DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31st July 2023** Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Andy Lewis, Cllr Richard Thurman,

Christine Mason (Clerk), District Cllrs Rachel Eburne, Janet Pearson.

County Cllr Andrew Stringer and two members of the public

2023/19 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Stacey Lascelles, Cllr Stephanie Hensley

2023/20 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

2023/21 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Monday 12th June 2023 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2023/22 **District Councillor Rachel Eburne’s report**

Report was previously circulated, and contents noted. Key issues included the launch by National Grid of its latest public consultation on plans for a new high voltage line across East Anglia, including Mid Suffolk & Babergh; the Greenhouse Gas Emissions report for 2021/22 has been issued; a grant of £300k has been awarded from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles to install 28 new 22kw EV charging points in several carparks including those in Stowmarket. Questions were invited.

2023/23 **County Councillor Andrew Stringer’s report**

Previously circulated and contents noted. Topics included issues facing Wetherden and Haughley New Street on highway traffic matters and the recent meeting held with Highways England and Bacton Transport to discuss how they might improve the situation. Advice from the SCC team is to report poor driver behaviour or any wide loads directly to the Police as they are the authority sanctioning these inappropriate sized vehicles using the narrow country lanes. It was noted that due to school holidays, the volume of traffic coming through the village has considerable decreased, thereby indicating the vast majority of those coming through are builder’s trucks. To encourage drivers to slow to a more appropriate safer speed, a motion proposed to make it easier for communities to lower speed limits on rural roads was voted down by the SCC administration.

2023/24 **Public Participation**

Points raised related to Agmax having again been served a breach of conditions notice; street lights still on at 1.30am (SCC to be advised); clarification for location of footbridge (between the end of the football pitch and Park View); lack of contact details for the parish council and website on the notice boards; although ratified, wording ‘draft’ remains on minutes posted online; minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting (minutes are confirmed at the following year’s APM not at the next Parish Council meeting); tennis court requires a new net (concerns of lack of use have been expressed by the Tennis Club), parking on grass verge in Park Road and the possibility of reinstalling b/w markers (Cllr Perry to speak to The Maypole to see whether an informal notice can be displayed regarding parking).

Items for Cllr Stringer included broken / missing. footpath signs, blocked drains causing flooding in parts of the village.

2023/25 **Clerk’s report**

A request from the Football Club to cut back the hedge encroaching the pitch; not to be carried out during the nesting season. Emailed the Haughley clerk to ascertain whether the parish council are happy for Wetherden to send a joint letter to Highways concerning large lorries coming through both villages; deferred at present due to work being progressed by Cllr Stringer.

2023/26 **Finance**

The finance report for the month ending July 2023 was agreed and payments as per the schedule were approved.

**Expenditure**

PWLB 475.37

Anglian Water 19.29

HMRC 26.80

Clerk’s salary 431.20

Litter picker 93.78

Trevor Brown 213.49

Vertas Group 307.01

AJGIB Insurance 127.32

Clerk’s salary 427.00

E-on 49.39

**Income**

HMRC vat return 9724.41

2023/27 **To consider records relating to the right of access at the rear of the play park track**

Documents relating to the right of access to the rear of the play park track were given to the Parish Council by Richard Cooke. To be progressed.

2023/28 **To receive any planning applications validated since the last meeting**

DC/23/02838:Conversion of 2 No. agricultural buildings to form 3No dwellings. Location: Progress Farm, Base Green Road, Wetherden, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3LR

No further comments to be made.

2023/29 **Rotten bridge and handrail update**

Owing to nesting birds/wasps/wildlife etc. all work to be carried out in the Autumn. Presently, two sleepers wide but will be extended to four. A suitable handrail to be bolted in place.

2023/30 **Oversized / Wide loads coming through the village update**

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

2023/31 **Quiet Lanes update**

Signage is up. Additional signs at a few points would be advantageous. Cllr Hensley to pursue if proven useful.

2023/32 **Zero carbon by 2050**

A meeting is scheduled to be held between Cllr Eburne, Cllr Perry, and Alex Jarrett to further discuss the practicalities of installing an EVC point within Townlands car park. Discussions to be ongoing.

2023/33 **To consider common/playing field/projects and concerns**

No further issues at the play park. Richard Hartley to be asked to cut back the left-hand side of the bank in the Autumn.

2023/34 **Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the council**

None.

2023/35 **Date of next meeting**

Agreed asMonday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.