

**WETHERINGSETT CUM BROCKFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held 4 July 2016**

Present: Cllrs Mrs C Nickson (Vice Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, T Alston, Mrs A Arnold, M Baker, B Lacey, J Leadbetter and Ms S Payne

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs R Anscombe, Mrs S Perry, County Cllr A Stringer and District Cllr G Horn. The Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs Nickson, chaired the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest relating to the Agenda**

Item 7 – 2691/16 : Mid Suffolk Light Railway – Cllr T Alston

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

Police – report available online

County Councillor – no report

District Councillor – no report

Public Rights of Way/Footpaths :

The footbridge at the Cat & Mouse Lodge was in need of repair

Footpath Survey – Cllr Mrs Aldred to complete and return by 24 July 2016

4. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr John Stark, Chairman of the Mid Suffolk Light Railway attended the meeting to address the meeting and answer any questions concerning the MSLR planning application 2691/16. Mr Stark stated this was a revised application to increase the length of the track and for the proposed new Wilby Hall. The Railway Museum had been in the village for 25 years and the application had come about due to comments from visitors that they would like to see an increase in the journey time but that the now proposed application with the significant changes would be as big as it gets. The track had been moved back a significant distance from Potash Cottage. It would not reach the top of the slope and would be less visual and would have a less acoustic effect. The train journey would be slightly longer, a 10 minute journey to Wilby Hall, a 5 minute wait and 10 minute journey back. There would be two trains on the line and journey's would take place between 11am – 4.30pm. Otherwise all aspects of the application were as before. The Railway had listened to the PC and had listened to neighbours. The smoke from the engine is steam and the tree survey was supported to show the Museum was looking after the environment. The loudest noise at present was the engine braking and the brakes had been adjusted to address this.

The issue of car parking was raised and Mr Stark reported that there would be no access from Blacksmiths Green and that all car parking would be as existing, on the large field on Station Road which was in a 30mph area and the rental of the field will continue.

Questions raised included the number of train days per year, Mr Stark stated permission had been granted for 30 but 25 would be the maximum.

Members thanked Mr Stark for his attendance and presentation, this would be very helpful in assisting the parish council with its response to MSDC.

5. **To approve Minutes of the Meeting held 6 June 2016**

Subject to the following amendment – Cllr Baker had reported on the Village Fete at item 24, the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

7. **To consider Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC**

1. 2271/16 : Waveney Cottage, Church Street – installation of oil fired central heating system, installation of hot water tank and solar thermal panel. Dig 3ft trench to contain water pipes and electric cables with access cover at each end (Planning Application). It was reported the solar panels were to be ground mounted at the rear of the greenhouse. Cllr Ms Payne proposed support of the application, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.

2. 2430/16 : 12 Hockey Hill – erection of first floor extension over existing single storey side extension, erection of single storey rear extension, demolition off existing car part and erection of garage on same footprint Cllr Ms Payne proposed support of the application, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and agreed.

3. 2494/16 : The Old Forge, Mendlesham Road – to replace rotten wooden window frames on eastern side of the 16<sup>th</sup> century part of the property with wooden framed replica replacements. Cllr Ms Payne proposed support of the application, seconded Cllr

Baker and agreed.

***Any received since publication of Agenda***

4. 2691/16: Mid Suffolk Light Railway, Hall Lane – re-laying existing standard gauge track on existing track bed and erection of new Wilby Hall.

As the application had arrived from MSDC after the issue of the Agenda it was agreed the response was deferred to enable the parish council to give notice to parishioners that it was due to consider the application. An Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 11 July 2016, 8pm at the Village Hall was agreed. The Clerk stated she would be unable to attend that meeting. A pc member would be appointed to take the minutes of the meeting.

**8. To receive Planning Decisions from MSDC**

1. 2075/16 : Waveney Cottage, Church Street – removal of yew tree due to close proximity to house and boundary. **No objection raised by MSDC.**
2. 1802/16 : The Old Forge, Mendlesham Road – replace 2 internal walls, installation of fire hood and plate. **Listed Building Consent Granted.**
3. 4376/15 : Brockford Garage, Norwich Road – retention of car wash facility including designated parking provided for waiting vehicles. **Planning Permission Granted.**

**9. Wetheringsett Village Hall report**

Cllr Leadbetter reported on a successful Tea Dance held to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM The Queen. The event was well attended by some 100 – 150 parishioners with music and afternoon tea. The meeting recorded thanks to Sue Stannard for organizing the event and the Church Ladies for the teas.

Cllr Leadbetter reported there had been slight damage to the Hall as a result of a party. Repair work was being sought via the hirer of the hall.

Information regarding legionnaires testing for public buildings had been obtained from SALC and Community Action Suffolk. This involved water testing at periodic intervals as part of a regular risk assessment. It was reported that the School already carried out testing in the kitchen for legionnaires and suggested that were asked whether this extended to the cloakrooms and if not whether that area could also be included.

**10. Proposed New Village Hall**

Cllr Ms Payne stated there was nothing further to report at present although investigations into National Lottery Funding were ongoing to take the project further.

