

# WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Westleton Parish Council at the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 28 September 2020 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 C Fisher, Cllr Amanda Freeman, Cllr A Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr Andrew Turner

## **In Attendance**

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 20/88 – 20/93 only)

Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC for minute 20/88 – 20/93 only)

Ian Haines (Clerk)

## **PRE AGENDA MATTERS**

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

There were no members of the public present.

## **AGENDA**

### **20/88 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:**

Apologies: Cllr B Banks, Cllr Chris Freeman.

### **20/89 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.

### **20/90 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor**

Cllr Smith gave a reminder that there were only 2 days to go before the opportunity to register as an interested party in the Sizewell C planning process\* closes (30 September). The Clerk confirmed that Westleton had registered.

\*Cllr N Shearme enquired what the situation was with regard to the original plan for a 4 village by-pass on the A12 and in the event that Sizewell C does not go ahead, was this likely to still proceed? If so, would the County Council be providing the funding? Cllr Smith advised that the Department of Transport were **not** supporting the 4 village scheme and instead the tabled proposal is that EDF would effectively build/pay for the cost of constructing a reduced 2 village single carriageway bypass.

A latest update was also given with regard to the Covid outbreak within Suffolk. The number of incidents in the population remained at a low level but the situation with regard to schools and local businesses was being closely monitored. Testing and contact tracing across the board remained ongoing. The unbudgeted cost to the County Council stood at £64.1m of which the Government had promised £52.8m in assistance.

Electric Car Charging points - the County Council were in the process of reaching out to interested Parish and Town Councils and non-profit organisations to put in fast chargers in rural areas where there are currently none. The funding will cover the installation and set-up costs, meaning very little expense for the hosts and possibly creating a source of income for them. This project is the first to benefit from the council's Suffolk 2020 Fund, which was

announced earlier this year. The £300,000 award will link into the council’s existing Plug In Suffolk project (launched in February 2019) and is part of the UK’s first ‘fully open’ public fast charging network for electric vehicles, meaning drivers simply pay by contactless payment with no need to register their details. Cllr Smith to forward details to the Clerk.

### 20/91 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

Cllr Brooks reported East Suffolk Council had agreed to maintain a “neutral” stance (being neither fully supportive nor against the proposals) on the proposed Sizewell C development, after Cabinet had approved its response to the Planning Inspectorate.

Lowestoft Third River crossing – both the District and County Council have given final backing to submit a business case to the Department of Transport which should see construction on the project begin next year ahead of a planned summer 2023 opening.

Cllr Brooks also gave a brief Covid update report.

### 20/92 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be accepted as a true record.

### 20/93 Matters Arising from the Minutes 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Further to minute 20/78, the Chairman reported that the proposed meeting with one of the owners of the Cherry Lee site had not yet taken place but it was hoped a date could be set up in the near future.

### 20/94 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 were **agreed** for payment:-

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerks expenses (£45.60) & salary (£414.00) – Sept	£ 459.60
Julian Alexander	Additional Padlock & keys for Community Field	£23.25
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field 1/8-28/8	£108.00 *
Premier Toilet Hire	Community Field 1/7-26/7	£32.40 *
Leiston Press	Display material and board/banners to promote The Common	£433.20 *
John Bebbington	Additional materials to support Common Picture Display (as above)	£22.19
Westleton Garage	Fuel for Work Parties	£6.00
Westleton Village Hall	Hire of Hall for Meetings (quarterly bill)	£54.00
Ian Haines	Amazon – Ink Cartridges	£33.98

\* Paid by Business Debit Card

## 20/95 Community Field

Cllr A Freeman provided an update.

Boules Court – further works had been undertaken to bed in the surface. An additional top dressing of grit will be carried out.

Future Planned Works included - (1) fit cricket nets (2) new basketball post to be purchased/installed (3) chippings around the play equipment require levelling (4) rabbit holes to be filled.

The annual safety inspection of the play equipment will shortly be undertaken and so the findings on this were awaited.

## 20/96 Common

Cllr N Shearme reported that a meeting of the Common Working Party had recently been held on site which had included a walkabout of the area. David Rous had taken the notes.

