

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th July 2024

- Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Richard Thurman, Cllr Andy Lewis, Cllr Stacey Lascelles, County Cllr Andrew Stringer, Cllr Rachel Eburne, Christine Mason (Clerk) and four members of the public
- 2024/17 **Apologies for absence**
Cllr Stephanie Hensley, Cllr Janet Pearson.
- 2024/18 **Declarations of Interest**
None declared.
- 2024/19 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**
The minutes of the Annual meeting of Monday 13th May 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 2024/20 Prior to the County & District reports, the Chairman congratulated Adrian Ramsey on his appointment as the Green Party MP for the new constituency of Waveney Valley.
County Councillor Andrew Stringer's Report
Topics included the council's priority action plan to improve SEND services; Suffolk County Council's new initiative for foresting under the banner Foster along with ten other councils in the region; meeting regarding Lawn Quarry is still due to be heard in August, once confirmed the PC to be advised, awaiting a date of a site visit; there are to be Government changes in the planning regime, a list of changes in legislation to be made available at the next meeting.
East drains
Comments from Cllr Perry relating to the Quarry Pit included blocked drains owing to mud coming off the lorries entering and exiting the site, insufficient wheel washing facilities, damaged vehicles due to debris on the road, planning conditions not being enforced, predominantly wheel washing. Cllr Stringer reiterated the need to continue reporting all issues on the SCC reporting tool.
- 2024/21 **District Councillor's Rachel Eburne's Report**
A meeting between the new MP and Parish Councils is to be arranged; applications for this year's Locality Awards grants are now open for any community group or organisations; response to the statutory consultation for the Norwich to Tilbury National Strategy Infrastructure Project.
- 2024/22 **Public Participation**
A member of the public spoke about the ineffectiveness of the road sweeping machine used to clear mud along the road from Lawn Farm Quarry; potholes at Park Road - reported to SCC by Cllr Stringer at the meeting and the Willows Park Road planning appeal - not likely to be heard for at least six months.
- 2024/23 **Clerk's Report**
Audit completed, to be considered in agenda item 7. No additional matters to report.
- 2024/24 **To receive finance reports and authorise payments**
The finance report was agreed and payments as per the schedule were approved. Bank balance as of 10th July 2024 stands at £23,654.93.

Expenditure

MSDC Play inspection	63.78
Clerk's salary May	434.90
Hall hire	60.00
Anglian Water	25.73
Clerk's salary June	434.90
HMRC	71.00
MSDC	388.15
Donation to Townlands Trust	720.00
Litter picker June	102.96
PWLB	475.37
Litter picker July	102.96
Defibrillator pada	88.40

Income

Cleansing grant	406.38
Suffolk Cloud over payment	40.00

In relation to the purchase of defibrillator pads, these when checked by Cllr Perry were found to be in need of replacement. Additionally, the lock to open the box is jammed and a replacement cabinet will need to be purchased, approximate cost £550.

To approve the internal auditors report for 2023-2024

With only very minor issues brought to the attention of the parish council, the internal auditor's report was unanimously approved.

2024/25

Planning applications validated since the last meeting

to DC/24/02264 Construction of first floor and ground floor extension (attached cart lodge approved under DC/20/02279).

No comment.

2024/26

Speeding data/Laptop upgrade

Regarding the upgrade of the council owned laptop, Cllr Eburne pointed out that if a new SID is purchased, it will automatically download data as a report straight to a phone. Concerning the recent positioning of an ANPR camera in the village, a member of the public has asked why residents were not informed prior to it being sited – as a Suffolk County Council initiative to deter speeding, no advance notification is given.

2024/27

To consider the purchase of a solar powered Speed Indicator Device

With quotations received between £5000 and £4000 + the cost of a post, the Clerk to contact Stowupland Parish Council for details of their recent SID purchase before any decision is made. To be considered at the next meeting.

2024/28

Defibrillator

Heard within agenda item 2024/24 Finance.

2024/29

Timber repairs at the play area

within Stowupland groups are to Information to Facebook and the play inspection report. Recommended contractors to be sought, PC and West Suffolk Council to be contacted for advice. Volunteer be set up to help keep certain areas in the village clean and tidy. be posted on the notice boards, Haughley village newsletter, website.

- 2024/30 **Village Hall and Townlands car parks resurfacing update**
Townlands car park has already been resurfaced for the May Day Fayre. It was hoped when the A14 was finished, that Highways Team would tarmac the area,
Presently, dealing with representatives from the EVC project who are looking for suitable locations around the area to install EVC points.
The Village Hall car park has been resurfaced, proper drainage put in and hard core laid by volunteers from Haughley Youth Football Club. A further 60 tons of free planings are to be delivered by Highways, anticipated completion end of August.
- 2024/31 **To consider an updated youth football club contract**
An updated contract is being progressed with Haughley Youth Football Club.
- 2024/32 **To consider common/playing field/projects and concerns**
Richard Hartley is to be contacted to trim all areas surrounding the playing field, play area and tennis courts. An enquiry has been made to put in a pickleball court – passed onto the tennis club committee.
- 2024/33 **Urgent matters to the brought to the attention of the council**
Owing to the effects of long term covid, the local rector who has been in position for eighteen months, will no longer be able to continue and will be retiring.
- 2024/34 **Date of next meeting**
Monday 16th September 2024.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.