

# WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Richard Thurman, Cllr Andy Lewis, Cllr Stacey Lascelles,  
County Cllr Andrew Stringer, District Cllrs Rachel Eburne, Cllr Janet Pearson and six members of the public

- 2024/35     **Apologies for absence**  
Cllr Stephanie Hensley, Christine Mason (Clerk)
- 2024/36     **Declarations of Interest**  
None declared.
- 2024/37     **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**  
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were approved and will be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.
- 2024/38     **District Councillor Rachel Eburne's Report**  
Topics included the £1.5 million approved funding for the Stowmarket town centre regeneration that has been created from investment in the Gateway 14 business park; cost of living support for those most in need; the new waste collection service including proposals to include weekly food collections from 2025; the consultation with residents to find out more about their thoughts and ideas on how the area should be developed; applications are open for this year's Locality Awards.
- 2024/39     **County Councillor Andrew Stringer's Report**  
The site visit for the quarry planning application has been postponed until 18<sup>th</sup> October; the Ofsted report of Children's Social Care has been published and has found that the service 'requires improvement to be good'; Solar Together Suffolk have launched a group buying scheme where residents can come together to invest in renewable energy sources for solar panels and battery storage. Register free at [www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk](http://www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk).
- 2024/40     **Public Participation**  
Members of the public spoke about posters being blue tacked to the back of the bus shelter, Cllr Perry to remove them and if in date add them to the PC notice board; Haughley Youth Football Club going well, due to heavy rain the Pavilion car park surface needs attention; condition of some roads outside of the village, Cllr Stringer assured the meeting that regular road repairs are ongoing and reiterated the need to continue reporting all issues on the SCC reporting tool; with a healthy population of hedgehogs in Wetherden, a request for hedgehog crossing signage to be positioned from the Playing Field up to School Meadow and beyond, although research has not proven signage to be effective, options to be sourced by the resident; speed reduction both in Elmswell and Wetherden is required, although time has been spent lobbying at all levels, National Highways do not consider this to be a necessary requirement.
- 2024/41     **Clerk's Report**  
No report available.

2024/42

**To receive finance reports and authorise payments**

The finance report was agreed and payments as per the schedule were approved. Bank balance as of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 stands at £23,320.69.

**Expenditure**

Vertas Group	337.70
T Brown Auditor	304.59
Clerks salary July	434.90
E-on	67.91
SALC	54.00
Litter picker	108.68
Hartleys Gd Services	475.00
Clerks salary August	475.46
Litter picker	102.96

**Income**

Cleansing Grant	1784.64
VAT reclaim	242.32

2024/43

**Joint Parish Meeting**

Cllr Lascelles attended the joint parish meeting on behalf of Wetherden Parish Council. Minutes to be available shortly and will be posted on the website. Wetherden to host the next meeting in January.

2024/44

**To consider quotations received for a solar powered Speed Indicator Device**

Moving towards a solar panel speed indicator device rather than the battery model, a quotation has been received from ElanCity for £2500. With further information required i.e latest downloaded data, a decision was deferred until a future meeting.

2024/45

**To obtain quotations for the repairs to the Pavilion**

With two drainpipes currently broken, the entire guttering system to the rear and front of the Pavilion needs replacing. Cllr Perry to obtain a quotation for the work required.

2024/46

**Play area repairs and purchase of new equipment**

Existing play equipment has rot in the uprights and needs removing. A quotation of £17,036.55 plus vat received from Komplan for two new pieces of equipment was considered to be excessive. Cllr Thurman to seek further quotations from alternative companies. At a later date, local charities and MSDC (CIL) to be approached for funding towards the cost.

2024/47

**Village Hall car park resurfacing update**

Dealt with earlier in the meeting. A thank you was given to Tony and his team of helpers for the work undertaken at the car park.

2024/48

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

None.

2024/49

**Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed.

With no further business the meeting ended at 8.20pm

