

WETHERINGSETT CUM BROCKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 3 July 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Miss J Canham (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Arnold, Mrs E Cain, C Harvey, B Lacey, J Leadbetter and Ms S Payne. Five members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs R Anscombe, T Alston and County Cllr A Stringer. In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Miss J Canham, Vice Chairman, chaired the meeting.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**
Item 3.1 – Cllr Miss Canham.
3. **To receive the following reports:**
Police – report available online. No questions were raised.
County Councillor – written report circulated and attached to Minutes.
District Councillor – no report available.
Footpaths – Cllr Mrs Arnold reported a missing slat in the footbridge near the Manor.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held 5 June 2017.** Cllr Harvey proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes** – none.
6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

A number of parishioners were in attendance to raise further concerns over the increased number of HGV's accessing the Town Lane lorry park and following Cllr Stringer's suggestion at the last meeting that Suffolk CC would consider making improvements/upgrading the road to accommodate the increased use, parishioners stated this suggestion would not be in the interest of surrounding residents. The promised signage to the site had still not been provided despite regular near misses with HGV's, the 's' bend was particularly dangerous there being no warning to motorists, increasing damage to the road surface and verges and HGV's queuing to access and exit the site. Parishioners had contacted local MP, Dr Dan Poulter for assistance and would be contacting Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner to station a police officer on the lane. It was understood a Suffolk CC Highways officer would be attending the site at 9am on 21 July to carry out an assessment of the access and residents would be asking Dan Poulter MP and Tim Passmore to attend that meeting.

Of the three options put forward by Cllr Stringer at the last meeting, residents stated they would only support option 3. In the meantime residents were obtaining details of the original planning permission and variations granted between 1992 – 1995 and asked for Parish Council support on review of the site during 2018. The Chairman thanked parishioners for their attendance and updated reports. Town Lane would be discussed by council members at agenda item 7 to agree a response to the Traffic Commissioner's email.

7. **Town Lane haulage site report**

A reply had been received from the Traffic Commissioner's dept in response to the Parish Council report to them of the Town Lane issues. The reply stated the matters were under review but stressed any issues relating to the highway were not within the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commissioner. The jurisdiction was set out in the The Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995, and the Senior Traffic Commissioner's Statutory Guidance and Directions (Document no.4), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traffic-commissioners-operating-centres-stable-establishments-and-addresses-for-service-january-2017>

Paragraph 52 of the latter document sets out that *"It is for a Highways Authority to decide whether a public highway is suitable and/or safe for any particular use and the traffic commissioner's jurisdiction is limited to consideration of access safety at the point the authorised vehicles first join the highway and that otherwise the suitability of the highway and road safety are irrelevant considerations (as is inconvenience caused to other road users) and vibration caused by vehicles passing on the highway travelling to and from the operating centre. It follows that a traffic commissioner cannot refuse an application on the basis of the suitability of a public road."*

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Arnold, seconded Cllr Ms Payne that a reply to the Traffic Commissioner setting out the position on behalf of the parish and the breaches of the current licence should be drafted and approved for reply by Friday 7 July. Cllrs Mrs Arnold and Mrs Cain offered to represent the parish council at the site meeting on 21 July.

8. **To consider planning applications for recommendation to MSDC**

1. 1536-7/17 : Eversons Farm, Brockford Green – erection of conservatory following demolition of existing unit. Cllr Mrs Arnold proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.
2. 1857/17 : Plover Cottage, Town Lane – erection of single storey side extension and erection of pitched roof to existing single storey extension. Cllr Ms Payne proposed a recommendation of approval, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.
9. **Planning decisions received from MSDC** – none received.
10. **Wetheringsett Village Hall report**
Cllr Leadbetter reported a balance on the account of £1058.11. The electricity direct debit would be increasing slightly from £78 to £86. The hire of the hall for Polling Day had brought in additional income and Cllr Leadbetter was pleased to report the fete had been a well attended and successful day.
11. **Proposed new Village Hall report** – deferred.
12. **Report on VAS equipment**
Cllr Harvey reported speeds of 85mph had been recorded in Wetherup Street and 69mph in Park Green. The equipment had been moved to the middle of Hockey Hill where a speed of 78mph had been recorded. These speeds were worrying and the data would be fed back to the local police. Cllr Harvey would be obtaining information from SALC to compare data with other villages.
13. **Request for 40mph speed limit on Station Road** – update to be obtained from Cllr Stringer.
14. **Defibrillator community training day Saturday 8 July**
Mark Baker had organized the training day to be held at the village hall 10am – noon. It was suggested another training day would be useful for those unable to attend that day. Cllr Leadbetter would speak to Mr Baker to ask whether another training day could be arranged.
15. **Grasscutting – Cemetery and play area**
It was reported that a complaint had been received concerning the overgrown condition of the cemetery. Members agreed Mymow be asked to carry out a further cut.
The Chairman had suggested that an approach was made to the Town & Estate Charity for funding towards the cost of the annual grasscutting for the cemetery and play area. Proposed Cllr Mrs Arnold, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain and agreed.
16. **Play Area report**
Cllr Mrs Arnold reported Shaun Easter had inspected the fencing posts and believed the fencing to be satisfactory.
17. **Wetheringsett Emergency Plan** – deferred
18. **To consider a Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan**
It was agreed a presentation from Mendlesham would assist in making a decision as to whether to go ahead with a neighbourhood plan or a review of the current parish plan. Dates for a presentation during the autumn to be obtained from Mendlesham.
19. **Finance**
 1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none.
 2. Accounts for payment:

MSDC – Dog bin emptying 2017/18	£120.00
Clerk sal/expenses June 2017	£255.22

Cllr Leadbetter proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.

 3. **Finance Report** - Cllr Leadbetter presented a comparison of expenditure against the budget for 1.4.17 – 30.6.17 (copy attached to the Minutes). The comparison showed an overall expenditure of £1407 against the annual budget of £8650 for the first three months of the financial year. Members recorded thanks to Cllr Leadbetter for his report.
Copy of the Internal audit report 2017/18 to be circulated for consideration of the items raised.
20. **Clerk's report/correspondence**
 1. Local Government Boundary Commission – consultation and electoral review of Mid Suffolk wards. Details had been circulated to members and would be included in the parish magazine for information of parishioners. Deadline for response 14 August 2017.
 2. Pedestrians Walking sign – Hockey Hill War Memorial. It was now almost a year since the sign had been agreed by Suffolk CC Highways. Reminders had been sent and Cllr Stringer copied into emails.
21. **To consider Twitter items** – none.
22. **Chairman's Urgent Business** – none.
23. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda items**

Waste Bins and Bags – Hockey Hill. MSDC Waste Disposal to be asked to empty the bins and remove the bags that had now been left on Hockey Hill in the vicinity of the bungalows for some weeks.

Thanks were recorded to Cllr Harvey and Adele for organizing the running the Village Fete, this had been much appreciated by parishioners.

24. **Date of next meeting: Monday 7 August 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**
Cllrs Miss J Canham, Ms S Payne and C Harvey gave apologies and would be unable to attend.

Meeting closed 9.35pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: