

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Westleton Parish Council at the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 24 February 2020 in in Westleton Village Hall.

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 Amanda Freeman, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Roy Jones, Cllr A Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr Andrew Turner

In Attendance

Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

AGENDA

20/23 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies: Cllr Colin Fisher, Cllr Richard Smith (SCC) & Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC).

20/24 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 Chris Freeman advised that he was receiving a cheque in respect of recent purchases made to replace worn out playground equipment – see minute 20/29.

20/25 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

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

20/26 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

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

20/27 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 27th January 2020

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2020 be accepted as a true record.

20/28 Matters Arising from the Minutes 27th January 2020

Further to minute 20/18, Cllr J Alexander reported that he had been in touch with the stonemason and arrangements will be made to carry out a clean within the next few weeks.

With reference to minute 20/20 (Local Housing), the Clerk confirmed that a date for a **Special** Parish Council meeting had been set for Thursday, 19 March at 10.30am. It is intended that this will be closed to attendance by the public.

20/29 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) Income

Income to date were acknowledged and approved.

(b) Expenditure

Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved. Clerk advised in respect of the final two entries on the list that the date should read 2020 and not 2019.

(c) Invoices and Payments

The following invoices and donations were **agreed** for payment:-

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerks expenses (£97.92) & salary (£414.00) - Feb	£511.92
Ian Haines	Amazon – Ink Cartridges	£14.37
Village Hall	Room hire Jan – April '20	£60.00
Chris Freeman	Replacement (parts) of play equipment	£336.55
Information Com Office	Renewal of Data Protection Registration/Fee - Payment made via direct debit	£35.00
Sandy Lane Nursery	Hedging and materials for Com Field	£52.50

20/30 Community Field

Replacement play equipment has been ordered plus the infill hedging (see above).

Boundary hedge – two thirds of the site has now been cut and it is hoped the remainder can be completed in the near future.

The next major planned project will be to finish the boules court refurbishment works.

20/31 Common

A nature walk had been held the previous weekend despite the poor weather. Also noted that the Community Payback Team had recently undertaken some on-site works.

The Parish Council asked that their appreciation be conveyed to John Bebbington for his work in preparing the [draft] 2019 Annual Common Report. The final version once formally signed off/agreed will then be circulated.

There then followed discussion in relation to the New Year's Day bonfire/fireworks. Cllr I Johnson reported that enquiries had subsequently been made with East Suffolk Council and it had been confirmed that the Parish Council **did not** require a D7 Exemption in relation to the burning of any waste on site - as this only applied to commercial waste operations. In the circumstances, the Parish Council would look instead to ensure compliance with the Environment Agency guidelines (RPS 50) in respect of the future staging of this popular annual community event.

Reference was also made to the damaged memorial bench which had been reported last time. Cllr C Freeman advised that he had recently taken delivery of a similar model (originally intended to be installed on the Community Field) and it was suggested this could be readily utilized as an immediate replacement on The Common. **Agreed.**

Tools used by the Working Group - Cllr J Alexander offered to undertake sharpening of the Balfor saw blades rather than purchasing new ones at this particular time.

20/32 Planning applications

None received.

20/33 Suffolk Coastal Draft Local Plan Examination

Cllr A Turner stated that he understood the Inspector had come back to ESC expressing some concerns but further details were not known. It was now envisaged that it could be another 2-3 months before the findings are published.

20/34 Village Green

Feedback was given from a recent meeting of the Planning Sub Committee. The views of a qualified Surveyor will accordingly be sought with regard to the map interpretation. Further update to be given at the next Parish Council meeting.

20/35 Neighbourhood Plan

Following discussion last time (minute 20/14), it was **agreed** that members of the Planning Sub Committee (plus the Chair, V/C & Clerk) should seek a meeting with the Planning Team at ESC to talk through and define the process in more detail.

20/36 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough advised that David Rous (from The Common Management Group) had been in contact about the possible removal of 2 trees on the site. It was **agreed** that the leaning silver birch should be felled for H&S reasons if found to be unstable but the home oak should be retained as removal was not felt to be necessary.

20/37 Highways Inspection – 6/1/20

An update report was given in respect of a number of sites. There were several ongoing issues and the Clerk stated that he would continue to liaise with Suffolk Highways to obtain progress reports.

In order to demonstrate that the Parish Council were trying to be as proactive as possible, the Clerk had produced a poster to encourage residents to report local flooding problems (using the **0345 606 6171** emergency telephone number) as well as to log onto the website www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue/ to report any general highway maintenance issues.

As an aside, Cllr J Alexander also expressed concerns at the number of cigarette ends and general untidy appearance in an outside area at the front of The Crown Hotel. It was **agreed** that the Clerk contact the Manager about this and a related matter.

20/38 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Westleton Gun Club – donation received of £150.00. Clerk had sent a letter of thanks.

- (b) Mr & Mrs Young – donation received of £20.00 towards fireworks. Clerk had sent a letter of thanks.
- (c) Natural England – England Coast Path – Aldeburgh to Hopton-on-Sea. Proposals noted.
- (d) Theberton & Eastbridge PC – Call to Action re EDF Sizewell C application and lack of consultation. Letter to be formulated by Cllr A Turner.
- (e) Email received from local resident re enquiry about bottlebanks. The Chair, Cllr P Holmes, commented that he felt there was a need to progress the establishment of a permanent covered storage area asap (as per the Parish Council's previous decision) and so it was agreed that a specification should now be drawn up for the work and x3 tenders/quotes to be invited. In the meantime, Clerk to send a response to Mr F Saunders to advise on the position.
- (f) Westleton Village Trustees – invite to official reopening/launch of village hall.

20/39 – Date of Next Meeting

To note that Council next meets on Monday 23 March 2020 at 7.30pm at Westleton Village Hall.