

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 26 September 2022 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 Amanda Freeman, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr Andrew Turner

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 22/150 only)
Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC for minutes 22/148 – 22/156 only)
Ian Haines (Clerk)

Also Present By Invitation

Michael Reeves, Jack Baron, Parisa Shahnooshi, Matthew Wood – representing Arbora Homes (specifically for min 22/154)
Gemma Fraser – Communities Team ESC (specifically for min 22/155 & 22/156)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There were two members of the public present.

AGENDA

22/148 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies: Cllr Colin Fisher and Cllr Andrew Paige.

22/149 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.

22/150 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Update given on Sizewell C planning decision and the Judicial Review Process. Noted that the RSPB's paperwork had unfortunately been submitted too late to meet the deadline.

Cllr Smith commented that the County Council will be facing an extremely tough budgetary financial year in 2023/24 due to inflation and a number of other factors placing considerable pressure on budgets.

22/151 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

Cllr Brooks reported that the District Council were introducing a number of initiatives and measures to help with the rising cost of living – more about this was covered under minute 22/155 below.

Work on the 3rd river crossing in Lowestoft is continuing to progress very well – project on budget and on time.

The Clerk referred to concerns over the length of time it had taken Norse to remove a fly tip of tyres and the general poor level of response. Cllr Brooks offered apologies. It was noted that a new contractor is due to take over from Norse next year.

22/152 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 25^h July 2022

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2022 be accepted as a true record.

22/153 Matters Arising from the Minutes 25^h July 2022

No matters arising.

22/154 Cherry Lee Planning Application

Representatives from Arbora Homes attended for this item. The site has outline planning permission for 15 low carbon dwellings including 5 affordable & 10 private sale homes. A Reserved Matters application is now being brought forward on which the views of the Parish Council were sought over the final design and layout of the development.

A number of questions relating to the proposals were raised – including the new access junction arrangements and anticipated completion time for the whole scheme. It was in turn agreed that Cllr Andrew Turner (as Chair of the Planning Sub Committee) will gather our formal feedback/comments and submit but, in general, no undue concerns were raised.

22/155 Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages Community Partnership

Gemma Fraser Communities Officer from East Suffolk Council attended for this item and explained more about the work being carried out by the group (slides used in connection with her presentation have been circulated). Members noted the new priorities being afforded – in particular the focus on:-

- (i) Reducing social isolation & loneliness
- (ii) Facilitating activities & education for young people
- (iii) Cost of living response and launch of the 'Ease the Squeeze'* programme

The Parish Council welcomed the range of measures being addressed and vowed to do what they could locally to help support. There was seen a clear link up to be had with the Village Hall in terms of rolling out some schemes such as the *Warm Rooms* and *Comfort Food* initiatives and the Clerk confirmed that he had already shared information with the Centre Manager to make her aware. Cllr B Banks also confirmed that a meeting of the Village Hall Trustees was scheduled for 20/10/22 so further discussions and updates could take place at that time.

* It was also noted that the Clerk had taken part in an online presentation given by the District Council on 22/9 which included coverage of each of the 12 different projects and he had shared these details with Members.

22/156 Neighbourhood Plan

Further to previous discussion on this subject, Cllr A Turner had emailed round a paper re-examining the worth of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Westleton. It was recognised that the actual process involved was quite lengthy and time consuming but the obvious benefit/s were the increase in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL payments) which the

Parish Council would receive as well as the importance of having a much greater say and control over any future developments.

However notwithstanding, there are current discussions taking place about a new Affordable Housing Project (AFH) in the village (which the Parish Council support) and it is anticipated that a planning application is likely to be submitted to the District Council sometime within the next year. This will be significant and the view was it will be sensible to leave a decision on the Neighbourhood Plan in abeyance until we know whether the AFH scheme will first go ahead.

Given this position it was therefore **agreed**:-

That the Parish Council reaffirm their support in principle that we should recommend to the village to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan and go through the drafting process but that this should not take place until after a decision is known about the AFH project.

22/157 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) Income - Income to date were acknowledged and approved.

(b) Expenditure – Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved.

(c) Projected Year End Figures - noted

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

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£49.60) & salary (£451.26) – August	£500.86
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field 21/7/22 – 29/7/22	£55.80*
Acecom Solutions	Callout to fix printer	£20.00*
Ian Haines	Gifts for Roy Swindell & John Bebbington	£29.98
Westleton Village Hall	Room Hire	£90.00
Playdale Playgrounds	Replacement supports for swing	£430.42*
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£53.20) & salary (£451.26) – September	£505.06
Royal British Legion	Donation to Poppy Appeal/Wreath	£50.00
Acecom Solutions	Callout to fix browser problem on laptop	£25.00*
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field 30/7/22 – 26/8/22	£108.00*
F Masters Ltd	War Memorial clean	£78.00
Collins Forestry	Fire Break Clearance work on The Common	£414.00
Bulldog Tools	X4 hedge shears for Common Advisory Grp	£70.71*

***paid by direct debit**

22/158 Community Field

Cllr C Freeman reported during the summer holidays the large swing had been removed on safety grounds and new supports have been ordered with Playdale. Delivery due to take place on 30/9.

Noted that Roy Swindell has completed his move and the gate opening arrangements are now operating on a rota system with support from Members. Additional keys have been cut.

It was confirmed that temporary repairs had earlier been carried out to the wooden borders which house the wood chippings around the play equipment and costings were still being looked at for carrying out a permanent replacement. The Clerk advised that David Bracey would be undertaking his annual inspection of the play equipment in October.

Reference was made to the future grass cutting arrangements for the site and Cllr Freeman stated that he would speak further on this to Cllr C Fisher in order to ratify.

22/159 Common

Cllr N Shearme reported that the work to install fire safety breaks around part of the perimeter area had been successfully completed. The measures had been taken due to the exceptional period of hot/dry weather and duty of care on the part of the Parish Council. It is intended that further safeguard work should be undertaken at 2 other locations and quote/s will be obtained from the same contractor. The planned measures will also help to create new habitat in line with the Management Plan.

Noted that contact has been made with Neil Lister Countryside Projects Officer at Coast & Heaths AONB about them providing volunteers to help with other on site work and two provisional dates have been set. Also noted that the AONB have a Sustainable Development Fund which is available for community projects across Essex and Suffolk and CAG are looking to place a bid.

22/160 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Fen Lodge, Fenstreet Road, Westleton	DC/22/3205/FUL	Single storey pitched roof house extension to provide an additional bedroom
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 9/9/22 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
Blackwood Barn [Old Forge Cottage], Darsham Road, Westleton	DC/22/3208/AMC	Non Material Amendment of DC/19/1714/FUL - New 2 storey dwelling on the site of the Old Forge Cottage Annex - Additional roof window over bathroom and adjusted roof window sizes
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 8/9/22 Response: Westleton Parish Council are very concerned that the owner tried to circumvent the planning process by making this alteration without submitting revised plans to ESCD in the apparent hope that no one would notice. We therefore object to the proposed changes on the grounds of bad practice and bad faith alongside concerns about the impact the change will have on the neighbours.

From	Item	Details
Little Oaks , Reckford Road, Westleton	DC/22/2834/FUL	Construction of a black feather edge timber finish building to match house finish - a single garage and carport with workshop/shed beside, including demolition of existing garage,

		construction of garden room extension and clad existing old part of bungalow
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 16/9/22 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
Vale House Farm, Fenstreet Road, Westleton	DC/22/3299/P3Q	Prior Notification - Change of Use/Conversion of Agricultural Building (Grain Store) to one dwelling.
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 29/9/22 Response: No objections

22/161 Other Planning Related Matters

Conditions for planning applications near Westleton Common

Further to minute 22/137, Cllr Turner confirmed that he would shortly be calling a meeting of the Planning Sub Committee to progress.

EDF Traffic Mitigation Plans for Westleton

A further meeting of the B1125 Joint Parishes Working Group is being arranged.

22/162 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough confirmed that unfortunately the tree which we planted on the village green to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee had perished in the hot weather. Enquiries will be made into sourcing a replacement.

Noted that Norse had been out inspect the mature lime trees on the village green and the feedback received was that they were all in good health and no further action was required.

22/163 Jubilee Bench

The metal circular bench which had been previously ordered had been returned to the manufacturer as it was deemed substandard and unsuitable.

Cllr I Johnson reported that the group who had carried out a village walkabout on 9/8 had come down in favour of purchasing additional seating in the form of an octagonal 8 person recycled plastic picnic table to be located next to the boules area on the Community Field. This was **agreed** (total cost being £845.00 + VAT).

22/164 New Year Fireworks

Cllr N Shearme advised that Warrior Fire & Rescue would be available to attend. A meeting of the Fireworks Committee will now need to be convened to finalize the event.

22/165 Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements were in place. Cllr Ian Johnson is acting as the main local contact point in relation to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

22/166 Westleton Village – Publication of Heritage Trail

It was noted that the Village Hall have produced a visitor Heritage Trail leaflet.

22/167 Speed Watch

Cllr A Turner advised that due to lack of current numbers the group would not be operating until at least early in the New Year.

22/168 Correspondence to the Council

Councillors were advised of an email from Mr J Matthews sent to the Chief Executive of Anglia Water complaining about ongoing problems with the smell of sewage in the village. The Clerk had also sent a follow up email to Anglia Water on the same subject and discussion took place on the response received which will see the planned installation of a new larger chemical dosing system at Darsham and additional pump. It is greatly hoped that these measures will bring about improvements and we will continue to monitor the situation.

22/169 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday **24 October** 2022.