WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th October 2023** Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Andy Lewis, Cllr Richard Thurman,

Cllr Stephanie Hensley

District Cllrs Rachel Eburne, Janet Pearson, County Cllr Andrew Stringer and

six members of the public

2023/55 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Stacey Lascelles

2023/56 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

2023/57 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 11th September 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2023/58 **District Councillor Rachel Eburne’s report**

Cllr Eburne’s report was previously circulated and noted. A notice ‘Shaping the future of our District’s Corporate Plan’ to be posted on social media, survey must be completed by 15th November, Cllr Hensley to action. It was confirmed to Cllr Eburne that an application for a locality budget grant of £1000 towards CCTV at the playing fields would be forthcoming. Quotations to be sought.

**County Councillor Cllr Stringer’s report**

County Cllr Stringer’s report was previously circulated and noted. With schools in the area being affected, Councillors attended the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee to question council officers from the Schools Infrastructure team about RAAC; the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service current joint control centre with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire has gone into liquidation and for the safety of residents will be bought back to Suffolk by the end of 2024; to create a dropped kerb at the Old School Building, permission has been given for two of the kerbs to be taken out; following numerous road accidents near the Church, SCC officers have looked at what safety improvements can be made, reinstatement of all white lines, permanent 20mph signage were recommended options. Considering the recent floods, any SCC owned infrastructure in terms of drainage that do not work, need to be reported to either SCC or to Cllr Stringer. Regrettably, the river flood warning system did not work as only river water run-off is recognised and not field water.

2023/59 **Public Participation**

Matters raised included three blocked drains that have been reported but no action has been taken; the street light near to the Maypole pub does not go off at the centrally programmed time, Cllr Lewis to check, for easier reporting, Cllr Perry to ascertain whether there is a number on the pole; broken footpath signs have not been replaced but have been taken down from the reporting system, to be reposted, Cllr Stringer to be sent the report number; owing to the flood lights on the playing field considered to being intrusive, a question was asked whether the parish council had approved their installation, and if so what were the terms & conditions. In response, the Chairman said approval had been given as the lights are used by the Youth Football Club to assist evening training up to 8.30pm and are positioned in such a way not to shine into the back of any properties. Alternative sites were considered but with the electric power being run from the Pavilion and potential child protection issues, having them further

away would prove problematic; the need to put up a notice regarding ‘dogs on leads’ on the playing field, for a trial period only Cllr Perry to action. It will be made clear, however, the Youth Football Team will be providing general feedback for those people who are incapable of clearing up after their own dogs.

2023/60 **Clerk’s report**

Nothing further to add. For future consideration, a brochure providing outside gym equipment for adults was circulated.

2023/61 **Finance report and authorisation of payments**

a)The finance report was agreed and payments as per the schedule were approved.

**Expenditure**

Grant to newsletter 150.00

Clerk’s salary 427.00

HMRC 52.80

A Jarrett 28.00

CAS website subscription 60.00

Litter picker’s salary 57.31

SALC payroll 54.00

**Income**

Precept 6445.00

Pitch hire 125.00

Pride in Your Place grant 250.00

2023/62 **Website upgrade**

Following the recommendation of the internal auditor to upgrade the Wetherden Parish Council website, it was agreed a quotation from Suffolk Cloud be sought, the clerk to action. An agenda item at the next meeting.

2023/63 **Townlands Trust Car Park & CIL bid update**

With the A14 J47a to J49 Project Team having donated a new lining machine and paint to Haughley United Youth Football Club to remark their football pitch, it was suggested they may be able to help with the Townlands Car Park project. Contact details to be passed to Cllr Perry. Community Payback Scheme also to be contacted.

2023/64 **To receive any planning applications validated since the last meeting** DC/23/04563: Proposal: Full Planning Application - Erection of 2No. single storey residential dwellings with garages and new vehicular access (following infill of existing swimming pool) Location: The Willows, Park Road, Wetherden, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3JS Comment: Object. 2023/65 **Pride in your place grant** The grant of £250 has been received and will be used for signage cleaning, litter picking and support towards the weeding at the Townlands Garden. 2023/66 **Traffic issues resulting from the A14 roadworks update** After an assurance from the Highways Team that new 20mph road signage will be in place by Sunday evening, this has not happened. A further email received today confirms the signs will be in place this evening. To reflect the change in the new speed limit, the parish council speed indicator device has been altered. Following concerns expressed by residents, Highways have been requested to remove any irrelevant signage within the village.

2023/67 **Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations** Noted. 2023/68 **Joint meeting with other councils’ update** No further update, a reminder to be sent to the Chair of Haughley Parish Council. 2023/69 **Zero Carbon by 2050 – Standing Item** Ongoing discussions with Alex Jarrett in relation to the Townlands Car Park. 2023/70 **To consider common /playing field/project and concerns** Richard Hartley to be contacted a) to strim the whole section alongside the football pitch between the pitch and the footpath b) Strim the children’s play area on a regular basis and add to current schedule. Quotation required for strimming the bank down to the football pitch/footpath. 2023/71 **Date of next meeting**: Confirmed as 27th November 2023 at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm