

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The *draft* minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 30 April 2024 in Westleton Village Hall.

Ian Haines
Clerk of the Council

There were 37 people in attendance

AGENDA

Chair for the Meeting

Andrew Turner in the Chair.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr John Matthews.

Minutes of the previous meeting

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2023 were a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

Westleton Traffic Mitigation Proposals – Update from public consultation event held on 5th February 2024

Thanks were expressed to everyone who had completed the questionnaire and submitted comments on the proposed traffic calming measures after the village meeting on 5 February*. Following that meeting, the Parish Council had *again* pressed EDF, the Police and Suffolk County Council to see if Average Speed Cameras could be installed along the B1125 and the Chair reported that there appeared to have been a change of heart and there was now a strong possibility this would happen.

Average Speed Cameras (ASC) are seen as the most effective means to ensure drivers keep within the speed limit, so the Parish Council viewed this as a very positive development. However, because the measures will only be for the B1125 (and not on the Yoxford, Dunwich and Darsham Roads) the Parish Council still supported the use and necessity for some of the measures proposed in the February plan in order to deter speeding and the Parish Council's position on each (in the context of the scenario of having Average Speed Cameras installed on the Blythburgh and Reckford Roads) were presented to the meeting. Cllr Turner explained that in order to gauge opinion a further round of consultation would take place between the 3-10 May – with arrangements set up in the Village Hall so that all residents had the opportunity to give their views. The position is then due to be discussed further at the next meeting of the B1125 Working Group on 11 June.

*[Note: It was recognised that many of the original comments received had related to concerns about the appearance of the village becoming too urbanised but, if ASC are installed, then this will negate the need for some of the planned infrastructure measures such as coloured tarmac etc].

There then followed a number of questions and comments from the floor. Cllr Turner stated that the Parish Council would also ideally still like to go ahead with the introduction of a general 20mph speed limit for the whole of Westleton and widespread support from those in the audience was given to this.

Nationally Significant Energy Infrastructure – Sizewell C & the Scottish Power and National Grid cabling projects

Cllr Turner spoke about the LIONLINK, formerly known as EUROLINK (an interconnector between coastal Suffolk and Holland) and SEALINK (a subsea transmission cable from coastal Suffolk to Kent) and the consultation process being carried out by National Grid (NG). These projects, coupled with Scottish Power Renewables offshore windfarms (East Anglia 1 & 2) and the Sizewell C development mean that the whole Suffolk Coast and Heaths area is facing an onslaught of major construction projects which is a very concerning situation given the adverse impact it will have on the landscape.

The Parish Council has been making its views known through the various NG consultations over recent years – notably to express concern about the cumulative impact of all of these projects and SZC on the area. NG has just published a study which largely rejects the alternative and less intrusive option of off-shore cabling and state they favour either the Southwold and Reydon or the Walberswick landing options with the Converter Station being located just to the east of Saxmundham. Each of these options would result in cabling being laid around the north and west side of Westleton.

Housing Needs Survey

Cllr Turner took the opportunity to encourage residents to complete the Housing Needs Survey (being organised by Community Action Suffolk) which had recently been sent out to all residents. The main purpose of this is to obtain evidence to support a plan being developed by Orwell Housing Association to build an Affordable Housing project in the village which has long been an established goal of the Parish Council.

Village Fete

The Parish Council are looking to stage a community event in August on the Community Playing Field. Any volunteer helpers would be gratefully received – please contact Ian Haines, the Parish Clerk on westletonclerk@gmail.com

Speed Watch Group - Recruitment

Anyone interested in joining the Team please contact Cllr Turner for further details.

Annual report from the Parish Council

The Parish Council had produced a report summarising the main activities carried out over the preceding 12 months which has been published on the website.

Annual report from SCC County Councillor

Cllr Smith read out his report summarising work over the year.

Any Other Business

There were no items raised.

Date of next Annual Parish Meeting

To be confirmed.

Chairman Date