

# **WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meeting of Westleton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 26 February 2024 in Westleton Village Hall.

*Ian Haines*  
**Clerk of the Council**

## **There were Present**

Cllr Ian Johnson (Vice Chair), Cllr Julian Alexander, Cllr Barry Banks, Cllr John French, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr Ian Webber

## **In Attendance**

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 24/21 – 24/25 only)

Cllr Paul Ashton (ESC for minutes 24/21 – 24/38)

Ian Haines (Clerk)

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## **24/21 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Colin Fisher, Cllr Paul Holmes, Cllr John Matthews, Cllr Andrew Turner & Cllr David Watson.

## **24/22 Chair for the Meeting**

Cllr Ian Johnson (Vice Chair) chaired the meeting in the absence of the Cllr Turner.

## **24/23 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 I Johnson to receive a cheque reimbursement from the Parish Council - see minute 24/29 below.

## **24/24 Open Public Forum – Contributions from Members of the Public**

There was one member of the public present. No item/s raised.

## **24/25 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor**

The County Council have set their Council Tax increase at 4.99% for 2024/25 – made up of a 2.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2.00% dedicated to funding adult care.

Sizewell C – It was noted that EDF had recently held Transport Forum meetings for the North and South areas. Quarterly meetings are scheduled.

Flooding issues – the V/C Cllr I Johnson referred to the fact that the Blythburgh Road (five ways junction area) continues to give great cause concern making the road virtually impassable after any wet weather. [Note: a specific email highlighting the long standing problem had been sent in by a resident - see also minute 24/37 below]. Additionally, there had again been problems with a culvert on the Reckford Road (adjacent to the layby/bottlebank area with the ditch being blocked) and clearance of the site is required. Cllr Smith stated that he would alert the Area Highways Officer Wayne Saunders.

## 24/26 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

The District Council have set their Council Tax rise at 2.98% for 2024/25.

Further to minute 24/3, Cllr Ashton advised that he had followed up about why the second tree adjacent to the village pond had been left pollarded at about 12ft tall. It was explained that the District Council's Tree Officers were uncertain whether or not it is affected by the same fungus which had impacted the neighbouring tree (now removed) and so it had been cut down to this level as much as a precaution to reduce the risk of it falling and, in turn, to give it chance to regrow. The situation will be monitored to see if there is any sign of disease and removed if this is the case or otherwise it will be allowed to remain.

## 24/27 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 29 January 2024

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2024 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## 24/28 Matters Arising from the Minutes 29 January 2024

There were no matters arising.

## 24/29 Council Finances and Accounts

**(a) Projected Year End Figures** – Clerk submitted revised projected year end funds. Details **agreed**.

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

**(c) Expenditure 2023/24** - Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved. Current Bank a/c stands at £36,422 & Savings a/c £24,780.

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

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk exp (£74.60) & gross salary (£744.03) Feb	£818.63
John Bebbington	Expenses for production of Annual Common Report	£11.08
Leiston Press	Printing of plans for 29/1 mtg (Traffic Measures)	£63.60*
Leiston Press	Printing for Consultation event 5/2	£163.20*
Leiston Press	Additional printing for Consultation event 5/2	£28.60*
Leiston Press	Printing of Village Questionnaire	£105.60*
Guy McGregor Assocs	Payroll services - quarter	£16.20
Ian Johnson	Refreshments etc for Consultation event 5/2	£16.59

\* Payment made by Debit Card

## 24/30 Feedback from Working Parties

**(a) Common** – brief update given concerning most recent on site works carried out – this mainly involved silver birch clearance on the north side.

**(b) Community Field** – an update was given on the current stage of repair work and arrangements to fit new posts to equipment in the play area. Confirmation was given that the Clerk was making arrangements to ensure a portaloo remained on site for the whole summer period.

**(c) Car Parking** – Cllr B Banks advised that legal opinion had been obtained on the Village Green matter and a meeting of the Group would be convened once a response had also come back from Adnams over the possible acquisition of part of the White Horse car park for use as public parking.

It was noted that St Peter’s Church are themselves looking at providing additional parking provision in the church yard and so this negated the other option which the Parish Council were initially considering.

**(d) Allotments** – as previously agreed, the Chair & V/C will look to approach the landowner concerned.

**(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.

### 24/31 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
High Croft Darsham Road Westleton IP17 3AL	DC/24/0304/FUL	<i>Revised plans covering previous application DC/22/4613/FUL - Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outhouses and formation of a new four bedroom house, garage &amp; garden studio</i>
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 1/3/24</b> <b>Response: No objections</b>

### 24/32 Other Planning Matters

No items raised.

### 24/33 B1125 Working Group and Traffic Mitigation Plans for Westleton

The Public Consultation event had taken place on 5/2/24 and opportunity had then been given for residents to additionally have time to view the plans on display at the Village Hall in further detail. A questionnaire had been supplied for people to submit comments on the proposals and the closing date for this is 29/2/24. The responses obtained will subsequently be analysed to help determine the best approach and solution going forward and Cllr I Johnson reported that, so far, over 60 forms had been returned.

### 24/34 Tree & Footpath Warden Report

No items to cover this time.

### 24/35 Parish Council Surgery

Cllr I Johnson provided feedback from the session held on the morning of 26/2/24 which he had attended with Cllrs J Alexander and B Banks.

Several topics had been raised including a specific question about wildflowers on the village green and whether the Parish Council would again give their support to the same area being designated? It was **agreed** that this should be supported. Clerk to contact ESC.

The next surgery will take place on Monday, 18 March between 10.30-11.30 at the Village Hall with Cllrs A Turner & I Webber in attendance.

### **24/36 Finance Sub Group**

Item deferred until the next meeting.

### **24/37 Correspondence**

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Email from Peter Chandler re flooding along Blythburgh Road (minute 24/25 also refers).
- (b) Email from John Bebbington re proposal for Paul Shore to be involved and assist with the Westleton Website – **agreed** and fully supported.

### **24/38 Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday 25 March 2024.