

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 22/108 – 22/110 only), Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There were two members of the public present – both in attendance by invitation specifically for minute 22/114.

AGENDA

22/108 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Paige & Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC).

22/109 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.

22/110 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Cllr Smith reported that for 2021/22 there had been an underspend on the County Council budget of £8m [on a £600m total]. However, for this year and next it is envisaged budgetary pressures will increase due to the rising cost of inflation.

He commended ongoing work which was being carried out to construct the new Lowestoft third river crossing which is currently running on budget. The project is due to be completed in the autumn of 2023.

With reference to an enquiry made last time, Cllr Smith reported that it was not possible to use funds from the Locality Budget to assist with the cost of carrying out the tree canopy cut on the village green.

Cllr N Shearme raised concerns in relation to the highway resurfacing work which had been carried out on the A12 between Yoxford and Kelsale and the fact that there had been problems with the tarmac melting in the recent hot weather. Drainage work had also recently been undertaken on the B1125 Blythburgh Road near Potton Hall but, despite this, the road had flooded again following the next heavy rain on 18/6/22. Cllr Smith stated that he would take up both matters and give feedback to the Highways Engineer.

22/111 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

No report this time as Cllr Brooks was not present.

22/112 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 30^h May 2022

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2022 be accepted as a true record.

22/113 Matters Arising from the Minutes 30th May 2022

Representative on the Village Hall Committee - minute 22/90. Cllr B Banks gave brief feedback following his first attendance at a meeting.

Reduction of Lime Tree Canopy on Village Green – minute 22/91. The Clerk confirmed that approaches had now gone out to obtain quotes for carrying out this work. Cllr A Clough referred to an incident since the last meeting where a large bough had fallen off one of the limes adjacent to the village green. In view of the need to make safe as a matter of urgency, he had obtained a quote of £250 from Chris Spall for carrying out the work which had, in turn, been sanctioned by the Chair.

Allotment Questionnaire – minute 22/104. The Clerk reported that there had been a very positive response. The closing date for forms to be returned is 30/6/22. Information will then be collated and used to support the related planning application.

New Teak Bench to commemorate Jubilee – minute 22/105. It was confirmed that the Westleton WI had sent in a cheque for £300 to cover the cost of the net purchase. Cllr A Clough had recently carried out installation of the seat adjacent to the village pond.

Stop Sizewell C Group had sent an email recording their thanks for the £100 donation received (minute 22/106 refers).

22/114 Common Management Plan 2023 to 2033

This item was brought forward on the agenda. John Bebbington (JB) and David Rous (DR) attended specifically to present.

It was noted that the content of the report is based on the original 2013 model for the site and has been updated with input and support from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. JB & DR took Members through the main points focussing on section 4 which covered the future management objectives, planned maintenance arrangements and annual programme of work which would apply.

The Common Advisory Group now had to rely less and less on manpower assistance being forthcoming through the Community Payback Scheme but other lines of enquiry were being pursued and it was hoped that additional help could be forthcoming through the Coast and Heaths volunteer programme. Cllr N Shearme is liaising further on this with Nick Lister Countryside Projects Officer.

Cllr C Fisher referred to his previous suggestion of carrying out a GPS survey of the whole site and JB reported that there was nothing in the Plan which would prevent from doing this or obliged WPC to do one but CAG would need to look carefully at the cost involved and with it to see whether such an exercise was fully merited.

It was subsequently **agreed** that the content of the Management Plan (incorporating amendments made to para 3.6) should be approved and go forward for wider resident

consultation/involvement. [Note: a meeting of CAG has been set up for 5/7/22 to consider this next stage].

The Parish Council recorded their particular thanks and gratitude to both John Bebbington and David Rous for all their input and tireless work in helping to conserve the Common as such a valued community asset and integral part of the landscape of the Parish.

22/115 New National Code of Conduct

Consideration was given to the Clerk's report.

Agreed – that the Parish Council adopt the Local Government Association Councillor Code of Conduct (to replace the Suffolk model) and that all Members in turn confirm their commitment to abide by the principles.

22/116 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) **Income** - No report this time round.

(b) **Expenditure** - No report this time round

(c) **Projected Year End Figures** – noted.

(d) **Jubilee Event Breakdown** – statement of income & expenditure noted

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

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£57.00) & salary (£451.26) – June	£508.26
Leiston Press	Community Field – No Dogs notices x3	£136.80*
Chairs & Tables UK	Teak bench for pond (Westleton WI)	£359.99*
Black Country Metal Works Ltd	Jubilee round metal seat for village green	£501.50*
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field 27/5/22	£5.40*
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field 28/5 – 7/6/22	£102.60*
Paul Bush	Work to make safe windblown tree on Common	£230.00

*paid by direct debit

22/117 Community Field

Cllr C Freeman updated on recent onsite works which had been carried out and also thanked Cllr B Banks for supplying the dog signs.

Playdale (the play equipment suppliers) had now delivered free of charge a support post for one of the swings supports which has rotted away. Work/repairs to be carried out in due course.

Options are still being looked for replacing the wooden borders (which house the wood chippings) around the play equipment. Costings and use of type of materials to be further assessed.

Cllr B Banks stated that he understood that Screw Fix were now offering community grants of up to £5k and he would make further enquiries to see if the Parish Council could apply.

Cllr C Fisher put forward the idea that to help promote the Community Field it may be useful to include a reference on the main page of the Suffolk One Westleton website. Clerk to liaise with Webmaster.

22/118 Common

Cllr N Shearme stated that he had no further updates – other than that covered above in minute 22/114. However, for the next Parish Council meeting he hoped to bring forward for consideration a quotation for the New Year fireworks event.

22/119 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Vale House Fenstreet Road, Westleton	DC/22/1817/FUL & DC/22/1818/LBC	Alteration and single storey extension to existing dwelling and related outbuildings
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 28/6/22 Response: No Objections

22/120 Other Planning Related Matters

Sizewell C – EDF Traffic Mitigation Plans for Westleton

Following the meeting of the B1125 Joint Parishes Working Group on 30/5, Cllr A Turner had circulated a response from Westleton to the revised plans which had been put forward for traffic and speed mitigation in the village. There were still several loose ends but, overall, it was felt that good progress was being made and that if a decision in favour of Sizewell C was given then at least these various measures would help to deal with traffic and safety concerns. Cllr Turner will take back feedback to the next meeting and in the meantime speak to representatives from St Peters church about the parking proposals to ensure they are on board.

22/121 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough stated that he had no tree issues to highlight this time. However, he raised concerns about several footpath issues in the locality which were either blocked or obstructed by crop. There were also a couple of instances where footpath signs were either broken or damaged. Clerk to take up with SCC Highways.

22/122 Community Speed Watch

It was noted that unfortunately there had been no new volunteers come forward and Cllr A Turner advised that the group was now down to 3 members and could not really function/operate with this low number. There was also the issue that from September he would be standing down as Co-ordinator.

Cllr B Banks stated that the Village Hall Committee were looking to appoint someone to act as a general co-ordinator for volunteers in the village and so he would flag up the Speed Watch issue at the next meeting to see if any assistance could be given towards encouraging new recruits to come forward.

22/123 Parking

Following on from the discussion under minute 22/200 above in relation to new measures/restrictions which could be put in place, Cllr B Banks stated that he felt it was important to consider future parking provision so that some sort of capacity still existed to help support existing businesses and for visitors etc. The Chair commented that the Parish Council had previously examined a number of possible options – including providing additional spaces on the edge of the village green and, if necessary, these ideas could be looked at again.

22/124 Correspondence to the Council

No details this time.

22/125 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday 25 July 2022.