

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Westleton Parish Council at the meeting held at 7.30 pm on Monday 26th March 2018 in Westleton Village Hall.

Ian Haines

Clerk of the Council

There were Present

Cllr Andrew Paige (Chair), Cllr Arlette Smith (Vice Chair), Cllr Ian Alexander, Cllr Julian Alexander, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Paul Holmes, Cllr Ian Johnson, Cllr Roy Jones, Cllr Roy Swindell

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC) – for minutes 17/276 – 17/283 only, Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

A member of the public brought up a concern about the overgrown condition of a footpath which crosses the village green. Cllr Smith stated that he would carry out an inspection the following day with a view to taking up with County Highways. [The possibility of the work being undertaken by the Community Payback Team when they next visit the area would also be explored as an alternative option].

AGENDA

17/276 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies - Cllr Anthony Clough and Cllr Nick Shearme.

17/277 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.

17/278 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Cllr Smith reported on the recent sudden death of Tony Buckingham who was the SCC Highways Officer he had suggested we should approach about holding a village site meeting. In the unfortunate circumstances now reported it was felt best to defer this request (min 17/272 refers). The Clerk and Cllr Smith to liaise further in this regard.

Noted that SCC had appointed Nicola Beach as new Chief Executive.

Sizewell C – update given on the anticipated next stage of the consultation process.

Barrel Fair – the Vice Chair expressed strong concern about a notification which had been received from SCC Highways over the new arrangements which would apply this year in relation to the Barrel Fair road closure and the associated cost/s involved. Cllr Smith undertook to take up this matter.

17/279 Pre Meeting Report from from SCDC Councillor

Cllr Catchpole was not in attendance

17/280 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 26 February 2018

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2018 be accepted as a true record.

17/281 Matters Arising from the Minutes 26 February 2018

No matters arising.

17/282 Community Field

Cllr Swindell gave a brief update. Noted that new chippings will need to be ordered for the play area.

17/283 Common

Cllr Jones reported that GeoSuffolk, in cooperation with the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, is investigating the possibility of a geological information panel being positioned on the Common. The Parish Council **agreed** to endorse/support this proposal – it being at no cost. Final details over where exactly it should be sited to be discussed at next meeting of the Advisory Group.

Annual Report 2017 – this has now been published and circulated for information.

Service Level Agreement with the Norfolk & Suffolk Rehabilitation Company - a reminder was given that the annual agreement needs to be signed off. This is at no direct cost and covers for the safe working and various responsibilities/undertaking on the part of the Parish Council to support the Community Payback Teams who carry out work around the village.

Environmental Stewardship claim for HLS funding – it was reported that the annual application to Natural England also needs to be completed/finalised.

Black Slough steps – following comments made at the last Parish meeting, Cllr Julian Alexander reported that he and Cllr Chris Freeman had inspected the condition of the steps. It appeared the main problem related to soil slippage rather than any decay in the timber and it was therefore **agreed** that some aggregate/filler should be purchased to make good.

Reference was also made to the fact that works had recently been carried out elsewhere on site to cut down a number silver birch trees and Cllr Julian Alexander offered to assist with the removal of the tree stumps. Cllr Jones suggested that this be discussed further at the next Common Advisory Group meeting.

17/284 Council Finances and Accounts

Income and Expenditure 2017/18

Noted. The Clerk highlighted that a recent VAT backpayment had been received from HMRC totalling £1122.05

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

From	Item	Amount
David Blencowe	Equipment expenses re Speed Watch	£18.36
Ian Haines	Clerks fees & salary (March)	£450.56
Speedar	Re-calibration of speed gun	£84.60

17/285 Planning Applications

Westleton House - Further to minute 17/258, Cllr Swindell reported that the Planning Committee at their meeting on 15/3/18 had adjourned consideration of the application. Confirmation of a new date from SCDC is awaited.

The Parish Council also noted that John Reast had declined acceptance of the donation which it had previously been agreed should be made to him. Clerk to send a suitable letter of thanks to Mr Reast.

17/286 Tree Warden Report

No update.

17/287 SALC

The SALC annual training programme for 2018/19 had been circulated. Clerk asked Councillors to notify him if they wished to attend any events.

17/288 Sizewell

Publication of the Sizewell Action Liaison Group Annual Report 2018 had been circulated for information.

17/289 VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign)

The latest activity figures had been circulated. It was **agreed** that these printouts should be presented in future on a quarterly basis (unless there was any exceptional reporting).

It is hoped when the site walkabout meeting is eventually organised with a representative from SCC Highways, that the continuing problem with speeding vehicles can also be raised and further discussion held over what additional safety measures or action can be taken to act as a deterrent (minute 17/269 of the last meeting refers).

17/290 – New General Data Protection Regulations

The Clerk advised that he would be attending a training course the following day and would report back to the next meeting.

It is the intention ahead of the introduction of the new Regulations (to come into force on 25/5/18) that the Parish Council should look to adopt their own Data Protection Policy. Details will also need to be covered off in relation to the appointment of a designated Data Protection Officer and other related measures which will need to be put in place.

17/291 Correspondence

Dunwich Heath 50th Anniversary Celebration

A special event is being held on Tuesday, 27 March to mark the involvement of the National Trust with this site.

East Suffolk Partnership Roadshow – 'Plastics in the Community'

An event is being staged on Wednesday, 28 March as part of a national campaign to further raise awareness on this subject.

Westleton Gardeners – Re-planting of Memorial Garden

The Clerk read out a letter which had been received.

It was confirmed that the Barrel Fair traditionally assist with providing funds in this regard. In formulating a response, Clerk to advise Westleton Gardeners that normally they would only need to obtain the consent/approval of the Parish Council if they are intending to undertake any major re-planting such as shrub removal.

17/292 – Date of Next Meeting

To note that Council next meets on Monday, 23 April 2018 at 7.30pm. [Before this the Annual Parish Council will take place at 7pm].