

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held Monday 9 May 2022, 7.45pm at the Village Hall,
Wetheringsett.

Present: Cllrs Mrs E Cain, Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs L Drury, Mrs H Green, C Harvey, B Lacey and Mrs R Leech. County & District Cllr A Stringer. Four members of the public

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Mrs Green proposed Cllr Mrs Cain was re-elected Chair for the forthcoming year, second Cllr Alston and unanimously agreed. Cllr Mrs Cain confirmed her acceptance and thanked councillors for their support.

2. Apologies for absence

The Chair reported Cllr Mrs Estcourt had tendered her resignation from the council due to her work and family commitments. Members recorded their thanks to Mrs Estcourt for her work during her time as a councillor. There were now two vacancies. An expression of interest had been received for the first vacancy.

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

4. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Mrs Cain proposed Cllr Mrs Arnold was re-elected vice-chair, seconded Cllr Mrs Green and unanimously agreed. Cllr Mrs Arnold confirmed her acceptance of the role and thanked members for their support.

5. Reports

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

2. County Councillor - County Cllr Stringer went through his report – copy attached to the Minutes. No queries were raised.

3. District Councillor – District Cllr Stringer went through his report – copy attached to the Minutes. Cllr Stringer added the temporary Brockford Road permissions would be monitored. No further queries were raised.

4. Footpaths - Cllr Mrs Aldred reported the following items:

Footpath 52 behind the Rectory and in front of Wetheringsett Manor – residual metal posts protruding from the ground causing a trip hazard.

Footpath 26 at Broad Green towards Roamwood – overgrown on the roadside with brambles.

The above would be reported to Suffolk CC public rights of way.

Griffin Lane – the Chair reported the uprooted tree that had fallen on to the footpath had been propped up with earth by the developer.

5. Trees – no report.

6. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A member of the public stated she was interested in joining the council and was in attendance to observe the meeting.

6. To consider for approval Minutes of the meeting held 9 May 2022

Cllr Harvey proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred and unanimously agreed.

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

8. To confirm Parish Councillor representatives/Working Groups :

1. Finance – all councillors

2. Public Rights of Way – Cllr Mrs Aldred

3. Trees – Cllr Mrs Aldred

4. Village Hall – Cllrs Harvey, Mrs Arnold and Mrs Leech

5. Play Area – Cllr Lacey

6. Emergency Planning – Cllr Alston

7. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllrs Mrs Arnold and Mrs Green

8. Appointment RFO and Internal Auditor – The clerk was appointed RFO and SALC finance to carry out the internal audit.

9. Planning – all councillors

10. Any other – none.

The above were proposed and seconded on block and unanimously agreed.

9. Report on Parish Council Vacancy

The latest vacancy would be notified to the Returning Officer at MSDC and the statutory notice published in the village. Two parishioners had expressed an interest in the joining the council.

10. Planning applications for recommendation to MSDC

1. DC/22/01576: Dove Cottage, Church Street – Householder Application – replacement of all white wooden windows with white uPVC windows, replace brown wood front door with Painswick Green composite door and replace rear dining room window with Agate Grey uPVC patio doors. To consider comments submitted by Applicants.

The Chair proposed the meeting was opened to the public to enable the applicant/s to provide additional information relating to the application – proposal unanimously agreed.

The applicant stated the the design of the proposed new windows was to match the existing windows in the property.

The Chair thanked the applicant for the additional information provided – *meeting closed to the public* Members considered the application following the further information provided. Although in the conservation area that information had not been clear in the application. Taking that into consideration a recommendation of support was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

11.Planning Decisions received from MSDC

1. DC/22/01351: Land at Woodlands, Mendlesham Road, Wetheringsett – creation of new vehicular access and associated hardstanding, erection of post and rail fencing. **Planning Permission Refused.**
2. DC/21/04611: 4 Shrublands Cottages, Brockford Green – severance of garden and erection of one dwelling, double garage and creation of new vehicular access as amended by drawings received 13/10/21. **Planning Permission Refused.**

3. Brockford Road Enforcement Appeals:

APP/3238600 – Primrose Place

APP/3238394 – Meadow View

APP/3238593 – Oaks Meadow

APP/3238589 – Woodlands

APP/3238584 – Two Oaks

APP/3238578 – Woodview

APP/3238576 – Plot 7 (adjacent Woodview)

APP/3238574 – One Acre Stables

Seven of the above Eight sites granted temporary Planning Permission for three years, limited to occupation by the appellants and their resident dependents. A condition of the permissions is that the sites are cleared and returned to their original condition prior to the expiry of the three-year period. The permissions expire on 14 April 2025.

