

# **WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of Westleton Parish Council at the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 27 January 2020 in 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 Antony Clough, Cllr Amanda Freeman, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Roy Jones, Cllr A Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr Andrew Turner

## **In Attendance**

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC) (for mins 20/1 – 20/9 only), Ian Haines (Clerk)

## **PRE AGENDA MATTERS**

### **Contributions from members of the public.**

There were no members of the public present.

## **AGENDA**

### **20/1 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:**

Apologies: Cllr Colin Fisher & Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC).

### **20/2 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 Ian Johnson advised that he was receiving a cheque from the Parish Council for provisions supplied for the New Year Day Bonfire event – see minute 20/7.

### **20/3 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor**

Cllr Smith commented that he was impressed with the refurbished Village Hall and new facilities etc. He paid tribute to the hard work of all those involved in the project.

An update was also provided on the County Council's budget setting for 2020/21. Noted that Cabinet were due to meet on 29/1/20 and then the final figure was due to be ratified at Full Council on 13/2/20.

Reference was made to the Highways Inspection which had taken place on 6/1/20 and by agreement the item listed as 20/19 on the agenda was brought forward. Overall the Parish Council were pleased with the outcome and the list of actions set out in the report which County Highways would be following up – in particular the urgent need for gully clearance to prevent flooding on certain sections of road in and out of the village. The meeting also voiced particular concern at the number of ruts/potholes at different roadside locations on the Yoxford Road between Westleton and Rollets Farm. The Clerk stated that he had reported this separately to Mark Nicholls and it was understood that a survey was planned to look at the problem and determine what works could be undertaken to bring about improvements.

Cllr Smith had been approached by the Clerk as to whether any additional money might be available to meet the cost of installing proper drainage outlets at two key points on the Blythburgh Road. However Cllr Smith had indicated that unfortunately no additional monies were available and so this particular project would have to take its turn in the County Council's long term list of schemes/projects. He did state though that road safety improvements have been earmarked for next year to the Blythburgh Road/Water Tower junction as this site is seen as a blackspot and hopefully the measures will see a reduction in the number of accidents occurring there.

At a previous meeting a letter had been received from a resident living in Love Lane (private road) expressing concern about the condition at the exit point with Bakers Lane in that certain vehicles such as ambulances had difficulty negotiating due to the uneven surface. County Highways had confirmed that this being an unadopted road it was not their responsibility to carry out any works. There was discussion on what should be the best approach here (as the Parish Council had no obligation or statutory responsibility either) and so it was felt, in the circumstances, that residents in Love Lane should seek their own solution. Chair to provide suitable feedback.

#### **20/4 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor**

Cllr Brooks was not present and so no report was forthcoming.

#### **20/5 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be accepted as a true record.

#### **20/6 Matters Arising from the Minutes 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Further to minute 19/193, the Clerk reported on the Village Bottle Bank that he had been in touch with Norse and they had now provided a second container on the current site which is being used to the rear of the White Horse. Publicity will be given over so that residents are made aware this is for general glass recycling.

#### **20/7 Council Finances and Accounts**

##### **(a) Income**

Income to date were acknowledged and approved.

##### **(b) Expenditure**

Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved.

##### **(c) Invoices and Payments**

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

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerks expenses (£17.00) & salary (£414.00) - Dec	£431.00
Ian Haines	Staples – Ink Cartridges	£28.96
Ian Haines	Clerks expenses (£94.80) & salary (£414.00) - Jan	£508.80
Guy McGregor Assoc	Payroll services for Parish Clerk – qtr payment	£16.20
Westleton Garage	Fuel for Work Parties	£31.43

Village Stores	Provisions for New Year Day Bonfire Event	£100.47
Mr J French	Mulled wine for New Year Day Bonfire Event	£24.00

### 20/8 Community Field

Further works had been carried out following the Annual safety inspection of the play equipment. In addition, an order will now be placed for replacement swing equipment - estimate £252.00 total for the various parts. A price had also been obtained for some beech whips (£25.00 x2) to infill gaps in the hedging and it was agreed that the purchase should go ahead.

### 20/9 Common

Activities and planned works for 2020 are being coordinated through the Working Group/s.

Community Payback Team due to undertake further on site works on 14/15/16 February.

Noted that an enquiry about possible filming on site (as reported last time) had not materialized.

Cllr Jones raised an issue of concern in relation to the condition of the ground in the vicinity of where the fireworks event had been held. Cllr Shearme explained that he thought this had most likely been caused by the teleporter during assembly of the bonfire and he would investigate whether any remedial works were required. In a related incident, it was also noted that a bench had unfortunately been damaged and would need replacing. Cllr Jones asked that any occurrence like this should always be highlighted/reported to him in the first instance.

### 20/10 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Beech Tree House, Dunwich Road, Westleton	DC/20/0138/FUL	To regularise the use of the building as an annexe to the main house. Other internal alterations

### No objections

### 20/11 Other Planning Matters

East Suffolk Council had recently sought the views of the Parish Council on a tree impact assessment report for the Vicarage/Glebe Meadow site (DC/19/2839/FUL) which had now been submitted by the applicants.

A copy of the response which was sent back is reproduced as follows:-

*'Westleton Parish Council (WPC) have been consulted by the District Council on the latest tree report submitted in relation to the proposed development of this site. WPC welcome confirmation within this of the protection measures for the retained trees.*

*In submitting these comments we would wish to make clear that this does not change our view on the proposed development overall because, as far as we can see, there are no changes contained here to the actual proposal/scheme itself - which we have already previously given our support to'.*

## **20/12 East Suffolk Council - Planning Forum Event 24/1/20 & 27/1/20**

Both the Clerk and Chairman of the Planning Sub Committee (Cllr A.Turner) had attended at these events held in Melton & Lowestoft. The presentation slides will be shared (emailed) so that Members have the benefit of latest updates – this includes info on CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and the District Council's move across to paperless planning applications and E-consultation as part of a cost cutting drive and to speed up the consultation process.

## **20/13 Suffolk Coastal Draft Local Plan Examination**

Publication of Inspectors Report awaited.

## **20/14 Neighbourhood Plan**

It was **agreed** (unanimous) that the concept of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Westleton should be supported particularly given the perceived benefits associated with CIL funding. Cllr A Turner (as Chairman of the Planning Sub Committee) will take a lead on this and explore in further detail. Paper to be considered in due course once further preliminary investigations have been completed – recognising that the [previous] Parish Plan 2007-2010 is now outdated.

## **20/15 Tree Warden Report**

Nothing to report this time round.

## **20/16 Bonfire & Fireworks - 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

The event had once again proved extremely successful and congratulations were recorded to Cllr Shearme and supporting team involved in the organisation.

Income received via donations, raffle draw etc. were broken down on a sheet circulated with the papers for the meeting. There was expenditure covering initial outlay for the purchase of provisions [sale of food/drinks] which totalled £124.47 as recorded in minute 20/7 above.

Appreciation was also recorded to the White Horse Inn for effectively stepping in and providing an alternative venue/meeting point with the Village Hall being out of commission.

## **20/17 Village Green**

The Clerk reported back on the latest communication received from Birketts Solicitors.

In the circumstances, it was **agreed** that further investigative work be carried over the interpretation of the relevant maps and in this regard the services of a qualified Surveyor should be sought.

Clerk to clarify level of legal costs incurred so far.

## **20/18 War Memorial**

Further to previous discussion, Cllr J Alexander reported that he had been in touch with the stonemason and arrangements will be made to carry out a clean within the next few weeks. It was also **agreed** that the original brass plaque containing the role of honour should now be framed and hung in the church next to the other regalia.

The Clerk reported that he had, that day, received correspondence from Historic England to inform that the Memorial had now been given formal Grade II listing status. It was confirmed with this that the Parish Council will still retain ownership and general maintenance responsibility.

### **20/19 Speedwatch Co-ordinator**

It was not known whether a replacement had been found for someone to carry out the role of Speedwatch Co-ordinator. Further enquiries to be made.

The Clerk reported he had forwarded the latest VAS data to the Police/safety enforcement team and a reply had been received. It was hoped as a result, that a camera unit would be able to make more regular visit/s particularly at the key peak morning and evening times.

### **20/20 Local Housing**

An email had previously been circulated by Cllr C Fisher (as Chairman of the Housing Needs Advisory Group) on recent contact with Hastoe Homes and ongoing discussions which are taking place with the local landowner. As a result, it is proposed that a Special Parish Council meeting should be convened in March (**note: date to be confirmed**) so that Councillors can be updated on the project. At the same time, the opportunity will be taken to raise and discuss the proposed allotment area on an adjacent site.

### **20/21 Correspondence**

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) TASC/TEAGS – request for donation in association with Judicial Review Proceedings. **Agreed** £100.00.
- (b) Letter *sent* by local pressure group to Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy – further to minute 19/196 of the last meeting,
- (c) EDF – update on Sizewell.
- (d) Suffolk Police – responsibility for civil parking enforcement to be transferred to East Suffolk Council will effect from 6/4/20.
- (e) David & Ruth Whittaker, Nicky Rouse – Spring Cottage, Mill Street. Proposed reinstatement of works - noted.
- (f) Village Hall Trustees – Cllr J Alexander will follow up enquiry and get the board updated which contains list of past Chairs of the Parish Council and then re-hang. A question was also raised about the whereabouts of the map previously on display which had been donated by Mr Strowger. Cllr A Clough to provide feedback.
- (g) Clerk also reported receipt of number of emails from a resident.

### **20/22 – Date of Next Meeting**

To note that Council next meets on Monday 24 February 2020 at 7.30pm at Westleton Village Hall.