighbouring properties.* 7. *Any additional building in this area would have a detrimental effect on the adjacent conservation area.*

Seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and agreed.

#### 9. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**

1. DC/17/03995 : Land east of Park Hall Cottage, Wetherup St – discharge of conditions application for 2784/16 – condition 4. Action required prior to commencement of development – pre commencement condition: contamination.
2. 1857/17 : Plover Cottage, Town Lane – erection of single storey side extension and pitched roof to existing single storey extension. Planning Permission Granted
3. 1262/17 : Mid Suffolk Light Railway – variation of condition 6 of planning permission 3955/11. Planning Permission Granted.

#### 10. **Wetheringsett Village Hall report**

Cllr Leadbetter reported the current balance in the account was £1790.25. The agreed maintenance work was due to be dealt with shortly. The defibrillator training day had taken place on 8 July as advertised throughout the village. Attendance had been a little disappointing with 7 people representing 4 households. It was hoped another training day would be organised at a later date.

11. **New Village Hall report** – no progress to report. A meeting with Cllr Ms Payne as yet to be arranged.

#### 12. **Report on use of VAS equipment**

A written report from Cllr Harvey stated that the speeding stats report had been forward to the local police and at this stage Cllr Harvey had been disappointed with their response. Cllr Harvey would continue to gather information and forward this on to the police.

Cllr Alston suggested that other parishes should be encouraged to make use of the equipment and that there should also be a site on the A140 for its use.

13. **Request for extension of speed limit** – Station Road – awaiting outcome of Town Lane situation.

14. **Mendlesham Road, Brockford** – request for two-way traffic sign – see County Councillor report.

15. **Defibrillator Training Day 8 July** – it was hoped that a further training day would be arranged later in the year.

#### 16. **Grasscutting report – Cemetery and Play Area**

Cllr Alston reported that he had met with Mymow grasscutting. There had been problems with cutting some areas of the cemetery and Cllr Alston had requested that the grasscutter continued cutting the cemetery grass to the agreed budget of £800 for the current season. This would need to be reviewed for next year. Mr Buckland at Mymow was unsure whether to continue cutting the play area as the grass appeared to have been cut. It was possible this was also cut by the County Council Contractor and suggested Mr Buckland was asked to only cut the play area grass if he thought it necessary.

17. **Play Area report** – no report

18. **Wetheringsett Emergency Plan** – it was agreed there was no need for this to remain as a regular agenda item.

Any items to be raised as and when necessary, Cllr Alston being the first contact for emergency issues.

19. **To consider a Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan** – it was agreed a meeting with Mendlesham PC to go through the process of preparing a plan would be helpful.

#### 20. **Finance**

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

2. Accounts for Payment

Wetheringsett Village Hall : Village Fete donation	£250.00
NALC : Local Council Review subscription	£17.00
Clerk's sal/expenses July 2017	£257.56
Mymow Grass cutting	£412.50

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

3. Finance Report – Cllr Leadbetter had given a summary of expenditure against budget at the last meeting.

#### 21. **Clerk's report/correspondence**

Pedestrian Walking Sign – Hockey Hill near war memorial. Awaiting installation date from Suffolk CC Highways.

Brockford Street overgrown pavement – County Cllr Stringer had spoken to the owner of the adjoining land requesting that the overgrowth was cut back.

SALC – reform of data protection legislation. Three briefing sessions had been arranged by SALC to enable members to understand the reform. Details had been circulated.

22. **Twitter items** – none.

23. **Chairman’s urgent business**

The Chairman stated that he would be unable to continue as chairman after the annual parish council meeting in May next year and was giving prior notice to enable members to consider the role of chairman.

24. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests**

SALC Planning Meeting 4 September – Cllr Mrs Arnold stated Cllr Alston had also expressed an interest in attending. Reservation to be confirmed if a place available.

Cllr Alston produced copies of a footpath leaflet detailing field footpaths that he had had produced for parishioners/visitors information.

25. **Date of next meeting – Monday 4 October 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed 10.05pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: