

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 27 February 2023 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 Colin Fisher, Cllr Amanda Freeman, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Andrew Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr Andrew Turner

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 23/26 – 23/29 only)
Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC for minutes 23/26 – 23/29 only)
Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

AGENDA

23/26 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

23/27 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

23/28 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

The County Council have set their Council Tax increase at 3.99% for 2023/24.

Sizewell C - Tom McGarry (Head of Regional External Affairs & Development) has now left the employment of EDF. Cllr Smith enquired about the traffic calming measures being drawn up for Westleton in relation to his recent discussions with Steve Merry from SCC Highways. Cllr Turner undertook to provide an update on where things currently stand.

23/29 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

The District Council have set their Council Tax rise at 2.9% for 2023/24.

The new public company called 'East Suffolk Services' will be taking over from Norse Ltd in July which will see a number of services such as Refuse and grass cutting being taken back under direct in house control. The Council's housing stock will also be transferred across under the umbrella of the new organisation.

Noted that the 'purdah' period is about to commence for the forthcoming Parish & District Council elections.

23/30 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 30 January 2023

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2023 be accepted as a true record.

23/31 Matters Arising from the Minutes 30 January 2023

No matters arising.

23/32 Council Finances and Accounts

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

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

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

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£77.65) & salary (£451.26) – Feb	£528.91
Toilets Plus	Common 6/2/23 – 8/2/23	£155.40*
Westleton Village Hall	Room Hire	£115.00
Guy McGregor Assocs	Payroll services - quarter	£16.20
John Bebbington	Provisions for AONB volunteers site work on 7/2	£15.41
Westleton Garage	Fuel for Working Party	£20.00

***to be paid by direct debit**

23/33 Community Field

Cllr Freeman explained that Playdale Playgrounds had provided quotations for carrying out repair work to the climbing frame as well as a price for reinstating the swing and an estimate for a new timber surround. Given the cost/s involved the Parish Council need to weigh up the benefits of whether to consider undertaking some [or all] of the work ourselves or have a contractor carry it out. Further discussion to take place at the next meeting – in the interim the Clerk to seek further advice through David Bracey.

Noted that the Clerk had now placed an order with the supplier who manufacture the green metal vandal proof goalposts – cost each £1160.00 + VAT. It is hoped delivery will take place in approx 3-4 weeks.

23/34 Common

Cllr N Shearme reported that volunteers from Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB had carried out further clearance work on 7 February which had opened up extensive views towards Middleton. The gorse now needs removing from the site and it was **agreed** that a maximum sum of £150 be set aside for this purpose.

Collins Farming & Forestry had visited on 24 February to undertake additional firebreak clearance on the North Common and a 5m strip had been created

Cllr Alexander advised that it is intended to relocate the generator and to store this in future at a secure unit on The Common.

23/35 Planning applications

None this time.

23/36 National Grid Non-Statutory Consultations for Sea Link and EuroLink

Further to previous discussions, it was confirmed that a submission/response had been sent by the Parish Council back in November. Primary concerns relate to the potential environmental impact in the local vicinity particularly as there is seen to be a much more viable and less intrusive alternative available. Cllr Fisher circulated additional information. **Agreed** that we should continue to monitor and await any further announcements but, in the meantime, residents were urged to sign the online petition which had been organised by the Rt Hon Dr Therese Coffey MP calling on BEIS and National Grid to review all energy applications along the Suffolk coast.

23/37 Sizewell C - EDF Traffic Mitigation Plans for Westleton

Cllr A Turner stated that he hoped the traffic mitigation measures for Westleton could be finalised at the next meeting (date yet to be arranged) after which a full public consultation event will be organised in the village.

23/38 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough reported that notification had come through of an application to remove a holly tree at Jays Cottage in Mill Street - there were no objections to this.

23/39 Allotments Sub Committee

Agreed that the membership of the new Allotments Sub Committee should comprise – Cllrs J.Alexander, P.Holmes, C.Fisher, A.Turner and C.Freeman.

23/40 Parish Council Elections May 2023

The Clerk provided an update and outlined the timetable. Appointment made with the Election Office for bulk delivery of the Nomination Papers to take place on Friday 31 March. [The actual deadline/close for submission of forms is Tuesday 4 April].

23/41 Appointment of Auditor

Agreed that SALC be appointed to undertake the Council's forthcoming audit.

23/42 Kings Coronation

Cllr I Johnson provided an update on arrangements. The village celebrations will revolve round a community picnic event (12-3pm) at the Village Hall on Sunday 7 May followed by evening entertainment to be held at the White Horse PH from 6pm. The following day a community volunteer day is being planned on the theme of 'The Big Help Out' to include various activities such as litter picking etc

23/43 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Westleton Gardening Club – planting of flower barrels – **agreed** that financial assistance to the value of £270 be provided. Cllr Alexander also raised that some of the barrels have rotted at the base and will eventually need replacing.
- (b) Leiston Library – **agreed** that a donation of £75 should be made.

23/44 Heath View - Damaged Street Sign

Clerk to log/report to East Suffolk Council.

23/45 Vehicle Activated Sign

Cllr Turner reported that the VAS unit had been repaired. It is hoped that a re-launch of the Speedwatch group can take place in the Spring.

23/46 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday **20** March 2023 (third Monday this time).