

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023

- Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Andy Lewis, Cllr Richard Thurman
Christine Mason (Clerk), District Cllr Rachel Eburne, County Cllr Andrew Stringer and four members of the public
- 2023/72 **Apologies for absence**
Cllr Stephanie Hensley, Cllr Stacey Lascelles, District Cllr Janet Pearson
- 2023/73 **Declarations of Interest**
None declared.
- 2023/74 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**
The minutes of the meeting of Monday 23rd October 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 2023/75 **District Councillor Rachel Eburne's report**
Following Storm Babet and Ciaran, SCC is working hard to help residents and businesses in affected homes and businesses; the Cosy homes initiative has been launched with a £2 million fund, eligible households can apply for free energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including rented properties. To understand what is happening locally, MSDC Officers were due to have a 'walk about' in Wetherden but owing to bad weather this has been deferred until next year.
- 2023/76 **County Councillor Andrew Stringer's report**
SCC are continuing giving support to Suffolk Farmers; as the Floods Authority, the Council are working on behalf of the Drainage Board to assist with flooding issues and are currently working through all reports; new footpath signs are gradually being replaced; refresher signs at Rectory Hill have been ordered but not yet installed, Cllr Stringer to chase; potholes reappearing, to continue reporting.
Public Participation
Matters brought to the attention of the parish council included: the covering over the 'No dogs' sign at the playing field, with white tape, Cllr Perry to action; proposed footpath from Wetherden to Elmswell, on MSDC's list but not about to happen as funding needs to come forward; a thank you to SCC for installing some new footpath signs; overgrown hedge on footpath 32 between Kate's Lane and Captain's Lane, ownership of the land/hedge to be identified, in the short-term to be reported on the Highways Reporting Tool; flooding at the bottom of Rectory Hill due to blocked drains will be covered when MSDC Officers are taken around the area; Haughley Youth FC have taken down the old goals and at their own expense have replaced them with new mobile goals. Cllr Perry to speak with Stowmarket United concerning the clearing up of the clubhouse and pitch after their matches.
- 2023/77 **Clerk's report**
Covered within the agenda. No other matters to report.
- 2023/78 **To receive finance reports and authorise payments**
a) The finance report was agreed and payments as per the schedule were approved. Bank balance as of 21st November 2023 stands at £27,381.89.

Expenditure

E-On	105.71
Vertas	307.01
Litter picker	57.31

Income

MSDC cleansing grant	406.38
Stowmkt part pitch hire fee	100.00

b) To set the precept for the financial year 2024-2025

The precept for the financial year 2024-2025 to be kept the same as the previous year and set as £12,890. This equates to a decrease of -0.87%. This figure will be shown on the council tax bill.

c) The quotation of £250 received from Hartley's Garden Services to trim the bank between the football pitch and pathway, including ditch, brush and brambles was accepted.

2023/79

Website upgrade

Following the recommendation of the internal auditor, the quotation received from Suffolk Cloud to set up a template and transfer the content of the existing website, one off cost of £200, annual hosting and support £120, maintain website uploading minutes, agendas, and associated documents £120 per year, cost of domain name and mailboxes to be confirmed - unanimously approved.

2023/80

Townlands Trust car park/garden update

A lot of weeding, clearing, and replanting in some areas has been carried out at the Townlands Garden; National Highways have surveyed the car park to see if they can provide assistance to resurface the car park. Cllr Perry to follow up.

2023/81

To receive any planning applications validated since the last meeting

Application Reference: DC/23/04563

Proposal & Location of Development:

Full Planning Application - Erection of 2No. single storey residential dwellings with garages and new vehicular access (following infill of existing swimming pool) The Willows, Park Road, Wetherden, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3JS

Mid Suffolk District Council as Local Planning Authority, hereby give notice that PLANNING PERMISSION HAS BEEN REFUSED for the development proposed in the application.

2023/82

Update on traffic issues resulting from the A14 roadworks

Still unchanged as there is not enough active police presence in the village. Speed indicator devices and 20mph signage are not deterring motorists from speeding. Cllr Perry to be contacted if any further comments are to be added.

2023/83

Zero Carbon by 2050

No further update at present. To be left on the agenda as a standing item.

2023/84

To consider common/playing field/projects and concerns

None.

2023/85

Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the council

None.

2023/86

Date of next meeting

Date agreed as Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7.30pm.