

**WETHERINGSETT CUM BROCKFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held 9 April 2018, 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs R Anscombe (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, Mrs E Cain, Miss J Canham, B Lacey and J Leadbetter. County Cllr A Stringer and District Cllr G Horn.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs C Nickson, Ms S Payne, T Alston and C Harvey.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda:**  
Cllr Miss J Canham - Item 4.1.

3. **Town Lane Haulage site**

The Chairman reported the proposed meeting with the MSDC Chief Executive had been deferred to 1 May 2018. In the meantime it was reported road surface and verge repairs had been carried out in Town Lane and Cllr Stringer added the road lines would be reinstated.

4. **To receive the following reports:**

Police – report available online.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his report – written copy attached to the Minutes.

Additional items raised included damaged road signs and lack of Highways work to reinstate or repair them. Cllr Stringer stated the most effective way of reporting maintenance issues was via the County Council website reporting tool. He understood at least 70% of signs in the mid Suffolk area were in need of repair/reinstatement.

***The Chairman proposed that item 8.2 was brought forward for discussion before Cllr Stringer departed to attend a further meeting – members in agreement.***

Item 8.2 : Planning Application - DC/17/05336 – The Caravans, Brockford Road. A lengthy debate took place on the environmental implications, the impact on neighbouring parishioners and the inconsistencies in the planning application. The application for up to 10 residential caravans made mention of 14 stables but the stables did not appear to be included in the application. To assist in clarifying the detail of the application it was suggested that the Parish Council asked the District Councillor to call in the application for consideration by the planning committee.

Reports continued – ***Cllr Stringer left the meeting***

District Councillor – Cllr Horn reported on changes to the Homeless Peoples Act and stated the mid Suffolk area was fortunate it did not have a large number of homeless people. An Open Day was being arranged to show plans for the former district council offices in Needham Market and the proposed Mid Suffolk/Babergh District Councils merger had been put on hold. ***District Cllr Horn left the meeting.***

Footpaths – a tree had fallen and was leaning on another tree on Footpath 6 near Griffin Lane.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held 5 March 2018**

Cllr Mrs Cain proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold 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 Mid Suffolk District Council**

1. DC/18/01093 : Long Barn, Pages Green – erection of orangery. Cllr Miss Canham proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.

2. DC/17/05336 : The Caravans, Brockford Road – change of use of land and siting of up to 10 residential caravans and erection of fencing.

Following the discussions under item 4 above a recommendation of refusal was proposed, seconded and agreed on the following grounds:

Inconsistencies in the application, in particular the application was for change of use of land for siting up to 10 residential caravans and erection of fencing. The application also appeared to include the provision of 14 stables which did not appear in the application title. Members asked for clarity of the application as well as the issues raised below which formed part of the refused recommendation:

- No clear plan on the siting and positioning of the 10 caravans or the number of bedrooms per caravan
- Provision of 14 stables did not appear in the application title
- The application did not include the use of a diesel powered generator operating 24 hours per day every day
- The application stated access would be via an existing gateway - there was/is no existing gateway
- The access made onto the field had resulted in the filling in of the boundary ditch which now caused water overflow and flooding onto the highway during rain

- The access opened on to a 60mph stretch of road
- The road was inaccurately named, it was Mendlesham Road and not Brockford Road
- The application stated there had been consultation with local residents. The Parish Council understood from local residents there had been No consultation with them.
- There had been no planting along the boundary only fencing
- The land was situated within 20 metres of a watercourse
- The land was situated in a flood area

The application stated there would be limited impact on neighbouring residents - the parish council believed there would be a significant impact on neighbouring residents for the reasons stated above and the following:

- Increased noise
- Increased light pollution
- Increased number of vehicles using Mendlesham Road
- Highway flooding from blocked ditch
- Impact on landscape.

Members agreed that District Cllr Horn be asked to call in the application.

- DC/18/01150 : Town Lane Farm, Park Green – change of use and conversion of existing A1 building to C3 residential. Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Leadbetter, 5 in favour, 2 against. Proposal carried.
9. Planning Decisions received from MSDC
- 1536/37/17 : Eversons Farm, Brockford Green – erection of conservatory following demolition of existing unit. **Planning Permission & Listed Building Consent Granted.**
  - DC/18/00418 : The Old Forge, Church Street – discharge of conditions, application DC/17/05892 (brick details and details of work to chimney). **Approved with conditions.**
  - DC/18/00554 : Hoods, Town Lane – replacement sole plate & repair to oak frame, replacement of cement render with lime render. **Listed building consent granted.**
  - DC/17/06101 : Wetheringsett Manor, church Street – updating safety and security systems. **Listed building consent granted.**
  - DC/1800492 : Primrose Cottage, Wetherup Street – discharge of condition for application DC/17/04528 – condition 3 fenestration. **Approved.**
  - DC/18/00569 : The Forge, Blacksmiths Green – change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse. **Approved with conditions.**
10. **Planning Correspondence**  
Land rear of Brockford Garage, Norwich Road – confirmation had been received from MSDC Enforcement Team that there was no evidence that a breach of planning control had occurred and no further action was proposed. It was agreed this information was relayed to the parishioner raising the concern.
11. **Refurbishment of telephone kiosk** – deferred
12. **Village Hall report**  
Cllr Leadbetter reported a balance of £2102.38 in the reserve account and increase of just over £950 over last year. Year end accounts would be available at the Annual Parish Meeting.
13. **Proposed new Village Hall/use of All Saints Church report**  
The Chairman reported he and Cllr Alston were due to meet with Rev Julia Lall on 24 April to discuss the possible community use of All Saints Church.
14. **VAS speed awareness report**  
The letter drafted by Cllr Harvey concerning the lack of police action regarding the high speeds monitored by the VAS equipment had been sent to PCC Tim Passmore. Cllr Mrs Arnold reported complaints of a blue car that regularly drove at high speed in a dangerous way through the village. Residents to be advised to take the registration number of the vehicle for forwarding to local Police Officers.
15. **Grasscutting 2018**  
Cllr Lacey reported he had spoken to Mr Phillip Mills regarding the cemetery and play area grass cutting. Mr Mills had quoted £1,000 to cut the grass over the coming season, this would involve at least 5 separate cuts. Mr Mills had his own equipment and insurance cover to £5m. Invoices to be submitted quarterly or after each cut. Members unanimously agreed to proceed with the quote. Cllr Lacey to confirm arrangements with Mr Mills.

16. **Play Area report**

Cllr Lacey reported he had checked the play equipment against the recent ROSPA report. The items raised in the report were all very Low Risk, Cllr Lacey did suggest repairs to one lose fencing post and replacement of the blue panel at the top of the climbing slide. Guarantee and replacement costs to be checked with Kompan Play Equipment. The green algae on equipment and ropes required cleaning/removing, Cllr Lacey to obtain a quote from a local groundsmen.

17. **Spring Litter Pick – Sunday 22 April 2018 at 10am, meeting at the Village Hall.**

A notice requesting volunteers had gone into the parish magazine. Cllr Leadbetter to obtain equipment form Mrs Clare Tilbury .

18. **Propose Wetheringsett Cycle Route – deferred.**

19. **Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

EACH – Cllr Mrs Aldred proposed a donation of £50, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.

2. Accounts for Payment

Community Action Suffolk – website editor course	£48.00
SALC annual subscription 2018/19	£320.65
Clerk sal-expens March 2018	£285.50
EACH – donation	£50.00

Cllr Miss Canham proposed payment of the above, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.

3. Provision of Dog Waste Bin – Wetherup Street area

A dog waste bin located on the verge opposite the VAS machine was agreed. Note to be included in the parish magazine asking parishioners for any other preferred site suggestions in that area.

4. Finance Report

Draft year end accounts to 31.3.18 had been circulated. Cllr Leadbetter reported at the end of the year 31.3.18 there was an approximate excess of income over expenditure of £4000. Due to the required maintenance expenditure on the village hall, Cllr Leadbetter proposed transferring the excess to the Village Hall reserve. Members suggested this was deferred pending consideration of a priority maintenance list.

20. **Report on GDPR recommendations from SALC/NALC**

SALC were continuing to send out updates on the GDPR requirements from 25 May 2018. The DPO Centre had revised its group costs for acting as data protection officer and it was reported although the level of the Wetheringsett precept fell into the category 3 fee (£600pa for first year), the minimum amount of data held may enable the fee to be based on category 1 (£120pa for the first year, £45pa thereafter). Due to the possible reduction in the annual fee and taking into account the support offered by the DPO Centre Cllr Miss Canham proposed it would be prudent for the Council to join the scheme, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain, 6 in favour, 1 objection. Proposal Carried.

21. **To consider village communications via social media – deferred.**

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

Boundary Commission – consultation, review of parish wards. The deadline for comment was 30 April 2018, members were encouraged to make their own comments to the consultation via the Boundary Commission website.

23. **Chairman's Urgent Business**

Cllr Anscombe confirmed he would be standing down as Chairman at the next meeting.

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

Cllr Leadbetter reported a group of ladies at the church were preparing knitted poppies for display at the Remembrance Service in November. Netting would be required for handing the display and Cllr Leadbetter suggested the Parish Council made a donation for the cost of the netting. It was suggested the ladies sent in a formal request for funding to the Council.

Meeting closed 10.20pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: