

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Westleton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 25 March 2024 in Westleton Village Hall.

Ian Haines
Clerk of the Council

There were Present

Cllr Andrew Turner (Chairman), Cllr Julian Alexander, Cllr Colin Fisher, Cllr John Matthews, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr David Watson, Cllr Ian Webber

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 24/41 – 24/42 only)
Ian Haines (Clerk)

24/39 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ian Johnson (Vice Chair), Cllr Barry Banks, Cllr John French, Cllr Paul Holmes & District Cllr Paul Ashton.

24/40 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 this time.

24/41 Open Public Forum – Contributions from Members of the Public

There were two members of the public present – Paul Shore was welcomed and thanked for volunteering to take on the *lead* Webmaster role. The Parish Council also recorded their appreciation to John Bebbington for all his work and input over the years. [John will continue to provide a help and support capacity].

24/42 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Highway matters – Cllr Smith stated that he had spoken to Wayne Saunders (Community Liaison Engineer) about arrangements for setting up a local site meeting to be coordinated through the Clerk.

Nationally Significant Energy Infrastructure Projects – Cllr Smith 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. 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. [See also discussion under minute 24/53 below].

24/43 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

No report this time.

24/44 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 26 February 2024

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2024 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

24/45 Matters Arising from the Minutes 26 February 2024

There were no matters arising.

24/46 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) **Income 2023/24** - Income to date was acknowledged and approved.

(b) **Expenditure 2023/24** - Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved. Current Bank a/c stands at £36,228 & Savings a/c £24,872.

(c) **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Statement for 2023/24 Agreed** – that the report prepared by the Clerk should be submitted to East Suffolk Council and that details be published on the website.

(d) **Invoices and Payments** – The following invoices were **agreed** for payment

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk exp (£59.90) & gross salary (£744.03) March	£803.93
Westleton Village Hall	Hire of Building	£140.00
Westleton Village Hall	Management of Village Archives for 2024	£200.00*
Westleton Garage	Fuel for Community Field WP	£7.00
ICO	Data Protection Annual Renewal	£40.00**

*With regard to the sum for maintaining the Village Archives – the Clerk was asked to verify what was happening with the records as it was understood a digitalized process is due to be carried out.

** Payment made by Direct Debit

24/47 Feedback from Working Parties

(a) **Common** – an update was given following the most recent meeting of the Working Party. A potential encroachment/boundary issue had arisen on the northern part of the site and this will be further investigated.
Action – Cllrs A Turner & N Shearme.

Regarding the New Year Day Bonfire event – Cllr C Fisher reported that there may be a future supply issue over the wooden pallets and he would investigate other sources.

(b) **Community Field** – an update was given on current repair work to the play equipment. Cllr J Alexander reported that prices had been obtained for undertaking the next stage of the works and these were **agreed**:-

Replacement bark x6 500 litre bags	£521
Regal turf (for swing area)	£479
25mm rubber grass matting	<u>£1554</u>
	£2570 total

In addition to the above there may be some supplementary expenses (top soil & fertilizer) plus labour charge.

The Clerk confirmed separately that an order had been placed for the booking of a portaloos on site for the whole period from 25/3/24 through to 4/11/24.

Cllr C Fisher advised that due to a rise in his insurance he was proposing to increase his cost per cut of the playing field to £125. This was **agreed**.

(c) Car Parking – a response had come back from Adnams that they were not inclined to sell the White Horse car park for possible use as public parking. Cllr B Banks will now call a meeting of the Group to discuss taking forward the stand alone Village Green proposal.

(d) Allotments – a meeting is being sought with the landowner.

(e) Affordable Housing – the village wide Housing Needs Survey (being organised by CAS) is set to be distributed during the week commencing Monday, 25 March. Deadline for responses is 30 April 2024.

24/48 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Chestnut Cottage, The Street, Westleton, IP17 3AB	DC/24/0919/FUL	Replacement rear extension, including conversion of garage to annexe

Agreed – That Planning Sub Cttee members formulate a response to the Clerk by the 12/4 deadline.

24/49 Other Planning Matters

No items raised.

24/50 B1125 Working Group and Traffic Mitigation Plans for Westleton

Following the Public Consultation event on 5/2/24 over 75 responses had been received to the questionnaire. In the light of comments received and comments by a SZC representative during the 7 February Northern Transport Forum, Cllr A Turner had gone back to EDF & SCC to ask them **once again** to consider whether Average Speed Cameras (ASCs) could be located at both ends of the village along the B1125. Discussions are ongoing. The Parish Council hopes to be able to present an update during the forthcoming Annual Residents Meeting on 30 April.

24/51 Tree & Footpath Warden Report

No items raised.

24/52 Westleton Village Fete

Volunteers were sought to form a Working Party. However, the exact composition and who will take the lead was not at this stage determined.

The Clerk was asked to establish whether our existing insurance (public liability) would provide cover for the event.

24/53 Energy Projects – Sizewell C & the Scottish Power and National Grid cabling projects

As a follow on from comments/observations made under minute 24/42 above, it was agreed that an Energy Projects Sub Committee should be established with a view to better coordinating response/s to the various consultation processes which are underway. The group will comprise Cllr A Turner (as Chair) together with Cllrs J Alexander, C Fisher, N Shearme, D Watson & I Webber.

The Parish Council are deeply concerned about the cumulative impact that the construction of Sizewell C, the Friston substation and the Lionlink & Sealink cabling projects will have on the local environment (including wildlife) and on businesses bearing in mind this is a tourist area. To this end it is felt that the recently published Electricity System Operator Study – which is informing the National Grid decisions – has not fully addressed local concerns.

Various local pressure groups have been set up - including Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS) and the Chair stated that he would circulate details/links to these organisations. It was also noted that Southwold and Walberswick Council's have combined forces to directly oppose the Lionlink plans.

There is a Sizewell C Community Forum meeting scheduled for 9/4/24 and it was **agreed** that Cllr I Webber represent the Parish Council at this.

24/54 Parish Council Surgery

Cllr A Turner provided feedback from the session held on 18/3/24 which he had attended with Cllr I Webber. Several topics were raised.

The next surgery takes place on Monday, 22 April between 10.30-11.30 at the Village Hall.

24/55 Possible Reinstatement of Water Well on the Village Green

Cllr C Fisher to further investigate and report back.

Cllr J Alexander to complete the task of re-fixing the decorative water pumps asap.

24/56 Finance Sub Group

It was **agreed** that membership of the group comprise Cllr J Matthews (Chair) together with Cllrs A Turner, I Johnson and J Alexander.

24/57 Future Maintenance of Highways Verge - Yoxford Road/Grange View Junction

Further to minute 24/16, the Clerk reported that East Suffolk Services (the contractor arm for Grounds Maintenance of East Suffolk Council) had submitted a price for undertaking future grass cutting at this location = x7 visits per annum at a cost of £49 + VAT and this was **agreed**. Cllr A Turner to speak to Brian Boulanger to thank him for all his past work.

24/58 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Email from Barbara Sampaio re Ipswich Hospital Band offer to appear at Village Fete (minute 24/52 above also refers).

24/59 Clerk – Annual Leave

The Clerk advised that he would be on annual leave from Monday 15 April returning on Tuesday 30 April. This will be leave taken from the 2024/25 financial year.

24/60 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the Council next meets on **Tuesday 30** April 2024.

The Annual Residents Meeting will also take place on the same evening at 7.00pm – the format for this will be different this time in that it is the intention to focus on giving an update on the proposed traffic mitigation measures for Westleton following feedback from the village public consultation event held on 5/2/24.