It is recognized that a significant amount of clearance work is required and an outside quote for undertaking this is being sought particularly given the continued uncertainty over whether the Community Payback Scheme can participate and provide help.

Cllr Shearme will forward to the Clerk an email received from Juliet Bullimore with regard to preliminary discussions which had been held concerning the provision of a second emergency vehicle access route onto the site. The Clerk will circulate details to Members.

Cllr J Alexander confirmed that he had previously offered to undertake sharpening of equipment used by the Working Group. It was also **agreed** that an order should be placed for a new first aid box and additional supply of saw blades.

## 20/97 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Quines, Dunwich Road, Westleton	DC/20/3566/ROC	Removal of Condition

**Deadline for comments 15/10/20:**

**No objections**

From	Item	Details
Fourwinds, Green Lane, Westleton	DC/20/3635/FUL	2 storey rear extension

**Deadline for comments 16/10/20:**

**No objections**

## 20/98 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough stated that he had received an inquiry from a resident about removing an unhealthy cherry tree in his garden which is in very poor condition. No objections raised.

## 20/99 Local Housing Scheme

Cllr C Fisher provided an update following a site meeting held the previous week and subsequent receipt of an email from the landowner.

In the circumstances, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should look to establish further contact with Mr Watson and if possible set up a Zoom meeting with Hastoe being represented.

### **20/100 Village Environmental Concerns**

Further to minute 20/82, the Parish Council was disappointed to note that there had not yet been any response from the Crown Hotel over the concerns raised. The Clerk had, however, taken delivery of some dog fouling notices/stickers from Norse and arrangements would be made for these to be additionally posted up in and around the village where the main problems prevailed.

With regard to parking issues – there were currently two untaxed vehicles (a large people carrier and a car) parked together in the link road adjacent to the pond between Darsham Road & The Street and the Chairman stated that he would contact the owner in the first instance to establish his intentions.

### **20/101 Bottle Bank Site**

As discussed at the last meeting, the Reckford Road layby just to the south of the village off the main B1125 has been identified as the favoured new bottle bank location and Norse had now given their consent to the idea of this site being used on a trial basis.

There will be a requirement to excavate into a small piece of the soil bank and to put in place a base. It was hoped that this work could be undertaken in the near future using surplus materials from the Playing Field. Action: Cllrs Alexander & Freeman.

### **20/102 Speeding Through the Village**

The Parish Council had received latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign showing traffic flows through the village which illustrated that the speeding problem was still paramount.

Discussion centered on what additional deterrence measures could be put in place and a number of options were explored. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should contact County Highways to establish if it would be viable to install road humps along both the B1125 approaches. If so, costs to be obtained.

### **20/103 New Year fireworks**

Weighing up the current situation and Government guidance on Covid, it was felt that it would be unwise to proceed with further planning for the annual fireworks given the level of uncertainty. It was therefore **agreed** that the event on 1<sup>st</sup> January should be cancelled because of the logistics and difficulties involved. The Parish Council realised that this decision would come as a disappointment to residents but it was hoped it could be reinstated for the following year.

### **20/104 Appointment of Representatives to Organisations/Roles**

It was **agreed** that Cllr B Banks should be appointed to act as the Parish Council's representative on SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils).

### **20/105 Poppy Appeal & Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday**

Reference was made to a previously circulated email from Lyn Tyler.

The Parish Council noted that the Royal British Legion were continuing to assess the situation and would be providing further guidance covering the arrangements taking place on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

### **20/106 Correspondence**

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Email received from the Local Government Boundary Commission setting out draft recommendations for division boundaries review in Suffolk County Council.
- (b) Westleton Village Green & Adjoining Development – receipt of an email from Chloe Smith Estates Officer at East Suffolk Council. Clerk to respond to see if, in the circumstances, ESC would be prepared to act as the main point of contact with the owner - this with a view to setting up a proposed meeting involving the Chairman and V/C.

### **20/107 – Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 26 October 2020 at 7.30pm at Westleton Village Hall.