

# **WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 28 February 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 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 mins 22/23 – 22/25  
Ian Haines (Clerk)

## **PRE AGENDA MATTERS**

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

There were no members of the public present.

## **AGENDA**

### **22/23 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Cllr Barry Banks and District Cllr Norman Brooks.

### **22/24 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.

No interests declared.

### **22/25 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor**

The County Council's 2.99% budget increase for 2022/23 has now been published.

Cllr Smith confirmed that the trial of the ANPR (auto number plate recognition) cameras was still being rolled out. It was hoped that the scheme will be launched fully in July.

Noted that SCC have applied to the Government to have in place a 'County Deal' and the basis of how this could work was explained.

Leiston Recycling Unit – all sites across the county are soon to be fitted with barriers. The appointment/booking system will continue in place.

Highway Matters – Cllrs raised additional concerns of examples/cases around where road signs have fallen down as a result of lack of maintenance and these were apparently not being repaired. Cllr Smith stated that if the signs were vital from a road safety perspective, then they will be replaced but other works were driven by budget constraints

### **22/26 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor**

No report this time.

## 22/27 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 be accepted as a true record.

## 22/28 Matters Arising from the Minutes 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Hedge Cutting work (minute 22/16) – the Clerk advised that a final invoice for this work had yet to be received.

Defibrillator (minute 22/18) – noted that contact has been made with Mr Wood (at the Cutlers Hill Surgery, Halesworth) and his findings are awaited.

Village Parking issues (minute 22/21) – the Crown had advised that staff were now being directed to use the paddock area to the rear of the hotel to help with parking.

## 22/29 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	Clerk expenses (£51.90) & salary (£414.00) – Feb	£465.90
Birketts solicitors	Fees for Professional legal advice on land matter	£907.20*
Collins Farming & Forestry Services	Common clearance works	£2,976.00**

\*payment made by debit card as per email dated 2/2/22

\*\* payment to be withheld until full works complete – Cllr N Shearme to speak to contactor and now issue instructions to lift cut material and position on concrete pad for later burning.

## 22/30 Community Field

Cllr A Freeman gave a report. A recent litter pick had been undertaken together with a cutback of the brambles in the perimeter hedge.

It was confirmed that [as previously authorized] wood had now been purchased for carrying out a number of minor repair jobs required to some of the seating/tables.

**Agreed** that a price should now be obtained for replacing the wooden borders (which house the wood chippings) around the play equipment with a **timber** option rather than using concrete kerbs as had been previously favoured.

Enquiries still continuing to source replacement goal posts.

## 22/31 Common

Cllr N Shearme gave feedback following two recent meetings of the Common Advisory Group (10/2/22 & 21/2/22) and also updated on the situation which had been reported last time under minute 22/9. **Agreed** under the circumstances no further action.

It has been decided that a ‘*Common Information Statement*’ should be drawn up which will be published on the site noticeboard and website. **Agreed** [from the agenda papers circulated] that version ‘B’ be adopted subject to a couple of minor modifications. With this, CAG will be responsible in future for posting up advance notice when major clearance work is due to be undertaken.

## 22/32 Planning Applications

From	Item	Details
1 Woodlands, Dunwich Road Westleton	DC/22/0128/FUL	Replacement of degrading willow fence with 2-metre-high wooden fence.
	Status:	<b>Deadline for observations: 22/2/22</b> <b>Response: No Objections</b>
7 Woodlands, Dunwich Road, Westleton	DC/22/0409/FUL	<b>New porch and associated alterations</b>
	Status:	<b>Deadline for observations: 17/3/22</b> <b>Response: No Objections</b>

## 22/33 Other Planning Related Matters

### Cherry Lee

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

### Westleton House – sale of site

Cllr A Turner advised that he understood the site had been re-marketed but the contract had not yet been exchanged. It is hoped that a meeting can eventually be arranged with the new owners

### Sizewell C Update

Cllr A Turner gave feedback on Stakeholder Engagement event held at Snape Maltings on 4/2/22.

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On Friday, the Planning Inspectorate submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy its report and recommendation on whether to grant Sizewell C a Development Consent Order (DCO). This followed a six-month examination process that ran between April-October 2021. The Secretary of State will now have until 25 May to make a decision on whether to approve the DCO application, which would provide consent to build Sizewell C.

Whilst a decision on Sizewell C is awaited, it was noted that an approach has been received from EDF offering to meet with the Parish Council about how the project would deliver on its community commitments and traffic and management enhancements that would be implemented. It was **agreed** that this offer should be accepted with a suggested date being to combine this with the Annual Parish Residents meeting to be held in April. Clerk to organise and liaise on arrangements.

Cllr A Turner also advised that he and the Clerk had held an online meeting on 25/2/22 with the lawyers acting for EDF to discuss the terms of the Deed of Covenant/Obligation which the Parish Council will be expected to sign up to should Sizewell C go ahead. In particular,

this covers the structure and working of the B1125 Joint Parishes Working Group as well as the establishment of a Northern Transport Forum which will cover Westleton. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should look to formally sign the Deed of Covenant with Cllr Turner continuing to act as the Parish Council's lead spokesperson and representative on the B1125 Group. Cllr Turner to liaise further in this regard with Richard Bull at EDF.

### **22/34 Vehicle Activated Sign**

Further to minute 22/14 Cllr A Turner reported that there was an ongoing problem collecting data from the older of the two speed monitoring signs – although the unit roadside display itself was still functional. Given this situation and the likely repair cost, it was **agreed** on a temporary basis to bring the unit back into use as it still served a purpose. Notwithstanding, it is hoped that future funding for the purchase of new equipment may be available through EDF and the B1125 Joint Parishes Working Group as referred to in minute 22/35 above.

Cllr A Turner also highlighted that the Speedwatch Team had recently been given a new radar device by the Police. The group were though unfortunately currently struggling to recruit new members and he asked that anyone interested in joining let him know. An advert had gone out in '*The Fisherman*' but this had not yielded any take up.

### **22/35 Tree Warden Report**

East Suffolk Council Treebilee Project - Cllr A Clough confirmed that he had collected the oak tree and plaque which had been gifted and it had been planted on the village green. This will form a focal point as part of the celebrations described below under minute 22/37. Cllr Clough was thanked for his work/effort.

### **22/36 Community Governance Review**

Consideration was given to an email dated 31/1/22 from East Suffolk Council outlining details. **Agreed** that as far as Westleton are concerned we are very happy with the existing governance arrangements for our immediate area and do not see the need for any change or alteration.

### **22/37 Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr I Johnson reported that an inaugural meeting had been held on 14/2/22 to plan for this event (notes circulated for information). A draft programme for the 5 day period has been drawn up with main focus/emphasis being placed on the community picnic taking place on the Village Green on Sunday 5th June.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council had carried over £694 in ring fenced funds from the previous Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr A Freeman advised that the Westleton WI would like to donate a new seat/bench to go on the village green.

### **22/38 Barrel Fair**

Cllr P Holmes reported on the decision of the Westleton Barrel Fair Committee to no longer stage this event due to a number of mitigating factors. Noted that the Committee are due to next meet in September to discuss the winding down of funds and handover of assets. It is

likely in future that the Parish Council will take on responsibility, amongst other things, for organising/purchase of the Christmas tree and maintenance of the village war memorial.

The Parish Council hoped that to supplement the loss of this popular event it would instead be possible to stage a smaller scale village orientated fete.

### **22/39 Clerk – Annual Leave**

Noted that the Clerk will be on annual leave from Monday 7 March to Thursday 24 March inclusive. This will be leave taken from 2021/22 financial year. Clerk advised on cover arrangements which will be put in place.

### **22/40 Revised Committee Timetable 2022**

Changes to the Meeting timetable were **agreed**. The revised dates (shown in yellow) are set out below:-

31 January 2022  
28 February 2022  
4 April 2022  
25 April 2022 (Annual Parish Residents Meeting)  
30 May 2022 (Annual Meeting Elections)  
27 June 2022  
25 July 2022  
12 September 2022  
24 October 2022  
28 November 2022

### **22/41 Dog Fouling**

Item deferred.

### **22/42 Affordable Housing Project**

Cllr C Fisher provided feedback from a meeting on 17/2/22 which he & Cllrs Alexander & Turner had attended with Mark Watson and Orwell Housing Association.

A meeting of the Housing Needs Group will now need to be held.

### **22/43 Correspondence**

E mail circulated from Mr R Jackson about ducklings and undertaking minor work to the village pond . **Agreed** no objection to proposal.

### **22/44 Emptying of Litter Bins**

Cllr J Alexander reported that the bin in the bus shelter was not being emptied and also collection was from time to time being missed from the litter container on the small green near to the garage. Cllr I Johnson to take up with the operatives.

### **22/45 Dunwich Heath Car Park**

Cllr C Fisher referred to discussion which had taken place at the Parish Council meeting on 25/11/19 (minute 19/187 refers) and reported that he had gathered new evidence in the matter. **Agreed** that this should be taken up further with Nick Collinson at the National Trust.

### **22/46 – Date of Next Meeting**

Confirmed as Monday 4 April 2022 at 7.30pm.