

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Westleton Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 4 April 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 Colin Fisher, Cllr Amanda Freeman, Cllr Chris Freeman, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr Andrew Turner

In Attendance

District Cllr Norman Brooks for min 22/50 only
Ian Haines (Clerk)

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

AGENDA

22/47 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

The Chair referred to the recent passing of Tony Ingram and condolences to the family were expressed.

Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Smith (SCC)

22/48 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.

No interests declared.

22/49 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

No report this time

22/50 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

Cllr Brooks explained how the Council Tax rebate will work (affecting property bands A-D).

Felixstowe triathlon now designated as a national event.

New beach huts in Lowestoft nearing completion. Work on third river road crossing progressing well and on target.

Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine – Cllr Brooks outlined how unified support and help was being rolled out and implemented locally.

Robopets – East Suffolk Council have recently purchased 20 companion pets which are being given to local dementia groups and care homes across the district as part of an initiative/project under the Council’s Covid Community Recovery Plan

22/51 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 28th February 2022

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2022 be accepted as a true record.

22/52 Matters Arising from the Minutes 28th February 2022

There were no specific matters arising.

22/53 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) Income - Income for the financial year 2021/22 was acknowledged and approved.

(b) Expenditure - Expenditure for the financial year 2021/22 was acknowledged and approved.

(c) Invoices and Payments

The following invoices and donations were **agreed** for payment:-

From	Item	Amount
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£47.43) & salary (£414.00) – Mar	£461.43
John Bebbington	Laminated plans for Common Advisory Group	£38.20
Information Com Office	Renewal of Data Protection Registration/Fee	£35.00*
John Bebbington	Paper & Ink Cartridges	£31.34
Harry Holmes	Construction of bottle bank base (Reckford Rd layby)	£995.00
SALC	Annual Membership subscription	£266.42
Westcotec Ltd	Service of Vehicle Activated Sign (inc courier costs)	£113.40

* Payment made via direct debit

22/54 Community Field

Cllr A Freeman gave a report which included an update on some of the recent repair/maintenance work carried out. He had been in contact with Playdale (the play equipment suppliers) and they had agreed, under guarantee, to supply free of charge a support post for one of the swings supports which had rotted away. There would however be associated costs for the fixings plus a carriage/delivery charge of £280. Cllr A Freeman to look at whether it would be viable to order a delivery of rubber mulch flooring to replace some of the bark chippings.

It was noted that the regular grass cutter, Mr Jackson, had indicated he would be stepping down and no longer available to undertake this work. Cllr C Fisher indicated that he would be prepared to carry out on a trial basis (first cut to be undertaken free of charge) and this was **agreed**.

22/55 Common

Cllr N Shearme gave feedback following two recent meetings of the Common Advisory

Group (15/3/22 & 28/3/22).

The main focus is to look to sign off the content of the Management Plan containing the full list of projects and planned work/s programme for the coming year. Details will then be submitted to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust prior to formal approval/adoption by the Parish Council. The next meeting of the Group is set for 11/4/22 and at this time further discussion will be held on the idea previously mooted of undertaking a GPS mapping survey of the whole site - John Bebbington (as Secretary) will look to obtain costs/estimates on this.

It was noted that the contractor had been back to undertake some final leftover clearance work and burning on site and the cheque payment now issued (minute 22/29 refers).

22/56 Planning Applications

From	Item	Details
7 Woodlands, Dunwich Road, Westleton	DC/22/0409/FUL	New porch and associated alterations
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 17/3/22 Response: No objections
Ronley, Reckford Road, Westleton	DC/22/0704/FUL	Provision of Cedar timber cladding to north and east elevations of existing bungalow and other alterations.
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 31/3/22 Response: No Objections

22/57 Other Planning Related Matters

Cherry Lee

Cllr A Turner advised that the District Council had now finally given approval to this outline application.

Preparation of Housing in Clusters and Small-Scale Residential Development in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document

Cllr A Turner gave feedback following a recent online workshop organised by East Suffolk Council.

Sizewell C Update

EDF traffic mitigation through Westleton - Cllr A Turner reported that an online meeting of the B1125 Joint Parishes Working Group had been arranged for 6/4/22 and enquired whether any other Members would like to participate. Several Members expressed interest. It was hoped that future meetings would be held '*in person*' rather than via video conference.

22/58 Tree Warden Report

Cllr A Clough advised that East Suffolk Council/Norse had been out the previous week to remove the dead branches surrounding the village pond.

It was noted that St Peters Church had submitted an application to de-pollard 2 limes trees which are overhanging neighbouring properties. **Agreed** – no objection.

22/59 Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr I Johnson gave feedback from the second planning meeting which had been held on 16/3/22. A programme is in place to cover the whole 5 day period with main focus and emphasis being on the Village Green community picnic on Sunday 5th June. To this end Cllr Johnson advised on specific related matters namely (1) toilet hire, (2) budget planning & finances, (3) road closure (4) publicity & (5) insurance. Noted that the bid to obtain Arts Council funding had been unsuccessful due to being over-subscribed.

Another meeting is set to take place and further discussion to be had surrounding exact placement of the special memorial bench/seat.

22/60 Village Archive Map to be Re-hung in Village Hall

When the building works were undertaken to the village hall several display items were taken down and put in storage. One of those was an archive village map of Westleton which had been donated by Mr R Strowger a previous Chair of the Parish Council. Following recent enquiries as to its whereabouts, Cllr J Alexander advised that the map has been recovered and the Parish Council are now very keen to see this reinstated back on the wall in the main hall where it used to be on display. It was **agreed** that a suitable request should be made to the VH Trustees.

Cllr Alexander stated that he is willing to re-hang on the wall and undertake a clean-up/ varnish of the frame.

Reference was also made to the fact that several other artefacts (including some paintings) were discovered at the same time in the search and found to be in quite poor condition due to mould and damp where they had been placed. It was hoped that they can be moved to a better storage position and if necessary renovated.

22/61 Dog Fouling

Cllr B Banks reported that unfortunately there had been further incidents connected to guests staying at the Crown hotel. Clerk to take up again and write.

It was **agreed** that newer, more prominent, signs should be erected around the War Memorial and at the entrance to St Peters Church. Cllr Banks to source.

Cllr Shearme also reported that the dog bin off Mill Street as you enter The Common needed replacing. Clerk to contact Norse.

22/62 Affordable Housing Project

Cllr A Turner provided feedback from a meeting of the Housing Needs Group on 22/3/22 - notes previously circulated.

Further to the discussion last time under minute 22/42, the Parish Council are now awaiting draft plans from Mark Watson and Orwell Housing Association.

In the meantime and without prejudice to the above, enquiries are being pursued about the viability of a possible alternative site being earmarked in the village.

22/63 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Email from Elaine Blencowe about litter picking. Noted.
- (b) Email from Bouygues E&S Infrastructure UK Limited - works notification on behalf of SCC Highways about LED street lighting upgrade in Westleton. Noted.

22/64 Dunwich Heath Car Park

Further to minute 22/45, Cllr C Fisher reported that he was continuing enquiries.

22/65 – Date of Next Meeting

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday 25 April 2022. [The Annual Residents Meeting will also take place on the same evening at 7.00pm].