

Draft until signed

# WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 December 2018 in the village hall

- Present: Cllrs Paul Sutton, Ivan Austin, Stephanie Hensley, Duncan Perry  
District Cllr Keith Welham (standing in for Cllr Rachel Eburne); County Cllr Andrew Stringer (from 8.45), Jen Larner – Clerk, two members of the public
- 2018/112 Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Chris Harcourt, John Bushell
- 2018/113 Declarations of interest** – none
- 2018/114 Minutes of Parish Council meeting** – the Parish Council meeting minutes of 19 November 2018 were signed as a true record.
- 2018/115 District Councillor's report** – Cllr Keith Welham had circulated his report. Discussion ensued regarding construction traffic along the Wetherden road for the 240 houses being built there. (see minute 123). Keith also reported on the two PCSOs who are now employed by MSDC, and it was suggested their time should be split between town and rural areas, particularly in summer evenings. Suffolk County Council is proposing cutting all grant to the Citizens Advice Bureaux from March 2020 and MSDC is being asked to increase its grant to cover some of the shortfall.
- 2018/116 County Councillor's report** – this had been circulated. Andrew Stringer updated us on the pothole and insurance situation, and on the recent planning decision for Lawn Farm Quarry variation of conditions, which reduces working hours on a Saturday and includes greater enforcement of clearing dirt on the road conditions.
- 2018/117 Public participation** – the issue was raised, and discussed, regarding the sign warning of the low bridge at Upper Town, which doesn't give enough notice for HGVs to turn. Various suggestions were put forward, such as moving the sign, having a lorry ban on that road, or asking the Grove Lane trading estate, from which many of the lorries come, to put a sign up. Cllr Andrew Stringer will follow this up.
- 2018/118 Common/Playing field** – Cllr Paul Sutton reported that he had checked the 7.5 ton limit signs on the roads, all of which were in good condition and visible, except that on Stowmarket Road. The branches surrounding this will be cut back. The tap in the pavilion was fixed today. The common is slowly getting done this year, mainly as the probation group is growing smaller due to a changing structure of the organisation. 14 dates have been agreed for the group for next year, with more available if needed. A couple of these are set aside for work at the churchyard, and a couple for Town Lands trust. The pirate ship is now hazard taped up, and will be moved to the bonfire site shortly. The wobby bridge (shorter one) is almost at the end of its life. No one has been found to repair/make a new noticeboard for Upper Town. It was agreed to purchase one and apply for locality budget funding before the end of December. The clerk will follow this up. Some ideas were suggested for increasing the income from the playing fields eg boot camp, fun runs etc.
- 2018/119 Clerk's report** – the clerk reported that a letter from Mervyn Evans offering a safety mirror for the car park opposite the Maypole had been passed to Town Lands trust, but that SCC advises against the use of safety mirrors.
- 2018/120 Finance report** – the clerk's finance reports ending November 2018 were presented. A mistake was identified in the Q3 total and will be rectified and re-sent. The following payments were authorised: Dianne Batten £86.35; Clerk November salary £312.31; E-on £54.58. It was noted that the national salary award for clerks has been increased with effect from April 2019.

- 2018/121 Draft budget 2019/20** – it was agreed to postpone this discussion until the January meeting.
- 2018/122 Format of CIL meeting, January** – the initial CIL meeting has been booked for Monday 14 January, and representatives of village groups invited to come and discuss the priorities for the village in order to consider submitting a bid for Community Infrastructure Levy. It was agreed to approach the CIL team to invite someone to give an introduction to CIL and the process, and to filter out ideas that don't match the criteria, and answer questions. Some discussion took place regarding matched funding, which can include payment in kind (eg probation hours).
- 2018/123 Planning applications** – Grange Farm: DC/18/03427 discharge of conditions information (circulated), DC/18/04414 internal alterations to office space – listed building consent granted, DC/18/04391 conversion of office building to two dwellings – planning permission granted.  
Lawn Farm variation of conditions – approved, subject to change of hours of maintenance on a Saturday from 7pm to 4pm.  
DC/18/01679 traffic route for construction vehicles – the management plan for the building of the 240 houses on Wetherden Road, including traffic routing, hasn't yet been approved. It was noted that work has started and the organisation so far was praiseworthy. It was agreed to write to suggest that deliveries, where possible, should avoid being made in peak time ie before 9.15am and after 3.30, to avoid traffic congestion and pointing out that the shortest route to the A14 is via Elmswell/Woolpit junction.
- 2018/124 Correspondence** – letter received from Mervyn Evans regarding traffic calming on Wetherden road; survey on adult social care (circulated).
- 2018/125 Urgent matters** – concern was expressed that a piece of land at Haughley Green may be sold to travellers now that the tenant has been evicted. Cllr Andrew Stringer reported that any use of that land is considered dangerous.

Next meeting Monday 21 January.

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