

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 February 2019 in the village hall

- Present: Cllrs Chris Harcourt, Paul Sutton, Stephanie Hensley (to 8.45pm), Duncan Perry
District Cllrs Keith Welham and Rachel Eburne; County Cllr Andrew Stringer; Jen
Larner – Clerk; one member of the public
- 2018/140 Apologies for absence** – Cllr John Bushell
- 2018/141 Resignation** – the resignation of Ivan Austin, due to unforeseen circumstances,
had been received and was duly accepted.
- 2018/142 Declarations of interest** – none
- 2018/143 Minutes of Parish Council meeting** – the Parish Council meeting minutes of 21
January 2019 were signed as a true record.
- 2018/144 District Councillor's report** – Cllr Rachel Eburne was welcomed back. She
thanked Cllr Keith Welham for standing in for her in her absence. She had
circulated her report. She updated us on the underspend by MSDC, which is
£1.9m. The planning application for 149 homes at Haughley Park had been
recommended for refusal, as it goes against the National Planning Policy
Framework which emphasises sustainability. It was reported that the Tree for Life
programme - planting a tree for each child that is born - will be continued, with 170
trees planted so far.
- 2018/145 County Councillor's report** – this had been circulated. Andrew Stringer updated
us on SCC's budget cuts which will adversely affect rural bus services, Highways'
treating of weeds, and the Citizens Advice Bureau (cut by £180k for next year, and
to no support for following year). He reported that the Orwell Bridge project has
been cancelled, and that there is a proposal to appoint, jointly with the NHS, a
Director of Public Health. He also updated us on school transport, particularly the
cost of special educational need transport out of county.
No further complaints have been received regarding Aggmax. It was agreed that
the facebook coverage of both this and the diverted traffic between Elmswell and
Wetherden has been good and helped ease the situation.
- 2018/146 Public participation** – John Donovan, of the village hall management committee,
spoke of the requests for daytime use of the village hall by companies, which would
be a useful source of income as the hall is little used in the daytime. To enable this,
the hall needs updating in terms of its IT provision, such as a phone line,
broadband, projector and stand, and screen. Following discussion it was proposed
by Cllr Chris Harcourt, seconded by Cllr Duncan Perry and agreed by all that £800
from the Parish council's Community Infrastructure Levy be spent on this
equipment.
- 2018/147 Finance report** – the clerk's finance reports ending January 2019 were agreed.
The following payments were authorised: Dianne Batten £86.35; Clerk January
salary £312.31; ICO £35. It was agreed to set this up by direct debit.
- 2018/148 Internal Auditor 2018/19** - it was agreed to appoint Trevor Brown as internal
auditor, at a cost of £200, plus mileage shared with Westley Parish council.
- 2018/149 Standing Orders** – the latest version of the standing orders had been circulated
prior to the meeting. These include the GDPR regulations. They were agreed and
adopted.
- 2018/150 Elections in May** – the clerk reported that the elections have been fixed for 2 May
and that all councillors will need to stand for re-election. The nomination forms
have been circulated and need to be returned by hand, but not necessarily in
person. A date and time of 12 March, 12-12.30 has been set aside for Wetherden
nominations to be returned to MSDC at Stowmarket if so wished, though the final
closing date is 4pm on Wednesday 4 April. Completed forms can also be given to
Cllr Rachel Eburne. Councillors are asked to encourage others to stand. A door to
door leaflet, and notice for the boards was suggested, also notification on facebook
and in the newsletter.
The Annual Meeting of the council must, in an election year, be held between 4 and
14 days of the election, so the date of 20 May currently arranged will be too late. It
was agreed to bring this forward to Monday 13 May.

- 2018/151 Common/Playing field** – Cllr Paul Sutton reported that the pirate ship, damaged benches and hedge clippings are now on the bonfire site. It was agreed to check the insurance position of the benches and pirate ship in case a claim can be made. He has found another company that makes boats for playgrounds, out of recycled plastic. The survey of the common is on hold as the person suggested cannot do it at present. Cllr Stephanie Hensley agreed to liaise with community payback on 2 March, in Paul's absence.
- 2018/152 Request to use playing field on 2 November for bonfire night** – this was agreed. It was good to hear that new volunteers have come forward to organise this.
- 2018/153 Grass cutting quotes for 2019/20** – two quotes had been received. MSDC cuts the Larland, and the patch of grass by the common. Their quote of £238.24 was agreed. Vertas has quoted £777.54 for the grounds maintenance of the playing field. It was agreed to get another quote for this before making a decision. The clerk will follow this up.
- 2018/154 Report back and issues arising from CIL meeting, February** – notes from this meeting with the various suggestions that arose, had been circulated to all councillors and participants. It had been agreed at the meeting that two 'quick win' bids would be submitted – one for the car park in the centre of the village, and one for the car park completion at the village hall (to include disabled parking). A larger bid to cover health and fitness proposals, and, importantly, accessibility of these, will be drawn up following an initial survey of the village to see what is most required. Cllr Keith Welham had spoken to the community grants team at MSDC and suggested that the village hall car parking could be funded by them. Car parking projects per se are not preferred by CIL, and it was suggested that this would be better as part of a larger project eg enabling access to other facilities as overspill car park. Keith will inform Townlands of this information.
- 2018/155 Haughley Neighbourhood Plan** – Haughley has now submitted its draft Neighbourhood Plan to MSDC who are consulting on it, with a deadline of 6 March. Councillors were encouraged to respond to this and support Haughley. This can either be on an individual basis, or comments to Cllr Chris Harcourt who will draw up a parish council response.
- 2018/156 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Communities Strategy consultation** – this aims to set out the vision of the type of future for communities, and what is needed to achieve it. The consultation ends on 1 March and councillors are encouraged to comment to ensure that there is adequate provision for rural and not just urban communities. Individual responses or comments to Cllr Chris Harcourt for a parish council response.
- 2018/157 Planning applications** – DC/18/03390 White House Farm, Upper Town – conversion of existing barns to farm dwelling. No objections raised.
DC/19/00434 Land adjacent Dragonfly Barn, Elmswell Road – erection of dwelling with double garage. No objections raised.
DC/18/04225 5 Park View – non material amendments approved.
- 2018/158 Correspondence** – Home Start request for volunteers, and information for board; advance information about Open Gardens on 22 June.

Next meeting Monday 18 March 2019.

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