

**WETHERINGSETT CUM BROCKFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held 2 October 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs R Anscombe (Chairman), T Alston, Mrs E Cain, Miss J Canham, C Harvey, B Lacey, J Leadbetter and Ms S Payne. County Cllr A Stringer and 9 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, Mrs C Nickson and District Cllr G Horn.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Item 4.1 – Cllr Miss J Canham

3. **Town Lane Haulage site**

Cllr Stringer reported a County Officer had been to look at putting earth back in the channels at the side of the road along Town Lane and putting out temporary cones to restore the verges. Road signs were due to be put up later in the week and further data strips. Cllr Stringer would also be meeting with the police due to number of calls of complaint received by them and Cllr Stringer reiterated that anything dangerous occurring should be reported to the police.

*The Chairman suggested the meeting was opened to the public to allow parishioners to speak.*

*Proposed Cllr Leadbetter, seconded Cllr Alston and agreed.*

The Chairman confirmed arrangements for the meeting called by Dr Dan Poulter MP on 13 October, 7pm at the Village Hall. The meeting would be chaired by Dr Poulter and representatives from all key stakeholders had been invited to attend. Wetheringsett residents would have a pivotal role at the meeting and although open to all residents to speak it was suggested a spokesperson was appointed to get the key points across at the meeting. Mr Matt Bush confirmed that he would be the spokesperson. An agenda for the meeting would be issued by Dr Poulter and he would be arranging for notes to be taken. The purpose of the meeting would be to put over to key stakeholders the current problems and their impact on residents and the village and should be it necessary the owner and operators at the site would be invited to later meeting. The Chairman confirmed he would be making a statement on behalf of the Parish Council.

*Members of the public left the meeting*

4. **Reports**

Police – It was mentioned there had been no mention of the Town Lane issues in the online report despite the reports made to the police by parishioners. From a safety point of view members believed these complaints should be recorded in the online report. It was suggested this concern was highlighted to PCC Tim Passmore.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his monthly report – copy attached to the Minutes. Questions raised included the overgrown footpath in Brockford Street. Cllr Stringer agreed to contact the highways enforcement team in an attempt to have the overgrowth cut back.

District Councillor – no report.

Footpaths – the following issues were raised: cropped footpath 20 and 19 at Pitman's Corner. Tree across bridleway 26 and a broken footpath sign leaning against a tree – footpath number to be identified.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held 4 September 2017**

Cllr Harvey proposed approval of Minutes, seconded Cllr Alston and agreed.

**Minutes of the meeting held 7 August 2017**

Cllr Alston proposed approval of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Lacey and agreed.

6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.

7. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC:**

1. DC/17/04229 : The Old Forge, Mendlesham Road – discharge of conditions application 0912/17 condition 3 (materials). Supported.
2. DC/17/04528 : Primrose Cottage, Wetherup Street – demolition of existing single storey outbuildings and rear extensions. Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, raised deck and landscaping. Erection of detached cartlodge and surfacing of car parking area. Widening of existing entrance gates. The following response was proposed, seconded and agreed:  
Wetheringsett Parish Council had no objection to the application but would like assurance that the plans would ensure there was no impact on the drainage system if the work involved building over a piped water course. Any damage caused to the piping would impact on other properties in Wetherup Street where there is a history of flooding due to a poor drainage system. The Parish

Council requested re-assurance there was a requirement a sustainable drainage system would be put in place.

3. DC/17/04503 : Wetheringsett Manor, Church Street. Repairs and work to roof including roof timbers. Application supported.
4. DC/17/02843 : Hoods, Town Lane – replacement of windows. Application supported.
5. DC/17/04518 : Land adjoining 1 Knaves Green, Brockford Green – erection of detached dwelling. The following response was proposed, seconded and agreed:

Wetheringsett Parish Council recommended refusal on the following grounds:

The application papers did not contain a proper set of plans upon which the Parish Council could make a recommendation. It was not possible to gauge the configuration of the property within the site.

The application proposed 5 parking spaces for a 3 bedroomed property with no garage. Members believed the proposal would not be in keeping with the surrounding area.

6. DC/17/04912 : Manor Bungalow, Church Street – Notification of tree works : coppice 1 sycamore tree to rear garden. Members recommended refusal of the application on the grounds it had been unable to identify the tree in question at the property and there was no written arboricultural advice in the planning papers stating the reason for the work to the tree as required at 8.1 Condition of the Tree(s) in the application papers.

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

1. DC/17/04229: The Old Forge, Mendelsham Road - Discharge of conditions 0912/17 – materials. Change of materials accepted by MSDC Heritage.

**10. Notification of Planning Appeal – 4 Church Sreet** – conversion of double garage into combination of ancillary living accommodation and storage. The Parish Council comments objecting to the application would be forwarded to the Planning Appeal Inspectorate by MSDC Planning.

#### **11. Wetheringsett Village Hall report**

Cllr Leadbetter reported the current balance in the account stood at approx. £1500. A fuller report would be available at the next meeting. Cllr Ms Payne reported on some school issues that may need to be the subject of a separate report.

