

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Westleton Parish Council at the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 21st October 2019 in the Reading Room, Dunwich.

Ian Haines

Clerk of the Council

There were Present

Cllr Paul Holmes (Chairman), Cllr Ian Johnson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Antony Clough, Cllr Colin Fisher, Cllr Amanda Freeman, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Roy Jones, Cllr Nick Shearme.

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC) (for mins 19/161 – 19/167 only), Ian Haines (Clerk)

Also Present By Invitation

Mr Richard Lyon and Mr Nigel Minter – Anglia Water (specifically for min 19/167)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There was 1 member of the public present who asked a number of related questions in relation under the general discussion held under minute 19/167 below.

AGENDA

19/161 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies: Cllr Julian Alexander, Cllr Andrew Turner & Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC).

19/162 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.

Cllr Nick Shearme advised that he was receiving a cheque from the Parish Council for undertaking work – see minute 19/170.

19/163 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Cllr Smith reported that highway repairs had finally been carried out to the uneven road surface on the A12 at Blythburgh and at the same time the opportunity had been taken (in consultation with Natural England) to remove the damaged fencing.

Noted that EDF had now completed the Stage 4 Consultation on Sizewell and further updates would be provided as and when details became known.

Cllr Smith also confirmed that he had now resigned from his Cabinet role.

The County Council had also recently announced that an electoral review would be undertaken of wards and the intention is to eventually reduce the total number of elected Members from 75 to 70.

19/164 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

Cllr Brooks was not present and so no report was forthcoming.

19/165 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 23 September 2019

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2019 be accepted as a true record.

19/166 Matters Arising from the Minutes 23 September 2019

Village Parking Issues (Minute 19/147) – the Clerk reported he had sent an email to the District Council and was awaiting their response. Also noted that a separate communication on this subject had been received from a resident - see minute 19/176 below.

Village Green (Minute 19/153) – latest update was given. Birkett's are making further enquiries with the County Council Records Office.

Dunwich Heath Car Park – Clerk reported further to minute 19/159 that Nick Collinson from the National Trust would be attending the next Parish Council meeting.

19/167 Westleton Sewage Works and Interconnecting Village Systems

The subject regarding the condition and working of the existing sewage network in and around the village as well as the ability of the system to be able to cope with any future new developments had previously been raised and representatives from Anglia Water (AW) were invited along to this meeting to address questions and concerns.

AW stated that regular monitoring is carried out and levels were currently operating well within capacity and so any new developments going up in the area would not have a detrimental impact. It was acknowledged that there had been defects with a serious collapse having taken place in the past but such problems were unfortunately no different to occurrences elsewhere. The Company had in place procedures for checking and inspecting the underground network as well as the operation and flows from the nearby works and x2 pumping stations specifically serving Westleton. An explanation was also provided of the dosage/cleansing methods which were widely used to maintain flow. It was also confirmed that suitable back-up arrangements were in place at the pumping stations to maintain operation should a power cut occur and there were also local storm overflow measures to deal with emergencies etc.

In addition to the above comments, the Clerk had circulated (prior to the meeting) an email received from Caitland Docker which had addressed some of the other questions/issues which the Parish Council had previously raised.

The Parish Council felt largely satisfied with the various assurances received but there remained an odour issue in Darsham Road as well as separate concern about reports of raw sewage being deposited into the river. Nigel Minter stated that he would follow up both and investigate.

Cllr C Fisher stated that it would be helpful if a system network drawing of the village could be provided to assist with identifying any future problems and Nigel Minter offered to provide the Clerk with a copy.

19/168 Community Field

Cllr C Freeman gave an update/overview.

Boules Court – delivery of the base aggregate was due to take place that week. The Chairman, Cllr P Holmes, presented a cheque to the value of £1000.00 as a contribution from the Barrel Fair Committee toward the refurbishment and the Parish Council recorded their thanks. The Clerk also advised that East Suffolk DC were due to hand-over half of the grant allocation once the work got underway with the remainder being paid on completion.

Memorial tree planting - Cllr N Shearme stated that the nursery had agreed to supply a replacement lime and the one [rogue] cherry would be replanted elsewhere on the site.

Help/assistance was required with the remainder hedge cutting.

Cllr C Freeman also made reference to tidying up works which would need to be undertaken to the churchyard and Cllr N Shearme stated that this matter was in hand.

19/169 Common

Cllr R Jones gave a report update.

In the light of the update which had been given to the last meeting, a request had now been made for the Community Payback Team to undertake further on site works – if possible prior to Xmas.

It was noted that the tree work at the boundary bordering with Ormand House had now been dealt with.

As previously reported, it is intended to carry out an upgrade of the notice board/s and an order for new cork based material to use as a backing has been placed.

The group are still seeking a volunteer to act as coordinator for the Annual Report but, in the meantime, John Bebbington is kindly assisting in the role.

19/170 Council Finances and Accounts

- (a) **Income** – Income to date were acknowledged and approved.
- (b) **Expenditure** - Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved.
- (c) **Invoices and Payments** – The following invoices were **agreed** for payment:-

	Item	Amount
SPD UK	Materials for replacement notice board on Common	£11.30
Ian Haines	Clerks expenses (£52.95) & salary (£414.00) October	£466.95
Stones4Homes	Limestone aggregate for Boules Court refurbishment	£1389.60
Royal British Legion	Donation to Poppy appeal	£50.00
Jim's Mowing	Tree cut on The Common	£150.00
Kings Landscaping	Top cover for Boules Court – granite dust	£82.32

19/171 Planning applications

No new applications had been received in this round. However, a brief reference was made

to the Glebe Meadow planning application (DC/19/2839/FUL)* and it was noted that East Suffolk DC had yet to make a determination.

19/172 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough reported on a recent site meeting held with Peter Ross from Norse about The Alley and he had agreed with the removal of the overhanging dead branches above the garages plus the complete removal of the large dead elm and the removal of the vegetation on the other side of the pond where the seats are located. There will be no cost to us. All the work should be finished in the next two weeks.

Reference was made to the earlier work which had been undertaken to remove the dead oak tree which had blown down on the Westleton/Yoxford Road. Clerk had taken up the issue that the trunk still needed to be removed and immediate area tidied up/reinstated. However, Suffolk Highways had responded indicating that they were not prepared to undertake any additional works.

Condition of the Village Pond – the Clerk had fed back to Cllr Clough the responses received from both the Environment Agency and Suffolk & Essex Water. The green algae can be attributed to hot/warm weather conditions so it is hoped with the onset of winter that the quality of the water will improve. Situation to be monitored.

As reported in minute 19/171 above, the Parish Council have already given their observations on the Glebe Meadow planning application* and as noted a decision from the District Council is pending. Notwithstanding, Cllr Clough made reference to the findings in a related survey/report which had been carried out by Geosphere Environmental and asked that details be included in the 'Round Robin' circulation for information.

19/173 Village Bottle Bank

Further to minute 19/155, the Chair reported that it was hoped that a start could soon be made on the proposal. In the meantime, residents were now able to use one of the existing non-commercial bins (on the site to the rear of the White Horse) for general recycling as Norse were understood to be including on their collection rota. Clerk to enquire to see if a second container could be provided for public use.

19/174 War Memorial

Following concern over the condition of the stonework, Cllr J Alexander had obtained a quote from Collins & Curtis Masonry Ltd (circulated with agenda papers) for 3 different types of treatment work to be undertaken and it was unanimously **agreed** that this should be accepted to prevent further deterioration. Total cost £680.00 + VAT. It was suggested that perhaps the amount could be split 50:50 between the Parish Council and the Barrel Fair fund and Cllr P Holmes stated that he would follow this up.

19/175 East Suffolk Community Workshops – Community Partnership Working

Clerk reported on an invite from the Leader of East Suffolk Council to an event to be staged in Southwold on Wednesday, 20 November. Agreed that both the Chairman, Cllr P Holmes and Vice Chairman, Cllr Ian Johnson should attend.

19/176 Remembrance Sunday

Arrangements concerning the forthcoming service were discussed.

19/177 Village Hall

An inaugural meeting of the Village Hall User Forum had been held on 30/9/19 and Cllr A Clough gave feedback. It is anticipated sign over of the building work will take place by the middle of January with the formal launch/opening being held over a weekend in February.

As an aside, reference was made to the Christmas tree arrangements and Cllr P Holmes confirmed that the Barrel Fair Committee had taken temporary custody of the lights while the building work was in progress. A check will need to be undertaken to ensure that the normal electric socket used to provide power to light up the tree is still accessible.

19/178 Hastoe Homes Update

Cllr C Fisher advised that he had spoken to Neil Salisbury that day and gave an update on the current position. It was noted that the heads of terms had been agreed with the landowner but formal signing had not yet taken place. Hastoe had, however, now earmarked a sum to cover the anticipated expenditure involved in submitting a planning application and so things were seen to be moving forward.

19/179 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of an email which had been received on the subject of Westleton Parking Issues and the decision taken by the Parish Council last time to explore the possibility of installing in the region of 15 car parking spaces along the bottom of the Village Green. At the request of the resident the Clerk read out the content in full.

19/180 – Date of Next Meeting

To note that Council next meets on Monday 25 November 2019 at 7.30pm **in the Reading Room, Dunwich.**