

# WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Westleton Parish Council at the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 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 Julian Alexander, Cllr Antony Clough, Cllr Colin Fisher, Cllr Amanda Freeman, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Roy Jones, Cllr Andrew Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme.

## **In Attendance**

Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC) (for mins 19/120 – 19/123 only), Cllr Richard Smith (SCC) (for mins 19/120 – 19/123 only), Ian Haines (Clerk)

## **Also Present By Invitation**

Mr Andy Robinson - Langton Brook Consultants Ltd (specifically for min 19/128)

## **PRE AGENDA MATTERS**

### **Contributions from members of the public.**

There were 6 members of the public present. One person spoke with regard to the land registration of the village green. This matter is covered under minute 19/131 below. Another person spoke in relation to the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Examination. This matter is covered more fully under minute 19/128 below.

## **AGENDA**

### **19/120 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:**

A welcome was extended to District Cllr Norman Brooks.

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Turner.

### **19/121 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.

None declared.

### **19/122 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor**

Cllr Smith indicated that work was continuing on the budget formulation for 2020/21 amid a somewhat uncertain position at present over future Government funding.

The main 'outside' focus of work is the latest Stage 4 Consultation on Sizewell being carried out by EDF. To this end it was noted that a joint Parish & Town Council event is being hosted by SCC & ESC at Ufford Park on 26/7/19. Cllr C Fisher to attend on behalf of the Parish Council – see also minute 19/138 below.

Cllr Julian Alexander highlighted ongoing concerns over highway maintenance issues & overgrown hedges – in particular the stretch of road in the vicinity of Rollets Farm. Parish Council were disappointed with the response received from the County Highways that they

would not be taking any action at this time or with regard to Lavender Cottage in the village. Cllr Nick Shearme again referred to concerns over the condition of the A12 at the Blythburgh river crossing and Cllr Smith said that he would look to take up this matter.

Cllr Smith also added that he had a small budget currently available to provide each Parish in his area with an additional grit bin (to be installed on public land). Parish Council to look at whether there is a need given the number already located in & around the village.

### **19/123 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor**

Cllr Brooks spoke about his responsibilities for the new electoral ward and challenges being faced. It was noted that from October the District Council will also be taking on responsibility for civil parking enforcement.

The meeting were reminded that each District Councillor had a small Locality Budget of £1000.00 allocation per Parish Council and that bids were invited for particular projects etc.

In response to a question, Cllr Brooks stated that responsibility for emptying bins rested with Norse and so if there were any local issues these should be taken up with them in the first instance. Cllr Alexander had recently raised some concerns in this regard and would provide the Clerk with further info & evidence over the locations where bins are apparently being missed.

### **19/124 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 24 June 2019**

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2019 be accepted as a true record, subject to a correction on page 4 under minute 19/111 third paragraph so that the text read '**County** Council' and *not* 'District Council'.

### **19/125 Matters Arising from the Minutes 24 June 2019**

Dunwich Heath Car Park – Clerk confirmed that investigations were continuing with regard to the parish boundary question (re Westleton beach).

Overgrown Hedges – as stated above concern recorded that the County Council were apparently not prepared to take action. **Agreed** that situation be closely monitored (albeit that the road is outside the Parish boundary) and that photographs should be taken to help illustrate the problem. The section of road near Rollets Farm also suffers from frequent flooding problems in wet weather.

Community Field – Parish Council were pleased to note East Suffolk Council had approved the grant application for £1825.00 towards the planned Boules Court resurfacing work.

### **19/126 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:-

From	Item	Amount
Roy Swindell	Payment made for Community Field grass cut	£45.00

Ian Haines	Clerks expenses (£56.76) & salary (£414.00)	£470.76
R J Scarlett	Rover Mower Service & goods	£121.06
Guy McGregor Associates	Payroll Services for Parish Clerk (first qtr charge for 2019)	£18.00
Ian Haines	Staples office supplies – ink cartridges	£26.98
Village Hall	Hire of Westleton Village Hall x3	£45.00

### 19/127 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Highfield Barn, Lymballs Lane, Westleton	DC/19/2589/FUL	3 Bay Cart Lodge (garage)

**Deadline for comments 26/7/19:**

**No objections**

### 19/128 Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Examination

It was **agreed** to appoint Andy Robinson a specialist consultant with planning knowledge/ experience to represent the Parish Council at the forthcoming Public Hearing on the Suffolk District Council Local Plan. Rate involved is £30.00 per hour. This will initially involve preparation of a Statement [working closely with the Chair of the Planning Sub Committee] which must be submitted to the District Council by their deadline of Friday, 2 August.

In taking this action it is hoped that residents will recognise that the Parish Council are intent on representing the best interests and concerns which have been expressed and to strengthen our case for the Inspector to consider.

Cllr Colin Fisher expressed reservations over the ability of the existing local sewerage system to be able to cope with any future new developments given known pressures which already occur in Westleton and flow from nearby villages. This topic was also covered in separate representations which had recently been submitted via email as well as comments made from a member of the public present. Andy Robinson gave an undertaking that he would take on board the observations.

### 19/129 Development of Land identified for Local Housing Needs – off Heath View/ Blythburgh Road, Westleton

Further to minute 19/116, the minutes were received from a meeting which took place on 1/7/19 with Hastoe Housing Association & Community Action Suffolk. The Parish Council were pleased to note progress and assurances received.

The Chair of the Housing Needs Advisory Group (Cllr Colin Fisher) advised that he had held a subsequent meeting on 18/7/19 with the owner of the land and in the light of this, it was **agreed** that suitable follow up letter/s should be sent.

It was confirmed that all parties were happy for the provision of 12 allotment spaces to be included within the boundary of the overall site area with Hastoe undertaking preparation of the necessary groundworks for water supply and car parking as part of the housing development. However, it would be down to the Parish Council to negotiate separately with the landowner in respect of the freehold purchase. Note: No specific budget provision for this had yet been set.

### **19/130 Village Parking Issues**

Further to discussion which had taken place at the last meeting, it was confirmed that Glebe Meadow CIC had submitted their planning application and this now excluded any public car parking provision.

In the light of this, some preliminary discussion took place on other options and possible sites for improving off street car parking in the village having regard to the previous study which had been carried out. It was **agreed** that this matter should be considered and explored in further detail at the September meeting.

### **19/131 Village Green**

The meeting was advised that Birketts solicitors had now been engaged to act in this matter on behalf of the Parish Council.

As an aside, reference was made by Cllr Antony Clough to the poor quality of the adjacent village pond and it was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to the Environment Agency to see if they could take samples/analysis and come up with recommendations to purify the water. Suffolk & Essex Water also to be contacted to obtain their views on how best to deal with the algae problem.

### **19/132 Community Field**

Cllr C Freeman gave an update/overview.

Community Payback Team had been present on site on 2 & 3 July.

Various works had recently been completed including (a) watering of lime trees (b) filling in of rabbit holes (c) clearance of overgrown grass around cricket nets.

New seating bases are also being installed as well as a base for the new Barrel Fair shed.

Quotes had also been obtained for a new storage box bench to replace the one vandalised (£139), together with some heavy duty twill cricket netting (estimate £220-£230) and it was **agreed** that orders for these items should be placed. Cllr Freeman also reported that a new timber frame/surround was required to contain the wood chippings – estimate £50-£60.

### **19/133 Common**

Cllr R Jones gave a report update.

Noted Geo Suffolk had unveiled the new plaque illustrating the geology of the landscape at a small ceremony held on 4 July. Feedback has been well received.

Following recent increase in complaints about dog fouling it is intended that new/improved signage will be put up.

### **19/134 Vehicle Activated Sign**

The latest activity figures and data results for the period had been circulated. The Parish Council were pleased to note that a Police safety camera enforcement vehicle had recently been observed undertaking speed checks in the village.

### **19/135 Tree Warden Report**

Cllr A Clough reported that an approach had been received from the owner living in a property adjoining The Common asking if branches/bows from a large overhanging oak tree could be removed. The Parish Council acknowledged that we had responsibility to undertake the work and it was **agreed** that this be undertaken by Jim's Mowing at a cost of £150.

### **19/136 Village Bottle Bank**

Since the last meeting, it was noted that the landlord/owners of the White Horse had provided written confirmation that they are agreeable to the idea of an outbuilding being used and modified to act as a store for the village bottle bank. It is estimated that the materials to lay a base will cost approximately £325 and then other minor works/alterations will then be required to install a door for access.

As previously reported, it is intended that the opening hours will be limited between the hours of 9am-6pm to reduce noise and any disturbance. In this regard it was noted that Cllr P Holmes had spoken to the occupants of the neighbouring property to ensure they had no objections and Cllr C Fisher asked if the Clerk could send a letter verifying.

### **19/137 New Year Day Fireworks**

It was **agreed** (unanimous) that a maximum spend of £1395.20 inc vat should set towards the New Year Day fireworks.

The facility of the Village Hall will not be available this year so it was noted that the White Horse would act as the main 'base' for refreshments etc.

### **19/138 Correspondence**

Clerk advised that a number of emails had been received. As well as this other hard copy publications had been included in the latest 'Round Robin' circulation.

**Sizewell C – Stage 4 Consultation** – as reported above under minute 19/122 the Parish Council have received several notifications through about the next round of public consultation and various exhibitions and workshops which are taking place. We will endeavour to be represented at these however, following on so closely from the end of Stage 3, the Parish Council cannot see that in the latest consultation EDF have revealed any *new* data to judge the potential environmental, social or infrastructure impact. The Parish Council do not, therefore, envisage making any additional comments to those which were conveyed in March 2019 as part of the Stage 3 consultation given that the concerns made then so far as the direct impact upon Westleton as a village have not materially changed.

### **19/139 – Date of Next Meeting**

To note that Council next meets on Monday 23 September 2019 at 7.30pm **in the Reading Room, Dunwich.**