WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023**

Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Andy Lewis, Cllr Richard Thurman

 Christine Mason (Clerk), District Cllr Rachel Eburne, County Cllr Andrew Stringer and three members of the public

2023/92 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Stephanie Hensley, Cllr Stacey Lascelles

2023/93 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

2023/94 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**

 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 21st November 2022 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2023/95 **District Councillor Rachel Eburne’s report**

Report was previously circulated, and contents noted. Key issues included approval by Government for Freepost East, which will cover roughly 45km from the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich including the Gateway site in Stowmarket; Parish Liaison Meeting to be held by MSDC on Tuesday 7th February 1.30 to 3.30pm; planning application at Lawn Farm Business Park considered by MSDC planning and deferred for officers to gain further information on heritage, biodiversity and highway issues; application for 44 new homes at Elmswell at land between Warren Lane and Cresmeadow Way was refused citing concerns relating to increased development in the countryside and issues with Warren Lane itself.

2023/96 **County Councillors Andrew Stringer’s report**

 Report was previously circulated, and contents noted. Main points included the SCC budget, tax to be increased by 3.99% (1.99% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept); speed limit reduction in

 Captains Lane has been assessed by SCC and has concluded that the likelihood of significant traffic generated from new homes in the joint local plan impacting on Captain’s Lane, and absence of any reported accidents on the crash map data, does not justify a change in the speed limit at this present time.

  With Quiet Lanes status pending this may possibly help with speeding. A concern was raised that although recent changes to the speed limit on Elmswell Road to 40mph has been implemented, a new sign has been placed at the junction with Captains Lane indicating the National Speed Limit applies. A complaint relating to the amount of dirt and rubble left on the road from the quarry, coincided with an arranged meeting between Cllr Stringer and the SCC enforcement team to address a continuing issue with inadequate drainage and the inability to locate the edge of the road. A decision needs to be made whether the road is lost for extra traffic or put back to a decent quality.

2032/97 **Public Participation**

 Captains Lane: Matters raised comprised of a head on collision where excess speed was a contributory factor, fly tipping towards Ashfield Road end, hazardous potholes.

 Closure of A14 for the reconstruction of the concrete road between junction 47a Haughley and junction 49 Tothill: Public participation events are to be more robust than previously taken place and will be held on:

 Thursday 26 January, between 1pm and 8pm at St Mary’s church, Rectory Lane, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds IP30 9QP. Friday 27 January, between 1pm and 7pm at The Wesley Chapel, School Road, Elmswell IP30 9EE. Saturday 28 January, between 10am and 4pm at Stowmarket Leisure Centre, Gainsborough Road, Stowmarket IP14 1LH. Information to be posted on Facebook. Cllr Perry to action. 2023/98 **Clerk’s report** Covered within the agenda. No other matters to report. 2023/99 **To receive finance reports and authorise payments** a) The finance report for the month ending 21st December 2022 was unanimously agreed. Payments as listed on the schedule were approved.

 Clerk’s salary + back pay 565.60

 R Tombs - battery 4.95

 Litter bin 418.87

 Litter picker 33.25

 Anglian Water 20.19

 E-on 9.35

 HMRC 104.60

 b) To set the precept for the financial year 2023-2024

 The precept for the financial year was set at £12,890. This equates to a decrease of -1.68%.

2023/100 **To receive any planning applications validated since the last meeting**

Discharge of conditions for DC/22/02896 – Condition 4 (Biodiversity enhancement Layout), Condition 5 (Wildlife Sensitive Design Scheme), Condition 6 (Foul Drainage Scheme) Batts Farm, Base Green, Wetherden, Suffolk, IP14 3LS Information only: Approved by MSDC. 2023/101 **Charities** a) Proposed and seconded that the appointment of Valmay Young as a Trustee for Townlands Trust is approved - all in agreement. b) Unanimously agreed that Cllr Duncan Perry and Cllr Stacey Lascelles be appointed Trustees of the Crawford’s Widows Trust Charity. c) Cllr Perry to file the Annual Return with the Charity Commission. Bank mandate to be changed to reflect the appointment of new Trustees. Advice to be sought from Cllr Eburne regarding the amalgamation of all Wetherden charities. 2023/102 **Rotten footbridge & handrail** Needs completely reinstating. A quotation to be sought. 2023/103 **Speed limit on Captains Lane** Discussed fully earlier in the meeting. 2023/104 **SID co-ordinator/ hand over/helpers** Cllr Duncan Perry and Cllr Andrew Lewis have taken over the role temporarily from Roger Tombs. DP to take over lap top/produce information, AL to have charge of the equipment/charge batteries. A vote of thanks was given to RT for the work he has undertaken over the last few years.

2023/105 **HGV issues** A lorry watch scheme was put in place by Cllr Perry but owing to only one volunteer, the scheme was not able to be pursued. To be re-publicised. 2023/106 **To discuss correspondence received from Bacton Transport** A letter of support to review the speed limit along the A45 from junction 21a off the A14 to be sent to Bacton Transport. Additionally, the Parish Council would like their support for an additional entry point onto the A14. 2023/107 **New play equipment update** Order being processed by Kompan, a pre-start meeting arranged for 1st February, volunteers required to help clear the site prior to the works being undertaken i.e hedging trimmed, bench and two small trees removed. The Wetherden School Charity have previously offered financial support of £6000, full details and costings have been sent to the Trustees. Expectations are the new play equipment will be in place by Spring. 2023/108 **Zero Carbon by 2050** Although funding is available, the VHMC do not plan to install Electric Vehicle Points at the village hall. A second conversation to be had with the committee. Townlands would be interested, but the car park has no power and would need resurfacing. 2023/109 **To consider common/playing field/projects and concerns** A water leak from the main pipe at the Pavilion has been fixed, other works to be carried out in early Spring. Locations were identified that could benefit from a dog poo bin. Prices to be sought. 2023/110 **Correspondence** Forwarded as and when received. 2023/111 **Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Council** None.

2023/112 **Date of next meeting** Agreed as Monday 20th March 2023 at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.