

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 25 October 2021 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 Barry Banks, Cllr Antony Clough, Cllr C Fisher, Cllr Amanda Freeman, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr A Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC) for mins 21/126 – 21/128
Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

AGENDA

21/126 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Cllr Andrew Turner & District Councillor Norman Brooks.

21/127 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 C Freeman reported that he had handed the Clerk an expenses claim for recent purchases made.

21/128 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Cllr Smith advised that he had again spoken to Peter Sparrow at Suffolk Highways in response to our concerns (see also minute 21/140 below). The two particular stretches of road prone to regular flood are in the vicinity of Rollets Farm and along the B1125 heading out in both directions but particularly on the Blythburgh road where it traverses with the Dunwich river.

Noted that the County Council have just launched a review of recommended HGV routes across Suffolk and a community led consultation is being carried out with Town & Parish Council's being invited to take part in a survey. **Agreed** that Cllr A Turner should provide a response on this.

21/129 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

No report this time.

21/130 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 27th September 2021

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2021 be accepted as a true record.

21/131 Matters Arising from the Minutes 27th September 2021

With reference to minute 21/120, the Clerk reported that the abandoned vehicle in the Reckford Road layby had now been removed.

21/132 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) Budget 2021/22 – as reported last time, there is projected to be a budget underspend this financial year and so further discussion on this took place. The following actions were **agreed** :-

- (i) Cllr J Alexander to look at costs for carrying out repointing of bus shelter brickwork and also undertaking repairs to the seat.
- (ii) Bottle banks in Reckford Road layby. Permanent base to be installed asap. Clerk to also contact Norse & request an additional container/bin.
- (iii) Speed Indicator device – quote to be obtained for purchasing a second unit.

(b) Income – Income to date were acknowledged and approved.

(c) Expenditure - Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved.

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

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£45.60) & salary (£414.00) – Oct	£459.60
David Bracey	Annual Play Equipment Inspection	£150.00
Royal British Legion	Donation to Poppy appeal	£50.00
Citizens Advice	Donation	£50.00
Pam Hargreaves	Common Voluntary WP – refreshments kitty	£40.00

21/133 Community Field

Cllr C Freeman reported on various repairs and works recently undertaken and thanked those who had been able to give help. A plea was made, if possible, for more volunteers to come forward to help spread the workload.

The annual independent Health & Safety Inspection had been carried out and the report/recommendations circulated. Cllr C Freeman & the group to action as appropriate.

The meeting was disappointed to note that some damage had occurred to the basketball hoop - this being the second time it has happened in a relatively short period. The facility itself is not really very well used and in the circumstances, it was felt that it would be better to do away altogether with the stand and instead to devote funds towards the purchase of new football goalposts and nets. Cllr Freeman to investigate costs.

Noted a cutback is still required of the outer perimeter hedge - Cllr N Shearme to organize and obtain quote/s.

It has also been identified that the play equipment borders [which hold the wooden chippings] were showing signs of decay and Cllr C Freeman stated that he will obtain prices for replacing with either metal or concrete edging.

Cllr J Alexander additionally reported that a new padlock was required for the main gate.

There had also been discussion at the last meeting about replacing one of the memorial lime trees on the Community Field and it was **agreed** that Cllr A Clough should look at further options to source a supplier in consultation with Cllr N Shearme.

21/134 Common

The draft notes from the Common Advisory Group on 20/10/21 had been circulated together with a communication* from John Bebbington (acting as the Secretary) relating specifically to a proposal originally looking at providing a possible second access onto the Common. ***In the interests of openness this letter is reproduced here at Appendix A to these minutes for public consumption.**

It was noted that the Common Group had come down in favour of replacing the existing two wooden posts on site with secure lockable drop-down posts in the same position so as, if need be, to provide access for emergency vehicles. However, the vegetation adjacent to the path would not be cut back nor any widening carried out of the path.

A vote on this recommendation was then taken from around the table and it was **unanimously agreed** that this approach should be adopted. At the same time, support was given to carry out works to level the bund leading from the rear of the concrete pad onto the path connecting with Black Slough – this being in line with advice given by Suffolk Fire & Rescue to facilitate access to the rest of the Common by emergency vehicles. These measures will now be put in place on the basis that entry from the Reckford Road (adjacent to the layby) will be retained as being the main recognised emergency entry point.

