

# **WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of a meeting of Westleton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 30 September 2024 in Westleton Village Hall.

*Ian Haines*  
**Clerk of the Council**

## **There were Present**

Cllr Andrew Turner (Chairman), Cllr Ian Johnson (Vice Chair), Cllr Julian Alexander, Cllr Barry Banks, Cllr Colin Fisher, Cllr J French, Cllr Paul Holmes, Cllr John Matthews, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr David Watson, Cllr Ian Webber

## **In Attendance**

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 24/149 – 24/153 only)

Cllr Paul Ashton (ESC for minutes 24/149 – 24/159 only)

Ian Haines (Clerk)

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## **24/149 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:**

None.

## **24/150 Declaration of interests**

Council members to declare possible interests they may have in any items on the agenda, either pecuniary or non-pecuniary and to consider requests of dispensation.

Cllrs C Fisher & P Holmes to both receive cheque reimbursement from the Parish Council - see minute 24/157 below.

## **24/151 Open Public Forum – Contributions from Members of the Public**

There were two members of the public present. The residents (Mr & Mrs Sillito) spoke in relation to a planning application ref DC/24/2951/FUL\* which had been submitted on land adjoining their property. However, due to an omission, ESC had not carried out due consultation. Mr Sillito read out a prepared statement to this effect and also reasons for objection. \*see also minute 24/159 below

It was suggested, in the circumstances, that Mr & Mrs Sillito needed to take up the matter as a complaint. District Cllr Paul Ashton offered to provide further assistance and guidance in this respect.

## **24/152 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor**

The Lowestoft Gull Wing bridge (3<sup>rd</sup> river crossing) had been formally opened on 7/9/24.

The County Council are commencing the process for next year's budget setting and awaiting on further policy announcements/decisions from Central Government.

Cllr Smith also advised that the planning application (SCC/0102/23SC) for a medical waste incinerator at Hinton is now due to be considered by the County Council's Planning Committee on 17/12/24. The Parish Council have strongly opposed this proposal.

## **24/153 Possible Reinstatement of Bus Service**

This item was brought forward on the agenda to enable Cllr Smith to give an input.

The Parish Council had received notification from the County Council's Passenger Transport Unit of new government BSIP funding which had become available to aid rural bus services and the possibility of reinstating a service through Westleton was discussed. It was **agreed** that as a first step a residents survey would be carried out to determine demand/likely take up. Hand in hand with this would be information to promote the CATS (on demand) service which already operates in the area. Cllr A Turner will also broach neighbouring villages to establish interest. It was noted that bids had to be submitted by mid-November.

Cllr R Smith advised that the amount of funding (£300k) was only guaranteed for the first year and thereafter a service continuing would have to be deemed to be commercially viable to the bus operator company.

#### **24/154 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor**

Main focus from Cllr P Ashton this time centred on the roll out of improved recycling and the new bin collection arrangements which will apply across the district. The Council were undertaking this to comply with the Government target to put measures in place by March 2026. Further publicity will be given over to the new arrangements nearer the introduction date – which will see the issue of 4 separate smaller bins replacing the existing ones.

#### **24/155 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 29 July 2024**

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2024 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

#### **24/156 Matters Arising from the Minutes 29 July 2024**

Further to minute 24/133(a), the Clerk advised that he had taken up the complaint with SCC Highways about their contractor team using the Common Car Park to store resurfacing equipment and damage to the surface. A full apology on the matter had been received.

With reference to minute 24/140, the Clerk reported that the Centre Manager had spoken to him and it appears there had been a misunderstanding and help with putting up bunting was *not* in fact required.

Noted that separate emails had been received from the Yoxmere Fisherman and the Westleton Gardeners thanking the Parish Council for the respective donation and reimbursement of expenses received (minute 24/147).

#### **24/157 Council Finances and Accounts**

(a) **Projected year-end figures** – second quarter details noted

(b) **Income 2024/25** - Income to date was acknowledged and approved.

(c) **Expenditure 2024/25** - Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved.

(d) **Bank balances** as at 23 August noted:-

Current	£28,679.88	
Savings	£24,965.85	
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>	<b>£53,645.73</b>	

(e) **Invoices and Payments** – The following invoices were **agreed** for payment:-

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£59.90) & salary (£744.03) – Aug	£803.93
Mr C Fisher	Community Field Grass cut	£125.00
Toilets+ Ltd	Community Field 15/7-11/8 Reduced amount this month as there is a credit owing from cancelled booking of disabled toilet for Village Picnic	£73.20*
HJG Gardening	War Memorial Maintenance August	£166.00
Toilets+ Ltd	Community Field 15/7-11/8	£129.60*
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£68.85) & salary (£744.03) – Sept	£812.83
Westleton Garage	Fuel for Working Party	£7.91
Mr C Spall	Boundary hedge cut of Community Field	£1400.00
SALC	Training Course on Allotments (Clerk)	£84.00
Mr P Holmes	Replacement Union Jack Flag	£174.54
Woolnough Contractors Ltd	Supply of granite for repairs to Common car park	£418.97

\* Payment made by Direct Debit

## 24/158 Feedback from Working Parties

**(a) Common –** Cllr N Shearme reported that work had recently been undertaken to fill in the pot holes in the car park/track between Mill Street & Bakers Lane. The other area adjacent to the green container also needs attention and a further supply of granite chipping materials will be ordered.

Another Working Party had been arranged for 18/10/24 to undertake further gorse clearance.

UK Power Networks had visited the site on 12/8/24 to cut back "high rise" vegetation under their powerlines.

Cllr N Shearme made reference to the fact that SCC Highways had recently undertaken some flushing of the culverts in the vicinity of the Reckford Road layby but they had not yet dug out the neighbouring ditch. Clerk to take up.

As previously reported, a quote had been received from Collins Farming & Forestry Ltd for undertaking further planned specialist clearance work and it was anticipated this would be carried out in the next 2-3 weeks.

Thanks were also recorded to Cllr I Webber who had agreed to takeover as Secretary to the Common Group. A phased handover will take place with John Bebbington due to formally stand down from the role at the end of the year.

**(b) Community Field –** Cllr P Holmes reported that Chris Spall had completed the hedge cut round the boundary. It was highlighted that additional cutback will need to be undertaken along the border with the main road.

Donations of £84.41 had recently been banked. Cllr B Banks suggested that it would be worth investigating whether a QR code could be set up by the entrance gate so that visitors had the option to use this payment method. **Agreed** that the idea be further explored. Action: Cllr P Holmes/Clerk.

Some minor works/repairs had been carried out to the play equipment. Noted that the annual Health & Safety inspection is due to be undertaken in October.

The Clerk reported that he had now heard back from ESC and they had agreed to award a grant of £880.00 towards the purchase of a new carousel for the playground. An order will now be placed for the equipment.

Reference was made to the new arrangements which had been applied this year for on-site toilet provision and it was **agreed** that in future bookings should continue to be made for the whole period through from March to October.

Cllr C Fisher reported that he had not yet heard back from UK Power Network on the electricity connection question but he would chase up.

**(c) Allotments** – the Parish Council are now pursuing fresh lines of enquiry. Action Cllr C Fisher.

**(d) Affordable Housing** – Cllr C Fisher gave feedback from a meeting with parties held the previous week – the notes from which had been circulated. It is hoped to stage a village consultation event in December to present further details of the scheme. Staff from the ESC Housing Team will also be in attendance to provide further advice and give the opportunity for any resident to additionally register.

