

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 27 September 2021 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 A Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr Andrew Turner

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC) & Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC) for mins 21/106 – 21/109, Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Minute Silence in Remembrance

A period of silence was held to record the recent passing of Ronnie Strowger (ex Chairman of the Parish Council) and Amedee Turner (former Suffolk MEP).

Contributions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

AGENDA

21/106 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

21/107 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 J Alexander received a cheque reimbursement from the Parish Council for purchases made - see minute 21/112.

21/108 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Cllr Smith advised that the Council were about to embark on a review of HGV routes and consultation with Town & Parish Council's was set to begin on 22/10/21.

Reference was also made to the recent Highways site meeting held on 24/8/21 and Cllr Smith reiterated that an additional £10m in funds was due to be set aside to deal with flooding/drainage problems across the county roads.

Mobile Speed Cameras – in response to a question Cllr Smith confirmed that the County Council were intending to purchase a total of 10 number plate recognition devices and an explanation was given as to how these arrangements will operate. Initially, 2 are being used on a trial basis and once completed we will then be advised about how to apply.

It was also confirmed that the Sizewell C Planning Enquiry is coming to an end – see also report given under minute 21/116 below.

21/109 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

Cllr Brooks reported that the District Council were embarking on a move to convert their lorry fleet to bio diesel to cut carbon emissions and to purchase other smaller electric vehicles where viable. In another green environmental move, the Council are also looking to trial new types of build methods in sustainable housing to make more efficient use of resources and energy.

Cllr Brooks noted that good progress is continuing on the new Lowestoft river bridge crossing and separate flood defence scheme. In addition, the bid for the Gt. Yarmouth/Lowestoft area to receive City of Culture status had progressed to the second stage.

Cllr Brooks also advised that there is currently an Environmental Bill going through Parliament which will see wholesale changes in the way that refuse waste and recycling is collected. Further details on this to follow.

In relation to the above, an observation was made that it may be worth the District Council writing to Holiday Let and House Cleaning Agencies each time to advise whenever any changes are made to the service.

The Parish Council also expressed their thanks to Cllr Brooks for the grant of £500 which had been received from the Enabling & Communities Budget to deal with fly tipping problems at the Reckford Road lay-by.

21/110 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 26th July 2021

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2021 be accepted as a true record.

21/111 Matters Arising from the Minutes 26th July 2021

With reference to minute 21/92, the Clerk reported that he had written twice to Anglia Water but had still not received a response.

Representative to serve on the Village Hall Committee (minute 21/103) – Cllr Holmes had intended to be present at the last Trustee meeting but, in the event, this had not been possible and so he now hoped to attend the next one on 18th October.

Poppy Appeal (minute 21/104) – the Clerk has made contact with the Area Co-Ordinator and it is understood someone from Yoxford is covering. Additional volunteers in Westleton are being sought to assist with the collection and fund raising.

21/112 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 Funds** – Clerk submitted projected year end funds. As things stand there is likely to be a budget underspend and so further consideration will be given over at the next meeting.
- (d) Invoices and Payments** – The following invoices were **agreed** for payment:-

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£42.30) & salary (£414.00) – Aug	£456.30
Westleton Garage	Fuel for Working Party	£15.55*
Westleton Garage	Service of Strimmer (labour & parts)	£129.48*
Westleton Garage	Service of Mower (labour & parts)	£142.80*
Westleton Garage	Fuel for Working Party	£9.00*
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field – (16/7-30/7)	£59.40*
Suffolk Preservation Society	Zoom Conference – Neighbourhood Planning x2 places	£25.00*
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£51.50) & salary (£414.00) – Sept	£465.50
Roy Swindell	Reimbursement – Community Field Grass Cut	£50.00
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field – (31/7-27/8)	£108.00*
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field – (28/8-2/9)	£21.60*
Leiston Press	Update of Honours Board	£58.80*
Leiston Press	Fly Tipping Signs	£289.20*
Julian Alexander	Purchases/outlay for Community Field + Common	£44.90
One Suffolk	Annual Website Hosting Renewal	£60.00*

* Payment made by Business Debit Card.

21/113 Community Field

Cllr C Freeman thanked those who had recently lent help and support. Noted that the storage shed has now been recoated/stained twice and repairs carried out to various items of play equipment. The annual independent health & safety inspection will shortly be undertaken.

Some further levelling of the bunds/earthworks is required. A cut has been undertaken of the inner hedge and further works will be carried out around the perimeter – Cllr N Shearme to organize this.

21/114 Common

The notes from the Common Advisory Group on 11/8/21 had been circulated.

Some gorse clearance had been undertaken on site on 11/9/21 but further extensive work is required. It is looking more and more unlikely that the Community Payback Team can be engaged and so the Group will need to scope/draw up a specification with a view to obtaining 3 outside quotes.

Cllr Holmes confirmed that, as requested, a new First Aid kit had now been supplied.

21/115 Planning Applications

No new applications this time.

Cllr A Turner advised that a decision on the Cherry Lee outline application had still not yet been made by the District Council.

21/116 Other Planning Related Matters

Sizewell C Update – EDF have carried out new consultation on their proposals for a desalination plant and we have provided a response setting out our concerns.

Since the last Parish Council meeting, there have also been two online meetings with EDF and Cllr A Turner gave feedback from these. The first (on 1/9/21) had been an open session arranged by SALC to give Parish & Town Council's the opportunity to put questions to Tom McGarry, Head of Stakeholder Engagement. The second (on 6/9/21)* had been arranged specifically in response to the concerns and representations we had made about the impact of future traffic levels through the village should Sizewell C go ahead.

*A summary note from this meeting had been circulated to all Members for information from which the Parish Council were being invited to comment on the traffic calming mitigation proposals which have been drawn up by EDF and Suffolk County Council to deal with the projected increase in the number of vehicles if construction goes ahead. Illustrative plans/drawings were circulated and considerable discussion then took place. Before going back further to EDF it was **agreed** that, in the first instance, a meeting should be sought with Steve Merry (the Officer responsible at Suffolk County Council for highway/road planning for Sizewell C) to explore a number of suggestions and options in greater detail. Following on from this, the Parish Council would then like to carry out a wider consultation exercise with residents so that the whole community has the chance to have an input and contribute.

Proposed development south of Darsham station – highway issues. Cllr A Turner gave a brief update following further enquiries made through County Highways. The Parish Council will formally submit comments although the discussions with County Highways suggest that it looks unlikely at this stage that they will be prepared to take on board and make any changes to the technical road design outline.

21/117 Tree Warden Report

Agreed that the Clerk write to the Arboricultural Manager to enquire if the Council/Norse can undertake a wholesale canopy cut of trees on the village green. Also, to highlight there is a dead tree/bush which has fallen in the far corner of the pond requiring removal.

Cllr A Clough also identified that one of the memorial lime trees on the Community Field needed to be replaced.

21/118 Village Environmental Issues

The notes following a meeting with representatives from the Crown/Chestnut Hotel Group held on 2/8/21 had been circulated and the Parish Council were pleased to note that as a result a number of actions and improvements have already been introduced.

21/119 New Year Fireworks

It was **agreed** (unanimous) that a maximum spend of £1570.00 inc VAT should be set towards the New Year Day fireworks. The question this time of whether to go ahead and just hold as a display and bonfire only event on The Common (or to operate as in previous years with before and after activities held in the village) will be a matter to be debated further by the Organising Group.

21/120 Highways Site Inspection

The notes from the site visit held on 24/8/21 had been circulated. There were several ongoing issues and the Clerk stated that he would continue to liaise with Suffolk Highways to obtain progress reports.

A reminder was given that any maintenance problems should be reported to:- www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue/

It was also noted that an abandoned vehicle had been reported in the Reckford Road layby.

21/121 Parish Council Roll of Honour Board

The Roll of Honour Board has been updated and rehung in the Village Hall.

21/122 Maintenance/Upkeep of Benches

The majority of benches in the village have now received a preservative treatment and Cllr A Freeman thanked everyone who had volunteered and provided their assistance.

21/123 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Email from Catriona Hopkins Coordinator of weekly Soup & Pud lunch – request for financial help to cover cost of Hall Hire.
Agreed that more details be established with regard to running costs before taking a final decision.
- (b) Email from Hilary Cramp Secretary Westleton Gardening Club – grass cut/maintenance of War Memorial Garden.
Agreed that current arrangement should continue for now but, if there was a problem with not enough volunteers coming forward, then we would look at whether some sort of regular contract gardener might be needed.
- (c) Letter from Gerald Jobson – Dunwich Heath National Trust.
It was **agreed** that the Clerk should formulate a response based on the fact that we had previously made representations in this matter to the National Trust. Suggest Mr Jobson take matter up further direct with Dunwich Town Trust.
- (d) Additional Communication from Catriona Hopkins – Candles on the Green.
Agreed that approval/permission be granted to stage a small outdoor community event on the Village Green on the evening of 18/12/21.

21/124 Local Housing Scheme

The Chair, Cllr P Holmes, will pursue further enquiries with the owner of the covenant to establish if he is willing to sell.

21/125 – Date of Next Meeting

Monday 25 October 2021 at 7.30pm.