In other separate planned work, it had been confirmed that, in the short to medium term, the Community Payback Team were unlikely to be available at our disposal and so quotes will now be obtained for carrying out gorse clearance work. Hopefully this can be organised and completed before the financial year end.

It was also noted that the beehives on site were now effectively dormant for winter but further enquiries will need to be established over future responsibility. Cllr A Clough stated that if the hives are to remain then consideration should be given to moving their position 180 degrees which will alter their flightpath away from the nearby footpath.

21/135 Planning Applications

No new applications this time.

21/136 Other Planning Related Matters

Sizewell C Update –

The Clerk advised that the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) Examination of the application for a Development Consent Order to build Sizewell C had finished on 14 October. PINS will now prepare and submit a report on the application to the Secretary of State by 14 January 2022. The Secretary of State for BEIS has a further three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent (14 April 2022).

Following the last Parish Council meeting, the Clerk gave feedback from an online meeting held on 14/10/21 which he and Cllr A Turner had held with Steve Merry from Suffolk CC Highways. The meeting had been set up to explore in more detail what type traffic calming mitigation measures could be put in place to deal with the impact and projected increase in the number of vehicles if construction of Sizewell C goes ahead. Cllr Turner had also circulated a summary note of the discussion for information. It was explained that the next step would be for EDF/SCC to arrange a site meeting/walkabout through the village (with all Members invited) so that all the various options could be examined in more depth. After this, it was the intention to carry out a wider public consultation exercise with residents so that the whole community has the chance to have an input and contribute.

21/137 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough reported the Arboricultural Manager had recently undertaken a site visit of The Green and confirmed that Norse would be undertaking a small amount of safety work in the area – namely a Lime tree near to the pond needs deadwood to be removed and a small dead tree at the rear of the pond removed. This work will be carried out within the next two months.

An email had also been received from a local resident, Bridget Saunders, requesting that the height of the two very tall poplars opposite the pond be reduced and also to shape and reduce the oak tree on the small triangle by The White Horse which now overhangs Bakers Lane, Darsham Road and The Hill. Cllr Clough stated that in his opinion it would be very damaging to the poplars and so this was not supported. However, he did advocate that some cutback of the oak was required but East Suffolk DC/Norse did not undertake cosmetic work of this nature and so we would need to arrange and meet the cost. **Agreed** that the Clerk obtain 3 quotations from local contractors in consultation with Cllr A Clough.

21/138 New Year Fireworks

Cllr N Shearme confirmed that he had booked the fire engine for the event and it was **agreed** that a donation of £100.00 should be made. A meeting of the Organising Group will be convened in the near future to go through the arrangements including undertaking an updated Risk Assessment.

21/139 Remembrance Sunday

In the absence this year of a local Poppy Appeal Coordinator for Westleton, the Clerk had volunteered to assist and had circulated an email covering arrangements for the church service and wreath laying taking place on 14/11/21.

21/140 Highways Matters

The Clerk had circulated an email from County Highways showing follow up action they had taken [or were intending to carry out] resulting from the area visit held on 24/8/21. Situation to be kept under review and monitored.

The specific problem of parking in the village was again touched upon and the ongoing safety issues involved. Further discussions on this to be raised as part of the proposed site meeting with SCC & EDF – see minute 21/136 above.

21/141 Pitt Cottage

A brief update was given on the building work taking place.

Further enquiries will be made to see if a Deed of Grant of Easement can be put in place to safeguard the Parish Council's position (re the access to the property which crosses our land). Clerk to convey with Birkett's solicitors.

21/142 Parish Council Meeting Dates 2022

The following timetable of meetings for next year were **agreed**:-

31 January 2022
28 February 2022
28 March 2022
25 April 2022
23 May 2022
27 June 2022
25 July 2022
26 September 2022
24 October 2022
28 November 2022

21/143 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Additional information supplied by Catriona Hopkins Coordinator of weekly Soup & Pud lunch – request for financial help to cover the annual Hall Hire.
Agreed in this instance that a one off donation of £200.00 be made.
[Note: It was hoped that to help with their wider operating costs the group would be successful in obtaining a community grant from the District Council]
- (b) Letter from Bruno Peek Pageantmaster Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons.
Agreed no action.
- (c) Email from Leiston & District Citizens Advice.
Agreed that an annual donation of £50.00 be made.
- (d) Email from Bridget Saunders – response covered under minute 21/137 above.

21/144 – Date of Next Meeting

Monday 29 November 2021 at 7.30pm.