

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 29 November 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 A Turner

In Attendance

Cllr Norman Brooks (ESDC) for mins 21/145 – 21/148
Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

AGENDA

21/145 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

An apology was received from County Councillor Richard Smith.

21/146 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 C Freeman received a cheque reimbursement from the Parish Council for purchases made - see minute 21/151.

Note: several Council Members names are included under the Approved Contractor List – see report covered under minute 21/160 below.

21/147 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

No report this time.

21/148 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

Cllr Brooks reported that the District Council were embarking on a campaign to prevent recycling bins from being contaminated as this was proving a costly problem. It is hoped that the publicity will improve awareness.

Also noted that good progress is continuing on the new Lowestoft river bridge crossing and separate flood defence scheme.

21/149 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 25^h October 2021

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2021 be accepted as a true record.

21/150 Matters Arising from the Minutes 25th October 2021

With reference to minute 21/143, the Clerk reported that the Westleton Soup & Pud Club and Leiston & District Citizens Advice had both written thanking for the donations received.

21/151 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) Projected Year End Figures

Clerk submitted revised projected year end funds.

(b) **Budget 2022/23** – The budget for next year was discussed. The Parish Council have not increased their Precept for a number of years but given the rising cost of inflation the meeting **agreed** (unanimous) to formally accept the budget and increase the sum by £1,000 to **£13,000**.

(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 (£55.80) & salary (£414.00) – Nov	£469.80
Westleton Village Hall	Hire of Hall for meetings (inc Common Advisory Grp)	£159.00
Chris Freeman	Purchase of various items/materials for Com Field including:- Post for net ball (£32.81) Post mix (£12.36) 2x 5 litres of oil for benches @ £97.55 each (£195.10)	£240.27
Warrior Fire & Rescue Service	Donation – attendance at New Year Day Bonfire Event	£100.00
Dynamic Fireworks	New Year's Day Fireworks	£1570.20
Acecom Solutions	Printer overhaul/service	£12.00*

* Payment made by Business Debit Card.

21/152 Community Field

Cllr C Freeman advised that he was looking at options for replacing the wooden borders (which house the wood chippings) around the play equipment. **Agreed** that concrete kerbs would offer much lower maintenance – price to be obtained to cover the worst areas i.e. half the site.

Costs will also be obtained for purchasing new goal posts (similar to the type on the Village Green).

A hedge cut of the perimeter still needs to be undertaken and Cllr N Shearme reported he is still pursuing enquiries on this.

21/153 Common

The draft notes from the Common Advisory Group on 15/10/21 had been circulated. Since then, Members of CAG had also met on site with representatives from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the notes from this were appended. It was noted that the clearance work planned for the winter on the Noodle and near Ralph's Mill had been discussed and no difficulties raised. The Clerk in turn reported on the tenders received for the work and it was **agreed** (9 voting For, 1 Against*, 1 Abstention) that the estimate provided by Collins Farming and Forestry Ltd in the sum of £2240 + VAT should be accepted.

* Cllr A Clough wished to have it recorded that he supported the gorse clearance but not the birch removal/felling.

It was noted that the Rural Payments Agency had been contacted in respect of the review of the Management Plan (which is due to end in 2023) but they had advised it was too early to give consideration and so this would be taken up nearer the time.

Reference was made to a dog bin in Mill Street which needed replacing and the Clerk stated that he would take this up with Norse. There were also reports of alcohol bottles being discarded in the undergrowth of the main car park between Mill Street & Bakers Lane - situation to be monitored.

21/154 Planning Applications

No new applications this time. However, it was understood that the land site to the rear of Westleton House (adjacent to the village pond) was being re-marketed.

21/155 Other Planning Related Matters

Sizewell C Update

Cllr A Turner reported that the Stakeholder Engagement event due to take place at Snape Maltings that day had unfortunately had to be cancelled because the lead government official/speaker was unwell.

An update was given with regard to the traffic calming mitigation measures being drawn up for Westleton and it was confirmed that a site meeting/walkabout was due to take place on Thursday 2 December with representatives from EDF & Suffolk CC Highways in attendance. Cllr A Turner will draw up a briefing note in order to encompass all the local issues so that all the various options can be examined in more depth. It is anticipated at a later stage that EDF will then hold a wider public consultation exercise with residents so that the whole community has the chance to have an input and contribute.

East Suffolk DC – Consultations on (1) Draft Construction Supplementary Planning Document, (2) Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Document & (3) Draft Cycling & Walking Strategy

Details noted.

21/156 Review of Recommended Lorry Routes

Cllr A Turner has formulated a suggested response to go back to the County Council. Noted that Westleton is not designated as being on a major route but, notwithstanding, there are

real concerns about the impact if Sizewell C goes ahead and so this will be the main basis of our response (linked to previous representations we have made to the Planning Enquiry)

21/157 Tree Warden Report

Further to minute 21/137, it was noted that 5 contractors had been approached about undertaking cutback work to the oak tree which overhangs onto Darsham Road & The Hill but no bids received. Cllr A Clough suggested that CDC Blowers Ltd should be approached and also their name added to the Approved Contractors list – see minute 21/160 below. This was **agreed**.

21/158 New Year Fireworks

A meeting of the Organising Group will be convened in the near future to go through final arrangements so that details and information can be shared.

21/159 Vehicle Activated Sign

Cllr A Turner confirmed that the cost of purchasing a second portable speed indicator device/unit would be £3425.00 + VAT. However, before reaching a final decision on this, the Parish Council will look to first ascertain what additional speed reduction measures EDF might be prepared to put in place (see minute 21/155 above).

21/160 Approved Contractors for Arboriculture & General Maintenance Work

Agreed that the Approved Contractor list be adopted – subject to adding the name of CDC Blowers.

21/161 Pit Cottage (now known as ‘Oak View Place’)

Agreed that the Clerk seek further clarification in this matter with Birkett’s solicitors.

21/162 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Email from Leiston Library Steering Group.
Agreed that a donation of £50.00 be made.

21/163 – Date of Next Meeting

Monday 31 January 2022 at 7.30pm.