**12. Proposed New Village Hall report** – deferred for report by Cllrs Alston and Anscombe.

#### **13. Report on VAS speed awareness**

Cllr Harvey reported that a FOI request had been made to the police concerning excessive speed reports in Wetherup Street, Park Green and Hockey Hill. There was also concern that CID monitoring should be carried out at an appropriate time of day. Cllr Harvey offered to inform PCC T Passmore that adequate information CID monitoring was not being supplied to parishes.

The suggestion of 30mph bin stickers was raised. This would need to be canvassed with parishioners initially.

#### **14. Request for extension of speed limit – Station Road**

The parish council had been informed that Station Road did not meet the criteria for extension of the speed limit. Suggestions of creating a designated cycle route or school route were put forward. Cllr Ms Payne to investigate the criteria.

#### **15. Wetheringsett Primary School – concerns raised over school run**

Following the request to Suffolk CC Highways for a site meeting to discuss the issues raised relating to school traffic, a Suffolk CC Road Safety Officer had been to visit the school, the weather had been good for the visit in that there were occasional rain showers meaning more people than normal were using cars to collect children. The Officer noted there were no good parking spots in either Church Street or Hockey Hill resulting in a few drivers arriving early too obtain the good spaces. The Officer observed other people arriving just before the end of the school day. Some cars parked on the east side of Hockey Hill south of the school exit. The road goes around a left-hand bend when heading south up Hockey Hill. This means that drivers have to enter the narrow section created by the parked vehicles without having sight of the end of it, resulting in some drivers meeting nose to nose and someone having to reverse. The Officer agreed this was frustrating for drivers but was not much of a road safety issue, particularly with respect to school pupils. The fact that people arrived just before the end of the school day did mean that the narrow section only existed for a short time. The speeds witnessed were very low and entirely appropriate for the circumstances.

Members agreed this was a correct summary of the situation but did not resolve the issue of obscuring visibility on the Hockey Hill bend. It was agreed that Suffolk CC Highways was asked to consider a small strip of double yellow lines on the corner, this would alleviate the visibility issue and provide a pull-in for cars meeting nose to nose.

## 16. Grasscutting report – cemetery and play area

It was reported there was no need for any further grass cutting in the play area by Mymow, this had been cut by the school contractor. Mymow to be asked to use the remaining grasscutting budget (approx £200) on cemetery cutting.

## 17. Play area report

The annual ROSPA inspection report had been received and circulated to all pc members. A number of minor and low level maintenance issues had been reported. It was agreed these be dealt with over the coming months. A query was raised as to whether the play area was used. Cllr Ms Payne stated it was not used very much at all, the main use being after the school day and there was probably a need for more awareness of the facility in the village, possibly the school could write to parents asking whether it was generally believed the facility was an asset the community valued. Cllr Ms Payne would speak to the Headteacher regarding a letter and timing, possibly deferring until the early spring.

## 18. To consider Village Autumn Clean

This had been suggested as a volunteer day in addition to the litter picking days to include sign cleaning, pruning verges etc. Item deferred for further consideration.

## 19. Highway pavement Brockford Street – see county councillor report

## 20. To consider Wetheringsett Neighbourhood Plan – representatives from Mendlesham PC had offered to attend the November parish council meeting to give a presentation on the process required to produce a plan. Meeting to commence at 7pm to allow up to an hour for the presentation. Good attendance by Councillors was requested.

## 21. Finance

### 1. S.137 donation requests – none received.

### 2. Accounts for payment

SALC – Planning Workshop	£60.00
SALC – Internal Audit fees 2016/17	£162.00
BDO LLP – External Audit fees 2016/17	£120.00
Community Action Suffolk – annual	
Insurance premium	£700.17
Clerk sal/expenses Sept 2017	£255.00

The annual insurance documents had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and no amendments were raised.

Cllr Alston proposed payments of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.

### 3. Finance report

Cllr Leadbetter presented a summary of expenditure against budget to 31 September 2017 – copy attached to the Minutes. Expenditure was currently running to budget with expenses of £2974 against a budget of £8650. The Chairman recorded thanks to Cllr Leadbetter for the information provided. Consideration of internal and external audit reports to be included on the December agenda.

## 22. Clerk's report/correspondence

SALC – notification of AGM 7 November 2017, 7pm at Elmswell Community Centre - noted.

Mid Suffolk CAB – notification of AGM 18 October 2017, 12.30pm at Stowmarket – noted.

SALC – introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation May 2018 – notification of SALC briefing sessions.

MSDC/Babergh joint Local Plan consultation – links had been forwarded to all members following the launch of the consultation on 21 August 2017, the deadline for response being 5pm 10 November 2017.

Details had been included in the Parish Magazine report for information and response by parishioners.

Item to be included on November agenda for confirmation of Parish Council response.

## 23. To consider Twitter items – include Clear up after your Dog leaflet

## 24. Chairman's Urgent Business – none

## 25. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

The Chairman mentioned good attendance at the November meeting (7pm) for the Mendlesham presentation would be much appreciated.

## 26. Date of next meeting: Monday 6 November 2017, 7pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: