

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 31 January 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 Barry Banks, Cllr Antony Clough, Cllr C Fisher, Cllr Amanda Freeman, Cllr A Paige, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr A Turner

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC) for mins 22/1 – 22/4
Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

AGENDA

22/1 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Freeman and District Cllr Norman Brooks.

22/2 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.

Cllr P Holmes received a cheque reimbursement from the Parish Council for purchases made - see minute 22/7.

Cllrs P Homes and J Alexander also declared interest in relation to minute 22/13 and took no part in the voting thereon.

22/3 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

An update was provided on the County Council's budget setting for 2022/23. Noted that Cabinet is due to meet the following day with the final figure due to be ratified by Full Council.

On Sizewell C, it was noted that a decision/announcement from the Planning Inspectorate is now expected by the end of February and the Secretary of State then has a further 3 months in which to determine.

There was some disquiet expressed by Members around the table that many of the issues and concerns raised with County Highways about basic maintenance were not being tackled – in particular gully cleaning on roads in and around the village to prevent flooding. Cllr Smith stated that this type of work was meant to be undertaken annually and he would make further enquiries on the specific areas raised. He explained that the County Council published criteria for undertaking repairs to pot holes and that defaults had to meet their 'intervention standard' in order for works to be carried out.

22/4 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

No report this time.

22/5 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 29^h November 2021

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2021 be accepted as a true record.

22/6 Matters Arising from the Minutes 25th October 2021

There were no matters arising.

22/7 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 and donations were **agreed** for payment:-

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£33.00) & salary (£414.00) – Dec	£447.00
Holmes Glazing Ltd	Supply of First Aid Kit for Common Working Grp	£24.84
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£55.80) & salary (£414.00) – Jan	£469.80
McGregor Assocs	Production of payslips – months 4-9	£32.40

22/8 Community Field

Cllr A Freeman gave a report. There are a number of minor repair jobs required to some of the seating/tables plus the small slide and it was **agreed** that timber up to the value of maximum £300 spend should be purchased.

Also noted that a price is being obtained for replacing the wooden borders (which house the wood chippings) around the play equipment with concrete kerbs as this will offer much lower maintenance.

Enquiries are still continuing to source replacement goal posts (similar to the type on the Village Green) and Cllr C Fisher undertook to pursue via social media.

A cut has been carried out of the perimeter hedge – see also minute 22/16 below.

22/9 Common

Cllr N Shearme reported that two site meetings of the Common Advisory Group have been held – this in preparation for the next stage of the Management Plan. It was also noted that the Annual Common Report for 2021 had just been published.

The planned clearance work of The Noddle & Ralphs Mill has recently commenced but unfortunately there had been a confrontation incident. In the circumstances, the Parish Council asked the Clerk to contact SALC to obtain advice pending possible further action. As a general note, the Parish Council find unacceptable any type of aggressive anti-social behaviour directed towards either staff, Councillors, volunteers or contractors.

The Parish Council also wished to place on record that, as the owner of the land, it has a mandate under the Management Plan (as endorsed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and English Nature) as well as the terms of the Stewardship Agreement with the Rural Payments Agency/DEFRA to readily manage, maintain and protect what is recognised as a special area. We will continue to act in good faith to operate under these guidelines.

22/10 Planning Applications

No new applications this time.

22/11 Other Planning Related Matters

Sizewell C Update

Cllr A Turner reported that he would be attending the postponed Stakeholder Engagement event at Snape Maltings on 4/2/22.

The notes from a site meeting held on 2/12/21 to discuss draft traffic calming mitigation measures being drawn up for Westleton had been circulated. It was felt that the walkabout had been constructive and the Parish Council were now awaiting further feedback from EDF & Suffolk CC. Following on from this a wider public consultation exercise will be conducted with residents so that the whole community has the chance to have an input.

Westleton House – sale of site

Investigations ongoing to establish the new owner of the site.

22/12 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough reported that the Parish Council had been invited to take part in East Suffolk Council's Treebilee Project where people/organisations across the country are encouraged to plant a tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration. The Clerk confirmed that we had already registered our interest and it was **agreed** that the oak tree [with plaque] should be sited on the Village Green. This is being provided at no cost.

Following further enquiries made with Suffolk Norse, it had been established that the Arboricultural Manager did not wish to see any cutback or reduction undertaken to the mature oak tree which is located on the small triangular piece of land owned by the District Council outside the White Horse PH. Position noted and no further action to be taken.

22/13 Reckford Road Layby – Concrete Base for Bottlebanks

The Clerk reported on two quotes received– both of which were priced very evenly. Following discussion, it was **agreed** (8 voting For – 2 Abstentions*) that the bid submitted by Harry Holmes in the sum of £995 should be accepted as he was known to have the more versatile equipment available at his disposal to carry out the work. In this regard – it is hoped that the unwanted pile of aggregate material which is on the Community Field site can be removed and utilized to form part of the bottle bank base construction.

* Cllrs P Holmes and J Alexander did not take part in the voting for family related reasons.

At the same time as the concrete base is installed [and because of ongoing problems with fly tipping in the layby], arrangements to be made to put up x3 warning notices which the Parish Council have had made up. Cllr Barry Banks and Harry Holmes to liaise.

22/14 Vehicle Activated Sign

Cllr A Turner reported that the older of the two speed monitoring sign was malfunctioning and in need of service/repair. He was in the process of obtaining a quote. It was **agreed** to authorise a maximum expenditure of up to £250 but if above this amount then to refer back.

It was also noted that the new owners of the Reckford Road property [where the speed activated sign is currently positioned in the front garden] had given consent to this arrangement continuing. The Parish Council recorded their thanks to this gesture.

22/15 Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr I Johnson confirmed that he is intending to go ahead and arrange a picnic event on the Village Green on Sunday 5th June which will be open to all residents. The intention will now be to promote with posters and get publicity on the website etc so that early word can get out and people are made aware.

Exact arrangements and a programme for the day are still to be finalised but it was suggested that a special church service should precede to mark the occasion.

22/16 Annual Hedge Cutting Work and Approved Contractors List

As reported, a wholesale hedge cut has been carried out around the perimeter of the Community Field and The Common. The work requires use of specialist machinery and it is hoped that Mr N Bacon will be prepared to undertake the work on an annual basis. Cllr N Shearme to follow up and hold talks in this regard. Final invoice awaited.

22/17 Highway Matters

This item was covered earlier under minute 22/3.

22/18 Defibrillator

Cllr P Holmes advised that he had established a contact at the East of England Ambulance Service who would be prepared to carry out a free check of the unit to make sure that the pad dates have not expired and the batteries are still valid/charged. Clerk to follow up and arrange.

It is important that all residents know the whereabouts of the device and so, if necessary, additional publicity to this end will be arranged.

22/19 Pitt Cottage (now known as 'Oak View Place')

Further to minute 21/161, the findings of a report from Birkett's solicitors had been circulated. In view of the information presented it was **agreed** not to pursue the matter any further.

22/20 Correspondence

No details this time round.

22/21 Village Parking Issues

Cllr C Fisher suggested that a follow up meeting should be held with representatives from The Crown (Chestnut Hotel Group) to establish progress. Clerk to follow up.

22/22 – Date of Next Meeting

Monday 28 February 2022 at 7.30pm.