

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting of Westleton Parish Council held at 8.20pm on Tuesday 30 April 2024 in Westleton Village Hall.

Ian Haines
Clerk of the Council

There were Present

Cllr Andrew Turner (Chairman), Cllr Ian Johnson (Vice Chair), Cllr Julian Alexander, Cllr Barry Banks, Cllr Colin Fisher, Cllr John French, Cllr Paul Holmes, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr David Watson, Cllr Ian Webber

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 24/61 – 24/65 only)
Cllr Cllr Paul Ashton (ESC for minutes 24/61 – 24/78)
Ian Haines (Clerk)

24/61 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr John Matthews.

24/62 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 Fisher to receive a cheque reimbursement from the Parish Council - see minute 24/68 below.

24/63 Open Public Forum – Contributions from Members of the Public

There were two members of the public present. No issues raised.

24/64 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Sizewell C – it is understood that there are now approx. 600 employees working on site on the project and that by the end of the year this figure will increase to 1000.

Cllr Smith also advised that a new Suffolk Business Board had been established which will be a forum for business, education and local political leaders to shape a compelling economic strategy and identity for Suffolk, attract new investment and act as an advocate for Suffolk's economy at a national level. Recruitment to the Board is currently taking place. The establishment of the Business Board follows the Government's announcement in 2023 that Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) would be integrated into upper tier local authorities. The Suffolk Business Board will succeed the existing Anglia LEP Board which ceased on 31 March 2024.

24/65 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

Cllr Ashton made reference to the forthcoming meeting of the Sizewell C Northern Transport Forum due to take place at Darsham Village Hall on 8 May.

It was also noted that the outline planning application for 110 houses on land to the south of Darsham station was due to be considered by the District Planning Committee on 14 May.

The Parish Council (along with Darsham and Yoxford PC's) have previously raised strong objections on various grounds and Cllr Ashton offered to assist in helping to pull together further representations as part of a more joined up approach to provide opposition.

24/66 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 25 March 2024

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2024 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

24/67 Matters Arising from the Minutes 25 March 2024

There were no matters arising.

24/68 Council Finances and Accounts

- (a) **Income** – Year End Statement for 2023/24 was acknowledged and approved.
- (b) **Expenditure** – Year End Statement for 2023/24 was acknowledged and approved.
- (c) **Bank Reconciliation** - Year End Statement for 2023/24 was acknowledged and approved
- (d) **Year End Account Summary 2023/24 – agreed.**
- (e) **Invoices and Payments** – The following invoices were **agreed** for payment

From	Item	Amount
McGregor Assocs	Payroll services - quarter	£16.20
Ian Haines	Clerk exp (£74.63) & gross salary (£744.03) April	£818.66
Jewson	Bark for Play Area (Com Field)	£626.33*
Sovereign Turf	Grass/turf for Swing Area (Com Field)	£476.40*
The Garden Range	grass mats & fixtures for Play Area (Com Field)	£1569.00*
SALC	Annual Membership Subscription	£242.81
C.Fisher	Community Field Grass Cut x2	£250.00
HJG Gardening	War Memorial Maintenance Jan/Feb/March	£95.00
HJG Gardening	War Memorial Maintenance April	£194.00

* Payment made by Direct Debit

The Clerk reported that he had received an insurance quote from the brokers of £1295.15 for the annual premium (up from £1259.00 for this current year) and it was **agreed** that this should be accepted. Renewal due at the end of May.

24/69 Feedback from Working Parties

- (a) **Common** – the minutes from the CAG meeting held on 26 March had been circulated.

With reference to discussion held last time under minute 24/47, it was noted that the potential encroachment/boundary issue had been investigated and taken up. Matter currently ongoing.

A safety audit of the site had recently been undertaken. No major issues raised. Reference was made to the fact that John Bebbington had given notice that he

intended to stand down as Secretary to CAG at the end of the year and that arrangements would accordingly need to be made to find a replacement

Cllr Shearme stated that it was intended to carry out further substantial gorse clearance in the autumn and he would contact Collins Farming & Forestry Ltd about undertaking this work.

- (b) Community Field** – the Working Party on 25 April had made good progress on a number of works/repairs to the play area and a further site meeting is planned for 2 May to complete laying of the rubber matting. Cllr P Holmes also stated that he had looked into the cost of purchasing a new children’s roundabout and this would be approx. £2500.

Improvements have also been made to the surface of the boules court and it is planned to purchase a shed so that equipment etc can be stored there. Estimated cost approx. £540.

It was highlighted that there are still unfortunately incidents where dog walkers are allowing their pets to foul on the field and it was **agreed** that additional notices should be erected.

Cllr C Fisher suggested that the idea of installing an electrical supply into the site should once again be examined. He will put together proposals – including the possibility of whether the car park could be used as a charging point facility.

- (c) Car Parking** – Cllr B Banks advised that a meeting of the Group had been held and he was in the process of submitting a letter to East Suffolk Council in relation to proposal for the Village Green. Cllr P Ashton offered to lend support.

- (d) Allotments** – Cllr J Alexander provided feedback from a recent meeting held with Nat Bacon and attended by the Chair & Vice Chair and the options which would be pursued.

- (e) Affordable Housing** – the village wide Housing Needs Survey has been distributed and thanks were expressed to those who had helped with the process. The deadline for responses had been set for 30 April 2024.

24/70 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Lime Tree Cottage, The Hill, Westleton IP17 3AW	DC/24/1168/FUL	Replacement rear porch with balcony above.
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 1/5/24 Response: No objections

24/71 Other Planning Matters

A planning application (SCC/0102/23SC) for a medical waste incinerator just outside our area in Hinton has been submitted to SCC.

Cllr J Matthews has coordinated comments and submitted a robust and strong letter of objection on behalf of the Parish Council recognising that the site is wholly undesirable and inappropriate to the rural area on several fronts.

24/72 Tree & Footpath Warden Report

No items raised.

24/73 Westleton Village Fete

A meeting will be convened on 7 May to determine on a number of factors associated with the organisation and ultimately whether to proceed. (Action – AT/IJ/IW/JF/DW/JA/CF/PH)

24/74 Energy Projects

Fuller report to be made to the next meeting.

24/75 Parish Council Surgery

Cllr A Turner provided feedback from the session held on 22 April which he had attended with Cllr J Alexander. Several topics were covered including the Darsham station parking issue which had been raised previously. A direct approach on the matter will now be made to Greater Anglia about siting a parking ticket machine in the main car park.

The next surgery takes place on Monday, 20 May between 10.30-11.30 at the Village Hall.

24/76 Possible Reinstatement of Water Well on the Village Green

Cllr C Fisher reported that Prime Irrigation Ltd of Yoxford had offered to undertake a free ground survey. Test results to be reported.

24/77 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Email from East Suffolk Council re street name for the Cherry Lee development. Clerk to provide feedback.

24/78 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday 20 May 2024.