#### 24/159 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
St Helena House, St Helena, Westleton, IP17 3ED	DC/24/2411/FUL	Renovation and extension of house. New cart lodge.
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 2/9/24</b> <b>Response: No objections</b>

From	Item	Details
Lymballs Farm, Lymballs Lane, Westleton, IP17 3QH	DC/24/2824/FUL	Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to provide a single dwelling house & erection of new cart lodge.
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 6/9/24</b> <b>Response: No objections</b>

From	Item	Details
Quines, Dunwich Road, Westleton	DC/24/2926/FUL	Change of use from Airbnb back to annexe.
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 11/9/24</b> <b>Response: No objections</b>

From	Item	Details
Quines, Dunwich Road, Westleton	DC/24/3086/FUL	Construction of detached double garage
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 7/10/24</b> <b>Response: No objections</b>

From	Item	Details
Buildings at Grange Farm, Wash Lane, Westleton	DC/24/2951/FUL	Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to provide 4 dwellings
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 7/10/24</b> <b>Response: No objection in principle to the development of a derelict barn for the creation of residential units.</b> However, also noted, is the need for East Suffolk Council to include the adjoining neighbours in the Grange in this planning consultation. The derelict barn is directly adjacent to their boundary & party wall issues must be addressed satisfactorily. Finally, the current vehicular access to the barn is Wash Lane, which would require necessary upgrade and maintenance to serve the additional residential units.

#### **24/160 Other Planning Matters**

None.

#### **24/161 Tree & Footpath Warden Report**

Cllr I Webber reported that East Suffolk Services (the District Council's contractor) would be making arrangements to remove a dead rowan tree at the top of the village green.

Reference was made to a couple of places in the village where hedge encroachment was once again an issue. Where possible contact will be made with the owners of the individual properties highlighted.

It was recognised with all the wet weather it had been an exceptional year for growth and some hedges on surrounding farmland/country lanes were in need of an urgent cutback – particularly along the Darsham Road. Cllr A Turner to take up with landowner.

#### **24/162 Energy Projects**

Cllr A Turner had participated in an online Anglian Energy Planning Alliance meeting on 3/9/24. The Group had also recently sent round a proposed draft constitution plus a proposed letter to Ed Miliband Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero. Clerk to respond giving our backing.

Cllr A Turner also provided brief feedback on a meeting he had recently attended with the Chairman of Friston Parish Council who have mounted a strong campaign against the proposed Sub-Station.

We again voiced our concerns about the overall cumulation impact on the area.

#### **24/163 Sizewell C B1125 Transport WP**

Feedback was given from the Northern Transport Forum which had been held on 7/8/24.

The Parish Council were pleased to note positive developments in respect of the intention to provide additional car parking and facilities at Darsham railway station.

#### **24/164 Parish Council Surgery - 30/9/24**

Feedback was given from the drop in held earlier that day.

#### **24/165 Village Hall – Update on Proposed Maintenance Work**

Cllr B Banks gave an outline of some of the main building work repairs and other refurbishment work which needed to be undertaken. Noted that the Village Hall Trustees were intending to apply to the Sizewell C Community Fund.

#### **24/166 Westleton Village Fete/Summer Picnic 2025**

To set up early planning for next year, Cllrs B Banks & A Turner will look to hold initial discussions with John Shepherd and Annie Groves to select an appropriate date for the event. It is hoped wider representative groups/volunteers from within the village will then be co-opted and involved in the organisation.

#### **24/167 Remembrance Sunday – 10 November 2024**

The Clerk confirmed arrangements in place. No church service this year in Westleton (it will be held in Darsham at 10.50am) but the wreath laying will go ahead as normal at the War Memorial at 12 noon. Cllr Ian Johnson is acting as the main local contact point in relation to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

#### **24/168 Correspondence**

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Approach from Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths about erecting 'Welcome' signs within the designated National Landscape boundary on the Westleton Heath/Dunwich Road. **Agreed** - proposal not supported.
- (b) Email from East Suffolk Planning Alliance – the group are seeking additional levels of support to help function. **Agreed** that an offer could be made to use the Village Hall as a venue for occasional meetings – although this was of course dependent on booking availability.

#### **24/169 White Horse Inn**

**Note: Not listed on the agenda but accepted by the Chairman on this occasion as an item of exceptional urgent business.**

There is current uncertainty over the future of this public house and it was **agreed** that, in the circumstances, the Clerk write to Adnams brewery to highlight concerns and seek assurances.

#### **24/170 Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday 28 October 2024.