

Draft until signed

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 May 2019 in the village hall

- Present: Cllrs Chris Harcourt, Duncan Perry, Stephanie Hensley
Jen Larner – Clerk, District Cllr Rachel Eburne
- 2019/1 **Election of Chairman** – it was proposed by Cllr Duncan Perry, seconded by Cllr Stephanie Hensley, that Cllr Chris Harcourt be elected Chair.
- 2019/2 **Acceptance of Office of Chairman** – this was signed and witnessed by the proper officer.
- 2019/3 **Election of Vice-Chairman** – it was proposed by Cllr Chris Harcourt and seconded by Cllr Duncan Perry that Cllr Stephanie Hensley be elected vice chair.
- 2019/4 **Apologies for absence** – District Cllr Keith Welham
- 2019/5 **Declarations of interest** – none
- 2019/6 **Minutes of Parish Council meeting** – the Parish Council meeting minutes of 18 March 2019 were signed as a true record.
- 2019/7 **District Cllr Rachel Eburne's report** – no report as too soon after the elections. Rachel, and Keith Welham, were congratulated on being returned to office. Rachel reported that there is now a 5.26 year housing plan. If the joint local plan is approved in June, this will mean better preparation for the housing that local residents want.
- 2019/8 **Co-option** – there are 4 vacancies on the council, so co-option to fill these is crucial. Cllrs were asked to make efforts to approach people with a view to joining.
- 2019/9 **Clerk's report** – it was reported that, with only 18 forms returned, there had been a resounding degree of indifference to the CIL questionnaire circulated in the village and discussion took place regarding the best way forward on this. The projects that came out top were improvements to the infrastructure of the village hall to prolong its life, disability access to the common and playing field and installing solar panels on the village hall and pavilion to move towards a greener village. Other comments and suggestions had been received, some of which are not allowable under the CIL criteria.
- 2019/10 **Meeting schedule for coming year** – the following dates had been circulated and were provisionally agreed: 10 June, 15 July, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December 2019, 20 January, 17 February, 16 March, 20 April (Annual parish meeting), 18 May (Annual meeting).
- 2019/11 **Finance** – The clerk's finance report ending March 2019 was approved, with the end of year balance being £32301. Internal audit will take place on Friday 24 May.
- 2019/12 The following payments were authorised: Dianne Batten £92.24 (March), £98.12 (April); Clerk's salary £312.31 (March), £468.47 (April, including holiday pay); Clerk's expenses £80 (includes annual sum for working from home); SALC sub £251.10; Vertas £233.28; Wave £13.19; Paul Sutton (strimmer petrol) £10.00. The following receipts were noted: precept £6455.50; CIL £1257.78.
- 2019/13 **Work on playground and common** – a request had been received from a resident asking if she can put a large tub of flowers on the green by Kate's Lane. She is willing to maintain this. This was agreed. Discussion took place regarding the posts on this triangular land. Cllr Chris Harcourt will investigate their state, and see if it's something that the community payback team can tackle. It was noted that a grass snake has been seen on the common – a sign that the work carried out there is on the right track. A member of the public had reported that the chain bridge on the playing field is dangerous and needs removing. Cllr Duncan Perry had examined it and reported that there is a loose post which needs mending/replacing.

- The clerk is following up contacts for having a playground inspection this year.
- 2019/14 **Assets of community value** – nomination forms have been submitted by the clerk on the village pub and the village hall. These have not been accepted for listing, as information is needed on the current use, and on how likely it would be for the community to bid for the asset should it be necessary. Cllr Stephanie Hensley has spoken to the Townlands Trust regarding listing the allotments also. This will be followed up at a future meeting.
- 2019/15 **Charities in the village** – at the Annual Parish meeting, a request was made that a meeting is held for the various charities/trusts to consider the way forward. Cllr Stephanie Hensley agreed to make contact with the various trustees.
- 2019/16 **Crawford Educational Trust** – a new trustee is needed for this. A couple of names were mentioned as possible, and the clerk will follow these up.
- 2019/17 **Planning applications and decisions** – DC/19/02006 Batts Farm, Base Green, erection of 30 holiday lodges. This was objected to on the grounds of bad visibility splay, dangerous and inappropriate access, too many lodges and too crowded, no sufficient evidence of economic benefit to the village to warrant this planning application being granted.
DC/19/01964 Pulham Cottage, Elmswell Road. Erection of garden store. No objections raised.
DC/19/00434 land adjacent Dragonfly Barn, Elmswell Road – erection of dwelling with garage. Planning permission granted.
SCC/0022/19MS Lawn Farm quarry – erection of new modular office. Granted.
- 2019/18 **Correspondence** – SARS information and funding request; rural coffee caravan event 24 May at Needham Market; Townlands trust letter asking for our support for their CIL bid for resurfacing the car park opposite the Maypole – agreed.
- 2019/19 **Urgent matters** – need for someone to co-ordinate community payback team – Cllr Stephanie Hensley agreed to be the contact, with Cllrs Duncan Perry and Chris Harcourt willing to help at the weekends.
- 2019/20 **Motion to exclude temporarily the public and press – to discuss appointment of new clerk.** One person had been interviewed, and another will be interviewed next week before a decision is made regarding appointment.

Next meeting MONDAY 10 June 2019 at 7.30pm at the village hall.

Jen Larner, Clerk
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