11. **Proposed Speed Awareness Scheme** – awaiting report from Suffolk CC Highways.
12. **To consider response from Suffolk CC Highways regarding request for extended speed limit – Station Road**

The response had detailed the criteria required to impose a 40mph speed limit (circulated to members) and that this would need to be taken forward with the help of the County Councillor. Item to be included on the next agenda for discussion with County Cllr Stringer.

**13. Proposed defibrillator**

Following the options put forward at the last meeting Cllr Baker reported the agreed option to progress with the Heartbeat Community Trust managing the defibrillator would involve an initial cost of £2000 of which the parish council would be required to contribute one third, plus an annual charge of £126 and after one year the Parish Council would have the option to purchase the equipment for £1.00. It was also a requirement that a local person was appointed to check the equipment regularly. It was agreed the managed solution would be the better option and would involve minimal initial outlay for the parish. Cllr Baker reported he had opened an account with Heartbeat and the £10 donated from the Village Fete had been paid into that account. Cllr Baker now asked members to consider the amount of the locality award to go into the account. It was suggested that the £500 donated from the Town Estate Charity and £500 from the locality award was initially paid into the account. Cllr Ms Payne therefore proposed the sum of £1000 was transferred, seconded Cllr Baker and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Baker agreed to become the nominated person to check the equipment on a regular basis.

**14. Play Area report including provision of waste bin**

Cllr Mrs Arnold reported there were no issues to raise with the equipment. Cllr Mrs

Nickson reported the bin had been ordered and would be installed when it arrived. Cllr Mrs Arnold agreed to organize the bin liners and emptying.

15. **Proposed formal footpath map** – include on next agenda.

16. **Cemetery maintenance**

Cllr Baker reported the maintenance spreadsheet was complete and would easily enable the PCC to identify areas required for maintenance and the level of maintenance required. The Parish Council had agreed to maintain the grass but agreed that any maintenance beyond that would require the Parish Council to be clear on ownership and responsibility. It was agreed enquiries should be made with the Diocesan Board as to ownership before commencement of any work in the autumn.

Cllr Alston stated that his contractor would be unable to cut the grass beyond the current financial year.

17. **To consider quotation for repairs/replacement of Hockey Hill Bus Shelter**

Cllr Mrs Nickson was investigating an additional quotation.

18. **Wetheringsett Village Calendar** – include on next agenda

19. **Report on HM Queen's Birthday Event** (see village hall report)

20. **Report on Village Fete**

It was reported this had been another successful village event, well attended with a good variety of stalls and activities raising in excess of £1500. The Church had made income from the sale of cakes and the School from the BBQ. The meeting recorded its thanks to Emma Wnunowski for all her efforts in organizing the event and thanks to all other helpers for putting up and taking down the equipment.

21. **Finance**

To consider s.137 donation requests

Subscription to Community Action Suffolk was now free however the advice they were able to offer, particularly in relation to village halls and facilitating parish council insurance was a valuable asset. Cllr Alston proposed a donation of £20, seconded Cllr Leadbetter and agreed.

Accounts for Payment

Cllr J Leadbetter – HM Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations expenses -	£258.89
Clerk's salary/expenses June 2016 -	£247.16
Community Action Suffolk – donation -	£20.00

The above accounts were proposed, seconded and agreed.

Finance Report

Cllr Leadbetter reported notification had been received from SALC and NALC of revised clerk's salary scales commencing 1 April 2016. The clerk was currently reimbursed at column point SCP 26, this had increased to £12.04 per hour and Cllr Leadbetter recommended that the council increased the hourly amount to that level.

Secondly the clerk was currently not reimbursed for use of her home for carrying out the business of the parish council, ie space, lighting, heating, storage which currently stood at £4 per week untaxed. The Council was asked whether it would consider this payment and as the clerk supported another parish council suggested this sum was shared at an amount of £2 per week. Cllr Leadbetter stated that these amounts would be within the parish council budget and he proposed implementation of both the above recommendations, seconded Cllr Mrs Perry and agreed.

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

Request for Pedestrian Sign at Hockey Hill/War Memorial area – still awaiting response from Suffolk CC Highways

Suffolk Constabulary restructure – Notification from Locality Inspector Mark Jackson of a series of regular events where parish councillors would be invited to hear from local officers highlighting current priorities and ongoing work and the opportunity to discuss further issues requiring attention. The first event would be held at Eye Town Hall on 20 July 2016 at 2pm. Members noted the event but were unable to attend that date.

As an alternative and in response to Inspector Jackson's letter detailing his appointment it was suggested he be invited to attend a parish council meeting during the autumn to discuss ongoing police issues and to which parishioners were invited to take part.

23. **Chairman's Urgent Business** - none

24. **To agree Twitter items**

Cllr Baker to arrange for the Heartbeat Trust (defibrillator) donation account to be included enabling parishioners to make donations direct into the account.

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

Cllr Ms Payne reported on a recent incident involving a pit bull type dog on Hockey Hill. The dog had attacked her dog and it was understood it had attacked three or four other dogs in Hockey Hill. The incidents had been reported to the police and pending investigation members suggested that parishioners need to be aware there is an issue with a dangerous dog in the village and that any incidents involving the dog should be reported to the police. It was agreed this advice be included in the parish council report in the parish magazine.

**26. Date of next meeting : Monday 1 August 2016**

Meeting closed 9.15pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: