

# **WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 28 November 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 minute 22/188 only)  
Ian Haines (Clerk)

## **PRE AGENDA MATTERS**

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

There were two members of the public present who registered ongoing concerns about speeding through the village particularly along the B1125 Reckford Road. Mr & Mrs Gilmour stated that they hoped, in turn, to become actively involved with the Westleton Speedwatch Group. Cllr A Turner acknowledged that there was currently a problem with one of the VAS devices and he was taking this up with the manufacturers Westcotec.

## **AGENDA**

### **22/186 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:**

Apologies: Cllr Barry Banks and District Cllr Norman Brooks.

### **22/187 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 N Shearme to receive a cheque reimbursement from the Parish Council - see minute 22/192 below.

Cllr A Turner declared an interest in respect of a planning application on his property which had recently been submitted under reference DC/22/4389/FUL. He also advised that the approval of reserved matters planning application for the Cherry Lee site (DC/22/4419/ARM) bordered with his property and so in both cases he took no part in the discussion or voting thereon - minutes 22/195 below refers.

### **22/188 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor**

Brief update given on Sizewell C and the County Council's budget planning for 2023/24.

Further to minute 22/172, Cllr Smith reported that he was due to meet with Wayne Saunders (the new SCC Highways Community Liaison Engineer) on 1/12 and from this it is intended that another site meeting around Westleton can be set up for Members to highlight specific Highway problems and safety/maintenance issues. Clerk to arrange.

### **22/189 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor**

No report this time.

## 22/190 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 24<sup>h</sup> October 2022

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be accepted as a true record.

## 22/191 Matters Arising from the Minutes 24<sup>h</sup> October 2022

No matters arising.

## 22/192 Council Finances and Accounts

### (a) Projected Year End Figures

Clerk submitted revised projected year end funds. Details **agreed**.

(b) **Budget 2023/24** – The budget for next year was discussed. The proposal was to keep to the same precept requirement as 2022/3 (i.e. £13,000). The meeting then moved to formally accept the budget and keep the precept at £13,000 and this was proposed and seconded. **Agreed.** (Unanimous).

(c) **Income** - Income to date were acknowledged and approved.

(d) **Expenditure** – Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved.

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

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£40.60) & salary (£451.26) – Oct	£491.86
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field 27/8/22 – 8/9/22	£66.60*
Suffolk Coastal Norse	Supply & installation of additional litter bin for Reckford Rd Layby site	£436.87
Dynamic Fireworks	New Year's Day Fireworks Event	£1583.00
One Suffolk	Website subscription (2022.23)	£60.00
Westleton Village Hall	Room Hire of Building (inc CAG mtgs)	£40.00
David Bracey	Annual Playground Safety Check	£150.00
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£48.60) & salary (£451.26) – Nov	£499.86
Warrior Fire & Rescue Service	Donation – attendance at New Year Day Bonfire Event	£100.00
John Bebbington	Coffee & provisions for Suffolk Coast & Heaths Voluntary WP visit on 22/11	£11.18
Westleton Village Hall	Room Hire of Building	£25.00
Jim's Mowing	Purchase of Village Xmas Tree	£110.00

\*paid by direct debit

The Chair queried an invoice for a bag of salt which had been received from Westleton Garage and stated he would take this up.

## 22/193 Community Field

Cllr C Freeman reported that Playdale were sending a company representative to inspect the play equipment given some recent issues with the timber supports. There would be a £180.00 charge as per the quote supplied.

Noted that the new octagonal 8 person picnic table had been installed by the boules area. A combination lock has also now been purchased for use on the front gate.

**Agreed** that Cllr N Shearme order from Sandy Lane Nurseries x5 replacement lime trees as these succumbed to the dry summer (estimate cost £125) plus x20 additional beech hedging.

Cllr C Fisher offered to undertake future grass cuts of the Community Field at a cost of £100.00 per visit. This was **agreed**. The Working Group will now arrange for the cricket nets to be removed/taken down as they are no longer used.

## 22/194 Common

Cllr N Shearme reported that volunteers from Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB had carried out a very successful visit on 22/11 to undertake clearance work. This was the first time that this resource has been used on The Common and the group are set to return in February. Clerk to send a note of thanks to Neil Lister.

The Clerk is writing to Natural England/DEFRA to advise of the intention to establish a new fire-break in compartment 1 adjacent to the arable land that had a fire earlier this year. Noted that Emma Quick (Regional Adviser from Natural England) has already been out to view the area and given her backing to the need for the work to be undertaken. Subject to formal DEFRA approval being forthcoming, it was **agreed** that specialists Collins Farming & Forestry Ltd be contacted as per earlier works undertaken.

## 22/195 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Forest Lodge, St Helena, Westleton	DC/22/4192/FUL	Extension and alteration to existing dwelling
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 18/11/22</b> <b>Response: No objections</b>

From	Item	Details
Bankside, Mill Street, Westleton	DC/22/4280/FUL	1. Single storey extension to the north facing elevation of Bankside, 2. Upgrading of existing windows and doors, 3. Minor amendments to existing roof and 4. Demolition of outhouse.
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 23/11/22</b> <b>Response:</b> Westleton Parish Council does not oppose the proposal on condition that: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Common Land to the South of the property is not used as access for the construction. In the event that any damage to the Common Land to the South of the property - including the car park - does occur during the construction or as a consequence of the construction-vehicle use, it is repaired to its original condition.</li> <li>2. Resident access to Love Lane is not impeded as a consequence of the construction. Moreover, any damage to Love Lane as a consequence of</li> </ol>

		<p>construction-vehicle use, it is repaired to its original condition.</p> <p>The Developer needs to be aware that Love Lane is an unadopted road not “maintained by the Highways Authority” as noted in the planning statement – hence even greater importance of point 2.</p>
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From	Item	Details
The Barn, The Hill, Westleton,	DC/22/4389/FUL	To create a natural swimming pond to replace an existing pond/pool in the garden of the Barn.
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 5/12/22</b> <b>Response: No objections</b>

From	Item	Details
Cherry Lee, Darsham Road, Westleton,	DC/22/4419/ARM	Approval of Reserved Matters of DC/20/4709/OUT Outline Application (Some Matters Reserved) - Demolition of a dwelling and an outline application for up to 15 homes with full details submitted of the vehicular access - Appearance, Landscaping, Layout & Scale
	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Deadline for observations: 13/12/22</b> <b>Agreed</b> that response be coordinated by Cllr I Johnson based on feedback given to the developers at the September PC meeting and subsequent disappointment that these views have apparently not been taken into account. Additional observations to include concerns about the existing sewage system in Westleton and the ability to cope with any new/future developments.

## 22/196 Other Planning Related Matters

### Affordable Homes Housing Project

Further to minute 22/145, there was no new information to report although Cllr Turner stated that he understood that a date for a meeting between Orwell HA and the agents acting for the landowner had now been arranged.

### National Grid Launch of Non-Statutory Consultations for Sea Link and EuroLink

National Grid Ventures are carrying out widespread consultation in the East Suffolk area on proposals for (a) Sea Link – a new underground and subsea electricity link between the proposed Friston substation in Suffolk and Richborough in Kent and (b) a multipurpose interconnector called EuroLink, which will deliver a new electricity link between Great Britain and the Netherlands. The Parish Council have until 18/12/22 to register any views and it was **agreed** that Cllr A Turner draw up a draft submission on behalf of the Parish Council as there are concerns about the potential environmental impact in the local vicinity.

### **22/197 EDF Traffic Mitigation Plans for Westleton**

A further meeting of the B1125 Joint Parishes Working Group had taken place on 1/11/22 and Cllr A Turner gave feedback. Based on comments and some concerns expressed from around the table Cllr Turner will formulate a response back to SCC Highways/EDF.

As previously reported, once all these details have been finalised it is the intention that a public consultation event will take place in the village [at the same time the opportunity could be taken to carry out a recruitment drive for the Community Speedwatch Team].

### **22/198 Tree Warden Report**

Cllr A Clough reported that a replacement oak tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee had been planted to supplement the one which had perished in the hot weather. Cllr Clough was thanked for his efforts in sourcing free of charge from East Suffolk DC/Norse.

### **22/199 Barrel Fair – Transfer of Funds & Assets**

As reported earlier this year, the Barrel Fair Committee had pledged that in winding up their affairs, all funds & assets would accordingly be transferred across to the Parish Council – as the ‘legal body’ for the village. The Clerk reported under minute 22/192 above that the Treasurer had been in contact and confirmed that arrangements were being put in place for the sum of £10,415 to be paid into the Parish Council’s Business Premium Bank Account.

In the past, the Barrel Fair have given financial support/donations to various local good causes and it was recognised and **agreed** that this same practice should continue with each approach being considered on its merits.

The handover also meant that the Parish Council would inherently take on formal responsibility for a number of commitments including the War Memorial clean and upkeep as well as the annual Christmas Tree purchase (see minute 22/184 of the last meeting).

The Clerk will take the opportunity to update the Parish Council Insurance & Asset Register – main items of value coming across being seen as the Storage Shed, large Marquee and the mobile Generator.

### **22/200 New Year Fireworks**

Cllr N Shearme advised that work on construction of the bonfire base had taken place. The format for the event will follow previous years with the Village Hall once again forming the pre & post focal point to the fireworks. Posters will be placed around the village advertising the times and programme running order. Clerk will update the Risk Assessment.

### **22/201 Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday 30 January 2023.