

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 January 2019 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Chris Harcourt, Paul Sutton, Stephanie Hensley (to 9pm), Duncan Perry
District Cllr Keith Welham (standing in for Cllr Rachel Eburne); County Cllr Andrew Stringer, Jen Larner – Clerk, nine members of the public

2018/126 Apologies for absence – none. **Absent:** Cllrs Ivan Austin, John Bushell

2018/127 Declarations of interest – none

2018/128 Minutes of Parish Council meeting – the Parish Council meeting minutes of 17 December 2018 were signed as a true record.

2018/129 District Councillor's report – Cllr Keith Welham had circulated his report. He recommended looking at the draft MSDC housing land supply position statement for 2018/2019 which sets out the time frame for building, particularly in Elmswell. The joint local plan has been delayed until after the May elections to prevent confusion.

2018/130 County Councillor's report – this had been circulated. Andrew Stringer updated us on SCC's position on single use plastics, the incinerator at Great Blakenham, and urged us to complete the CAB consultation on funding by SCC. It was agreed that the clerk will write to Cllr Richard Rout regarding the disgrace of cutting/stopping funding to the CABs. He was asked to reiterate the new conditions for Lawn Farm and it was agreed to put the reporting tool details on facebook and in the newsletter again.

2018/131 Public participation – following the public meeting held last week to discuss the imminent road closure between Elmswell and Wetherden for 14 weeks for the building of the new 240 homes, Cllrs Chris Harcourt and Stephanie Hensley reported back on a meeting that had been held with the developers, SCC and Elmswell parish council. A list of 15 questions had been raised by the public meeting and answers were given to each. A copy is attached to the minutes. It was noted that the road must be closed, because it is not wide enough to allow both traffic and the 21 ton excavator needed to put a drain either side of the road. All utilities and services will go in during this closure. There is no right of appeal to this closure.

The access plan for HGVs is not yet confirmed but is likely to be to/from whichever side the trench is going in (ie Elmswell or Wetherden). Pedestrians and cyclists will have full access the whole time. The bus timetable will be protected. Security guards will be on site overnight. The developers, Crest Nicholson, are willing to co-operate where possible, eg by putting signs directing traffic wherever needed, and putting money towards the yellow lines in the village. Any damage caused along the designated routes will be compensated – on other routes the complaint would have to go to the haulage company concerned. The developers were thanked for the cleanliness so far of the roads, and a request was put in to continue this after the big civil works were completed, and to come further into the village to clean, as a favour to villagers. The developers were unaware that the quarry extension will be right next to the development.

2018/132 Common/Playing field – Cllr Paul Sutton had circulated an initial plan for the common with suggestions of a noticeboard outlining the interesting habitat, and ways to increase access and use. It was agreed that a full survey of the flora, fauna, bird and animal life would be a good step forward and Paul will obtain a quote for doing this. Tony Bass, MSDC leisure adviser, is keen to walk round the playing field with councillors to advise on equipment, funding options etc. Paul will arrange this. A letter had been received on the state of the playing field from a member of the public. Some of his complaints will be dealt with by the February visit of the community payback team, including removal of all broken seats and

plastic, strimming of grass near tennis courts. It was noted that Power UK had been called out as two white boxes, assumed to be meters, had fallen off the pole in the playing field. They replaced them temporarily but it is the parish council's responsibility to renew the rotten post and mount the boxes securely again. Paul will look into this. It was agreed to write to Mr Gidney to thank him for doing the tap in the pavilion.

- 2018/133 Finance report** – the clerk's finance reports ending December 2018 were agreed. The following payments were authorised: Dianne Batten £76.54; Clerk December salary £468.47 (includes holiday pay); PWLB loan payment £475.37; MSDC grass cutting £277.20; Vertas £100.64; Wave £13.32. A change to the bank mandate was initialled by two signatories to enable statements to be sent to the clerk's new address.
- 2018/134 Draft budget 2019/20** – the draft budget had been amended to include clerk's salary increase, and re-circulated. It was agreed to reduce the figures for maintenance and refurbishment, and increase the training budget in the event of new councillors after the elections. The agreed budget of £12915 was proposed by Cllr Chris Harcourt, seconded by Cllr Duncan Perry and agreed by all.
- 2018/135 Precept 2019/20** – following the setting of the budget, the precept was agreed at £12911, which is a 3% increase on last year and will mean a cost of £54.36 per band D equivalent property.
- 2018/136 Report back and issues arising from CIL meeting, January** – discussion took place on the ideas that came out of the meeting. It was agreed that partnership working between the organisations in the village is crucial and gives strength to funding applications. The parish council is keen to protect and develop the green spaces – playing field and common, and linked to that, improving and protecting the other assets in the village such as the village hall. It was noted that a bid could be put in for a 'quick win' if it is for a new piece of equipment and different from anything already there. It was agreed that a survey is needed to identify what facilities exist, how they are being used and what the priorities are in the village. The Parish Investment Infrastructure Plan (PIIP) is a starting point for this, and will be considered by the parish council.
It was agreed that, for the next meeting on Monday 11 February, brief notes from the last meeting will be circulated, along with a reminder of the meeting and some background reading for groups to start drawing up their wishlists.
- 2018/137 Noticeboard, Upper Town** – the clerk had details of three possible noticeboards to replace the broken one at Upper Town. It was agreed to purchase an aluminium post mounted one, 12 x A4 size, from the Noticeboard company, at a cost of £654 (plus VAT). An application for £500 was submitted to the District council locality fund.
- 2018/138 Planning applications** – Grange Farm: DC/18/05059 erection of two bay cartlodge - planning permission granted.
DC/18/03390 White House Farm – conversion of existing barns to farm dwelling. It was agreed to ask for an extension to this to give councillors time to discuss it at the next meeting.
- 2018/139 Correspondence** – Babergh and Mid Suffolk Communities Strategy – circulated, deadline 1 March. This will be on the February agenda; Haughley Neighbourhood Plan consultation – circulated, 6 March deadline. This will be on the February agenda; The Voluntary Network report and funding request; CAB consultation; new guidance issued by SCC regarding riparian ownership.

Next meeting Monday 18 February.

