DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September 2023** Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Andy Lewis, Cllr Richard Thurman,

Cllr Stacey Lascelles

District Cllr Rachel Eburne, County Cllr Andrew Stringer and ten members of

the public

2023/36 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Stephanie Hensley, District Cllr Janet Pearson, Christine Mason (Clerk)

2023/37 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

2023/38 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 31st July 2023 were approved and will be signed later by the Chairman as a true record.

2023/39 **District Councillor Rachel Eburne’s report**

Report was previously circulated, and contents noted. Main topics included the Pride in Your Place Grant, already in hand, the free Suffolk Tree & Hedgerow Packs which are ready to order on the Suffolk Tree Warden Network website,

MSDC are open to receiving a CIL bid for improvements to the Townlands car park, the proposal would need to include the provision of a firm surface, line-drawn spaces, disabled and EV parking spaces and EV charging points. Questions were invited.

2023/40 **County Councillor Andrew Stringer’s report**

Deferred until later in the meeting.

2023/41 **Public Participation**

The Parish Council were thanked for their donation towards the garden maintenance work at the Townlands car park; a request from the PCC for a member of the parish council to lay a wreath on behalf of the villages on Remembrance Day; lorries using Warren Hill Lane due to building works and the need for passing places; bollards on verges in Park Road; HGV’s consistently breaking the law by coming through the village, photos to Cllr Perry for forwarding onto Suffolk County Council and to National Highways; high speeding vehicles. Key other elements focused on traffic issues resulting from the A14 roadworks and the need for additional permanent traffic calming measures. A number of solutions were put forward including flat top road humps, entrance gates, temporary speed restrictions i.e. 20mph limit from Haughley New Street through Wetherden and Elmswell, imposing a 7.5-ton weight restriction. Feedback to be sent to Vanessa Adu, Senior Social Value Manager for the major contractor on the A14 Concrete Roads Scheme, their response will be reported back at the next parish council meeting. Other matters included revised football contracts, floodlights, and the underuse of the tennis courts.

Following the receipt of a grant, the Parish Council approved a request from the Youth Football Team to replace the current set of goals on the adult pitch with new full size movable goals.

2023/42 **Clerk’s report**

No additional matters to report.

2023/43 **Finance report and authorisation of payments**

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

**Expenditure**

Litter picker 72.94

Hartley’s Garden Service 500.00

Clerk’s salary 427.00

MSDC 138.24

Litter picker 80.75

Townlands Trust 720.00

Anglian Water 26.41

**Income**

MSDC cleansing grant 406.38

b) The internal audit report for 2022-2023 was unanimously accepted. The only recommendation was that the parish council should consider upgrading the website. The clerk to review.

c) A donation of £720 to Townlands Trust for garden maintenance was approved.

2023/44 **Townlands Trust car park and CIL bid**

A meeting has been held to look at favourable options going forward. To progress a CIL bid, a proposal needs to be put together for electric charging points on the Townlands car park, this in turn, would support an application to have the car park surface properly laid. The parish council are fully supportive of the project – all in agreement. Costs for resurfacing the car park/ EV points / power to be obtained. Further conversation outside of the meeting. Cllr Perry to take the lead.

2023/45 **To receive any planning applications validated since the last meeting**

Decision notice relating to planning application – DC/23/03828  
Alteration to the permitted garages for Plots 1 and 2 and changes to the hard landscaping to improve appearance.

Warren Mill House, Elmswell Riad, Wetherden, IP14 3LL

Amendment details approved.

2023/46 **Pride in Your Place Grant**

Application form to be completed and returned to MSDC, the clerk to action.

2023/47 **Teams meeting with Highways England and Suffolk County Council**

Discussed in public participation.

2023/48 **Joint meeting with other local parish councils**

To consider matters of local interest, the Chairman of Haughley Parish Council has suggested a joint meeting with other local parishes ought to be held. Top priority traffic, followed by traffic calming, road signage, community events etc.

2023/49 **Parking on grass verge update**

Discussed in public participation

2023/50 **Zero Carbon by 2050**

Nothing further to report other than the parish council are pushing forward with the electric charging points at the car park.

2023/51 **To consider common/playing field/projects and concerns**

Other than football contracts being updated to reflect concerns about litter being left behind after matches, no other matters were brought to the attention of the meeting.

2023/52 **Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the council**

None.

2023/53 **County Councillor Andrew Stringer’s report**

Noted.

2023/54 **Date of next meeting**

Confirmed asMonday 23rd October 2023 at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at circa 8.52pm.