Plot 4, Woodlands – appeal upheld for 18 months to be returned to its original condition by 14 October 2023

10. Planning correspondence

1. Development at Norwich Road/Brockford Street, Wetheringsett

The Chair reported there had been a breach of the planning permission granted relating to working hours. Work was commencing before the stated 8am and was also taking place on bank holidays. Planning Enforcement had been informed and despite requests to work within the stipulated hours the stated breaches were still taking place. The MSDC Enforcement Officer had therefore served an enforcement notice and unless complied with would incur a fine.

A decision was still pending regarding the application for 14 dwellings on the site.

11. Parish Council Loan application to the Dept for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to fund replacement of Wetheringsett Village Hall floor

1. Application progress – further queries had been raised by the Dept for Levelling Up. Responses to the queries were being prepared.
2. Report on consultation with parishioners – the Dept for Levelling Up had stated it would like to see ongoing information provided to parishioners relating to the refurbishment work should any queries be raised relating to the increased precept to cover loan repayments. It was reported an Open Afternoon had been held which some 60 parishioners attended and a Quiz Evening on 23 April was well attended during which favourable comments on the improvement works had been received from parishioners.

12. Village Hall report

1. Management Committee –

During the time the Hall had been closed, one as a result of coronavirus and the other due to extensive refurbishment, MAT had continued to pay rent but other income had been limited. The accounts

demonstrated that despite a grant of £8,000.00 from MSDC and a rebate of £900.00 on electricity over £4,000.00 had been used from the carried forward balance of £5,336.53.

A further payment from the MAT was due and the accounts included a £50.00 deposit for a wedding in August. The Village Hall Committee had made a commitment to pay £500.00 towards the Jubilee Celebrations.

It was also significant that the insurance premium for the previous year financial year was delayed meaning that two premiums were paid during the financial year (30.04.21 and 23/24.03.22)

HSBC began charging for the account in December 2021. This would mean additional costs of £5.00 per month plus 40 pence per cheque. Internet banking was set up in December 21, although payments were limited to £500.00, hence split payments on consecutive days for larger amounts.

The current lease for the Village Hall was due in October. Last year the rent was £250.00.

Electricity costs were due to rise and this may result in Hire Charges being increased. This would be reviewed in September 22.

The Hall was now hugely improved and it was hoped this would lead to an increase in bookings, which would secure finances for the future.

Report on School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease – the Chair was in contact with the Agents with regard to the new lease.

2. Platinum Jubilee celebrations 2022 - Cllr Mrs Leech reported arrangements for the Grand Tea on Friday 3 June 2022 were well underway. A full itinerary would be available in the parish magazine and would include live music and grand raffle.

13. Play Area Report:

1. Replacement of sleepers with grassed slope – Cllr Lacey reported this would be delayed until after the Jubilee celebrations.
2. Any other items for report – the grass had been quite long and had now been cut in preparation for use during the Jubilee celebrations.

14. Grasscutting report

Cllr Lacey stated the cemetery grass had not been cut as yet due to 'No mow May'.

15. A140 and other Highway Road Signs

The purpose of the numerous highway Site Access signs was raised. It was stated these were due to road strengthening works.

Park Green sign at Town Lane/A140 junction – to be included on next agenda.

16. Report on Hockey Hill/Church Street surface water flooding

The Chair would speak to the School regarding the flooding issue believed to be due to a blocked drain under the entrance to the school drive and the very large pothole at the entrance.

17. VAS speed equipment and Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera Project (ANPR) - Report including electricity charges for VAS sign

The Chair suggested reimbursement should be made for electricity used to re-charge the VAS battery. Cllr Harvey would monitor and report back on the electricity used over the next few months.

The sign was currently being relocated from Brockford Street.

18. Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman of the Working Group had given an update on the current position during his presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting – the draft plan had been submitted to MSDC for comment following which the Parish Council would be asked to comment and there would be a further consultation with parishioners.

19. Parish Pond, Wetherup Street – to consider provision and cost of Pond Sign

Cllr Mrs Aldred would look into obtaining a 'Deep Water' sign.

20. Wetheringsett Village Sign – report on repair from storm damage. Cllr Alston reported the repair work was continuing.

21. East Anglia Green consultations – it was reported the proposed pylons would mainly be sited on the east side of the A140

22. Finance

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

- 2 Accounts for payment

Compass Point Planning – Neighbourhood Plan stage 3 consultancy payment £2610.00

Groundwork UK – return of unspent grant to 31.3.22 £3200.90

Clerk – sal/expen April 2022 £298.22

Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed payment of the above, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech and unanimously agreed.

3.To consider for approval Year End Accounts 2021-22

The accounts had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. These showed a year-end balance of £13,323.83. No queries were raised. Cllr Alston proposed adoption of the accounts, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech and unanimously agreed. As usual the accounts would be subject to internal audit by the SALC finance team.

The Chair verified the bank reconciliation at 31.3.22 against bank statements to that date.

4.To consider for approval Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021-22

The AGAR documents Section 1 and 2 had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The Council would not this year be able to claim exemption from a full review as expenditure had exceeded £25,000.

Members went through the Annual Governance Statement questions 1 – 9.

Questions 1 – 8 were answered yes, question 9 N/A.

Cllr Mrs Green proposed acceptance of the Annual Governance Statement (section 1), seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed acceptance of the Annual Accounting Statement (section 2), seconded Cllr Alston and unanimously agreed.

23. **Clerk's report/correspondence** – no further report.

24. **Chair's Report** – none.

25. **Any other business for information exchange/future agenda requests**

Village Hall floor – it was noted there were some scuff marks on the floor caused by the chairs.

26. **Date of next meeting - Monday 6 June 2022, 7pm at the The Village Hall, Wetheringsett**

Meeting closed 9.40pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – May 2022

Cabinet 26th April

The Cabinet met to vote to accept the report from the Ofsted Focused Visit to Suffolk County Council Children's Services on the topic of Care Leavers, for once we had a very positive inspection.

The Cabinet endorsed an outline action plan to support continuous improvement of Suffolk County Council Leaving Care Services in light of the findings of the Ofsted Focused Visit, but did recognise the challenge of those leaving care that are not in education or training etc is still stubbornly high (48.5%)

Post-16 Travel Policy 2022/2023

The Cabinet agreed to maintain the 2021/2022 school year charges for Post-16 Travel and Spare Seats in the 2022/2023 school year as follows:

a) A mainstream seat would cost £930 per year (£310 per term).

b) A seat for a Post-16 student with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) would cost £750 per year (£250 per term).

Ipswich Garden Suburb – Formal Response to Red House Farm, part of Ipswich Garden Suburb, Planning Application

The Cabinet agreed to notify Ipswich Borough Council that, owing to inadequate evidence, particularly in relation to transport and drainage, Suffolk County Council cannot support the outline planning application at this time and, therefore, the Borough Council should not determine the application until the concerns of Suffolk County Council were addressed.

Interesting that the cabinet of Suffolk County Council looked into circa 1000 new houses in Ipswich, yet 1000's have been approved in Mid Suffolk without the need for the County Council cabinet to formally consult.

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District Councillors' Parish Council Report - May 2022

Cycling and Walking	Mid Suffolk has created a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to encourage active travel and help reduce the effects of climate change. It sets out the council's approach to improving and developing the local cycling and walking network across the district over the next ten years, to support residents in shifting towards more sustainable transport – making cycling and walking more attractive for short journeys.
Support for Ukraine	At the March meeting of Mid Suffolk District Council, there was unanimous condemnation of the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine. Council agreed to stand ready to provide support to those affected by the war and to open their arms to people displaced and affected as well as to work with, and support, the efforts of local communities to provide and comfort to those in need.
Neighbourhood Plans	At the same meeting a motion proposed by our Group was agreed asking the Council to allocate resources to actively promote and encourage the process of developing Neighbourhood Plans and contact all core villages without a Plan.
Net Zero Carbon Buildings Toolkit	Our group also proposed a motion, which was agreed, to adopt the Net Zero Carbon Toolkit as technical guidance for developers and homeowners to help reduce the carbon footprint in new and existing buildings. It was developed by three district councils in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire with the Local Government Association and is available as an open resource for all Councils in England. The Council will promote the toolkit to applicants at all stages of the planning and building control process.
Remote and Hybrid Meetings	Council has written to Government to urge a change in the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold remote and hybrid meetings when appropriate.
Community Governance Review	Mid Suffolk is undertaking a Community Governance Review across the whole district. This type of review looks at issues such as merging parishes, changing boundaries, naming of parishes and grouping of parishes. Submissions can be made until 27 th May.
Freeport East	Gateway 14 in Stowmarket, along with Felixstowe and Harwich, form Freeport East, a company limited by guarantee of which MSDC is a partner. There will be huge tax and other advantages for companies moving to Gateway 14. Our group is concerned about the clear financial advantages for companies moving into Gateway 14, especially as preference is being given to attracting multinational companies rather than encouraging local companies onto the development.

Councillor Andrew Stringer andrew.stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk