

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Westleton Parish Council at the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 28th January 2019 in Westleton Village Hall.

Ian Haines

Clerk of the Council

There were Present

Cllr Ian Johnson (Chair), Cllr Arlette Smith (Vice Chair), Cllr Julian Alexander, Cllr Anthony Clough, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Roy Jones, Cllr Andrew Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme

In Attendance

Cllr R Smith (SCC) – for minutes 19/1 – 19/7 only, Cllr Michael Gower (SCDC) – for minutes 19/1 – 19/12 only, Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There was 1 member of the public present who spoke about overhead line work which had been completed in Whites Lane. Comments noted. Also concern raised about proposal by the National trust to introduce car parking charge for Westleton residents at Dunwich Heath - further discussion on this subject took place under minute 19/12 below.

AGENDA

19/1 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies - Cllr Ian Alexander, Cllr Paul Holmes, Cllr Roy Swindell

19/2 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.

Cllrs J. Alexander, C. Freeman and I. Johnson advised that they were receiving cheques from the Parish Council for work carried out and goods/services - see minute 19/7.

Cllr A Smith declared an interest in relation to site 371 as specified in the SCDC First Local Plan – see minute 19/10.

Cllr N Shearme had submitted a quote for undertaking clearance work on The Common – see minute 19/13.

Cllr J Alexander in relation to planning application for 11 Heath View – minute 19/8 refers.

19/3 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Cllr Smith gave a latest update with regard to the formulation of the County Council's 2019/20 budget. There was some disquiet expressed by Members around the table at the planned cuts in CAB funding and the perceived negative impact this had.

Cllr Smith also sought feedback/views from the Parish Council in relation to the proposals contained in the Stage 3 Sizewell Public Consultation being carried out by EDF Energy (see also minute 19/11 below) and in particular what were the main issues for residents in Westleton. A number of observations were put forward mainly focusing on concerns about increase in the volume of through traffic and what preventative or enforcement measures

could be put in place by the County Council to deal with this. In relation to the *ongoing* problem of speeding vehicles it was **agreed** that the Clerk send another letter to EDF.

19/4 Pre Meeting Report from from SCDC Councillor

Cllr Gower indicated that he would provide an update on the Local Plan under the appropriate item listed on the agenda (see also minute 19/10 below).

19/5 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 3 December 2018

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2018 be accepted as a true record.

19/6 Matters Arising from the Minutes 3 December 2018

War Memorial – further to minute 18/125, the Clerk advised that he had received a communication from the Barrel Fair Committee agreeing to take on responsibility and meet the cost of the Annual Clean. A letter of thanks would be sent.

19/7 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) Income

Income received to date noted.

(b) Expenditure

Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved.

(c) Ring Fenced Funds

A schedule had been circulated illustrating monies earmarked towards specific projects or schemes. Clerk reported that in consultation with Cllr R Swindell it was being suggested that the two car park funds should be now closed off and any associated future expenditure on repairs treated as general maintenance. This was accepted.

(d) Invoices and Payments

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

From	Item	Amount
RJ Scarlett	Fuel	£16.40
J.Alexander	Labour for installation of hand rail	£100.00
JB.Alexander	Labour for installation of hand rail	£100.00
CJ.Freeman	Labour & materials for installation of hand rail	£180.54
Ian Haines	Clerks expenses (£62.63) & salary (£414.00) January	£476.63
Westleton Village Hall	Hire of room for meetings	£48.00
Westleton Village Stores Ltd	Food/Provisions for New Years Day Fireworks	£91.07
David Bracey	Play Safety Inspection – Community Field	£108.00
TMA Bark	*Supply of hardwood chippings - Community Field	£1,215.50
P.Hargreaves	Common Working Party - provisions	£20.00

* Clerk advised that in consultation with Cllr R Swindell delivery will take place on Friday 15th February with Saturday 16th having been earmarked to undertake the actual spreading on the play area.

19/8 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Beacon Hill House, Mill Street, Westleton	DC/18/5055/TCA	Removal of ash tree that is in bad health

Deadline for comments 4/1/19:

No objections

From	Item	Details
Westleton Village Hall	DC/18/4967/FUL	Revisions to details previously submitted.

Deadline for comments 9/1/19:

The PC have no objections and continue to lend their support towards the improvements which are required to the Village Hall.

From	Item	Details
The Studio, Blythburgh Road, Westleton	DC/18/4773/FUL	Pitched roof open front porch.

Deadline for comments 11/1/19:

No specific comments or objections

From	Item	Details
Corner House, The Street, Westleton	DC/19/0059/TPO	Reduction of sycamore tree away from overhead cables on safety grounds.

Deadline for comments 29/1/19:

No objections

From	Item	Details
Old Forge Cottage, Darsham Road, Westleton	DC/18/5170/FUL	New two storey dwelling on the site of The Old Forge Cottage annex .

This particular application related to a boundary line change to correct details previously submitted.

Agreed no objection.

From	Item	Details
11 Heath View, Westleton	DC/19/0071/FUL	Two storey side & rear extension & single storey rear extension following demolition of existing porch & conservatory.

Agreed: no objections

From	Item	Details
Westleton Village Hall	DC/18/4567/LBC	Installation of x2 condenser units

Agreed: The Parish Council wish to give continued unilateral support to the planning application/s which have been submitted to bring about much needed improvements to the village hall. However, in relation to this LBC application for the condenser units, there were some concerns raised that there could be a perceived noise issue with the operation. Therefore we would like to request that every measure is taken to ensure that the unit/s which are installed operate at the quietest possible level to mitigate against noise and disturbance to users of the hall as well as neighbouring properties.

Westleton House – the Parish Council noted the recent refusal decision by SCDC. In response to a question, the Clerk advised that he understood the related boundary issue

had not yet been resolved and Cllr R Swindell is awaiting a further update on the matter from the District Council's Estate/Valuer.

19/9 Community Field

The Chair advised that a total of £290.00 had been collected in donations towards the tree planting (minute 18/127). **Agreed** that the Clerk should write thanking everyone involved.

Cllr J Alexander will go ahead and produce a special plaque. The idea of installing a memorial bench was also supported and Cllr A Clough stated that he could recommend a supplier for this – a curved teak seat would be in the region of £350.00, while a straight design would be approximately £300.00. Cllr Gower added that he would be willing to make a contribution of £250.00 towards this from his District Council Enabling budget and the Parish Council thanked him very much for this gesture. The Chair stated he hoped the Community Field Advisory Group could now move this along and that arrangements could be formulated for holding a ceremony.

Cllr J Alexander also referred to previous discussion regarding the condition of the netball/basketball frame and it was **agreed** that a sheet of 8x4 Tricoya should be purchased at a cost of £200.00 + VAT.

It was also noted that the Community Field Advisory Group are looking to carry out an upgrade of the boules court and estimates are being obtained for the cost of the work. Possibility of a grant being obtained from the SCDC Outdoor Playing Space Funding.

19/10 Suffolk Coastal Draft Local Plan - Update

The Chair gave feedback following his attendance at the briefing at the District Council offices on 11/1/19. Although it was noted the number of dwellings on the identified Reckford Road site (SCLP12.69) had been reduced from 35 to 20, there was still widespread concern that this was being included at all given that the District Council had apparently not properly factored in the Glebe Meadow and Hastoe Homes proposals which have been in the pipeline for some considerable time. When completed, these two developments will provide for a total of 30-35 properties of the type specifically identified in the Local Plan as core requirements for rural areas such as Westleton.

By way of now making a further response on the published document and strengthening the Parish Council's case, a draft submission was circulated aimed at reinforcing these points and in it, the Parish would wish to make the strongest possible representation that the District Council should withdraw SCLP12.69 altogether.

The deadline for submission is 15/2/19 and Members were asked to submit any additional views/comments to Cllr R Swindell by 11/2/19 at the latest so that the views of the Parish Council can be lodged.

19/11 Sizewell C – Stage 3 Public Consultation

A raft of various events, exhibitions and public meetings are currently taking place to coincide with the stage 3 public consultation being carried out by EDF Energy and feedback from several of these was given from around the table. Further dates are up and coming and the Parish Council will aim to continue to send along representatives to glean as much information as possible. As covered in minute 19/3 above, there are clearly very large environmental concerns and issues which will effect the wider area. We have until deadline

of 29 March 2019 to submit our own formal response and so this will be covered further at the next Parish Council meeting.

19/12 Dunwich Heath – National Trust Car Park

The Parish Council registered their dismay that the National Trust had recently given notice of their intention to remove the long standing arrangement whereby residents of Westleton can park their vehicles for free at the Dunwich Heath site. It is understood this measure is to be introduced from the end of 2019. A number of residents had already come forward to express their opposition and it was **agreed** that the Clerk should take up and write to the National Trust asking them to reconsider the decision.

19/13 Common

Cllr Jones gave feedback from the Common Advisory Group on 25/1/19 (notes attached).

Siting of Beehives – Sheena Robertson has given notice that she is likely to be moving from the village and has nominated a friend (Mrs Brett) to care for them on her behalf. Confirmation will need to be received over responsibility for insurance if this goes ahead.

Gorse/Scrub Clearance - further to minute 18/128, it was **agreed**, in the particular circumstances, to accept the quote received from 'Jim's Mowing' given the need to proceed urgently and complete the work prior to the commencement of the bird nesting season. This was moved by Cllr A Paige and seconded by Cllr A Clough – there voting 6 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention – Cllr N Shearme taking no part in the discussion or voting.

Noted that Sheila Francis is intending to step down from being involved and thanks were placed on record for her contribution to the work of the group over the last 10 years.

HLS Funding – final instalment of grant received in December. Total £1780.00 for 2018.

Cllr Jones also reported that he had attended the recent launch of the RSPB Suffolk Coastal AONB Management Plan – copy to be included in the latest 'Round Robin'. It was also **agreed** that Cllr R Jones purchase a publication handbook by the RSPB entitled 'A practical guide to the restoration & management of lowland heathland' at a cost of £19.95.

19/14 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough recorded his disappointment that no one from SCDC had been out to inspect the condition of the trees in the village despite this request having been made over 4 months ago. It is important that professional checks are undertaken to safeguard from possible accidents etc and it was **agreed** that the Clerk should chase up this matter.

19/15 Webmaster Vacancy

No response had been received in relation to the advert. Further enquiries will be made to see if a volunteer can be found. Clerk will also make enquiries with OneSuffolk to ascertain whether they may be able to provide temporary cover if need be.

19/16 Parish Map

Clerk advised that the company involved had indicated that they were prepared to reduce the original quote £500 to £400 for the design. In consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair

he had therefore gone back and provisionally accepted this figure and a draft was now awaited. Hopefully, details can be submitted to the next meeting for approval.

19/17 Love Lane Parking

Following previous discussion on this subject, an email had been received from one of the residents asking if, in the absence of any signs being erected, the Parish Council could consider writing to people living in the immediate area with regard to the need for considerate parking and keeping the access free. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should look to produce a general letter as outlined but recognising, for the record, that the Parish Council is not the Highway Authority nor does it have any traffic enforcement powers.

Cllr J Alexander also referred to the fact that he felt neighbouring overgrown hedges at the entrance point off Mill Lane may be contributing to the problem and that it was hoped at the same time the owner of the property could cut this area back.

19/18 Parish Council Elections – 2 May 2019

This item had been included on the agenda based on a need to commence planning for the forthcoming Parish Council Elections to try to get potential new recruits to come forward. It was noted in this regard that the Chair had sent round an email enquiring who may/may not be re-standing as at least 3 Members were known to be stepping down this time. In particular, it was hoped that a better gender balance can be achieved.

A number of ideas were put forward including posters to attract interest. It was also felt that individuals could also be directly approached/contacted who have shown an interest in such things as local planning matters etc.

The Clerk added that he had attended a SALC training event that day and this had provided him with helpful background information. He would also lend whatever support role he could to help in the overall process.

19/19 Bonfire & Fireworks - 1st January 2019

The event had once again been very successful and congratulations were recorded to Cllr Shearme and supporting team involved in the organisation. Totals covering income and expenditure were broken down on a sheet circulated with the papers for the meeting. An overall gain of £140.38 was recorded meaning there was no donation required by the Parish Council this time.

19/20 Local Housing

Cllr A Alexander had provided a short paper setting out the latest position. The Parish Council were disappointed to note that Hastoe had now indicated that they had not been able to include/secure the provision of allotments within their scheme and have suggested that we should consider dealing directly with the landowner. The Chair stated that he had emailed Hastoe about this and was awaiting a response.

19/21 Correspondence

No details this time round.

19/22 – Date of Next Meeting

To note that Council next meets on Monday, 25 February 2019 at 7.30pm.