WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024**

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

County Cllr Andrew Stringer, District Cllr Janet Pearson, Christine Mason (Clerk) and

four members of the public

2024/50 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Stacey Lascelles, District Cllr Rachel Eburne

2024/51 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

2024/52 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 16th September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2024/53 **County Councillor Andrew Stringer’s Report**

Suffolk County Council have announced an extra £1.5m of funding to deliver the first phase of works identified in the flood investigations following Storm Babet. The council is also writing to the government requesting £20m for flood protection to help prevent future flooding in the county. Section 19 reports now published, resources are targeted where most houses are located (5+) and major infrastructure for more than ten hours; Quarry planning application to be determined in December, however, on this occasion SCC have decided not to conduct a site visit and will rely on photographs; AS is opposed to this decision and will lobby hard for it to be amended; proposals by Central Government to create Unitary Councils and in so doing the number of councillors will be greatly reduced; concerns on access to GP’s services with more development in the pipeline.

2024/54 **District Councillor Janet Pearson’s report**

Stowmarket Town Centre Regeneration with further measures by MSDC cabinet for grants to improve the visible appearance of properties in the town centre and for research into the demand for hostel accommodation; consultation on the Local Transport Plan has opened and will close on the 25th November; the Taxibus service, supported by the District Council has been launched, leaflets detailing further information to be posted on the website and notice boards; funding is still available for Locality Awards for this year, applications welcome from eligible groups; the District is continuing the scheme of providing free trees, hedging and wildflower seeds that will deliver benefits to both biodiversity and public.

2024/55 **Public Participation**

A question was raised by a member of the public whether an old oak in the middle of the village and recently pruned back to the boundary was subject to a TPO, confirmed as not having a TPO order; with support, the village hall car park resurface was completed last week, spare planings to be used for topping up.

2024/56 **Clerk’s report**

With three options available from SCC as to how the streetlights work over Christmas and New Year 2025, Councillors agreed to allow the lights to turn off for part of the night as normal. As advised in the Internal Audit report, an Accessibility Statement has been posted on the website**.**

2024/57 **Finance report and to authorise payments**

The finance report was agreed and payments per the schedule were approved. Bank balance as of 15th November stands at £36,138.87.

**Expenditure**

Vertas 337.70

Anglian Water 14.65

PKF Auditors 378.00

Litter Picker 91.36

Clerk’s salary Sept 730.90

SALC 54.00

E-on 15.52

Clerk’s salary Oct 484.30

Litter picker 102.78

Hartleys Gd Services 250.00

I**ncome**

Precept 6445.00

CIL 8482.39

Football Club fee 350.00

2024/58 **To retrospectively approve the quotation received for repairs at the Pavilion**

Materials: To replaceguttering around the Pavilion £425 + vat.

Repairs to the roof with pre galvanised, etched and primed prior to coating sheeting £1105 +vat.

Fitting free but with the stipulation that there might be a slight additional

cost of timber to fix the gutters if found to be past its best.

With a locality budget award of £1800 earmarked for repairs to the Pavilion, it was unanimously agreed that the quotation be approved. 2024/59 **To consider the precept for the financial year 2025/2026**  The setting of the precept for 2025/26 was deferred until the January 2025 meeting.

2024/60 **To consider planning applications received since the last meeting**  a. Re-consultation notification of planning application SCC/0127/23MS at Lawn Farm Quarry, Old Bury Road, Wetherden, Suffolk, IP14 3JU for variation of conditions 1,11,19, 20, 21 22, 24, 25, 30, 36, 53, 54, 56 and 57.

Further comments to add to those submitted in the previous application. Re-negotiation of planning conditions on the following points, wheel wash, frequency of road cleaning, dust, height of bunds.

b. DC/24/05039 Proposed erection of 1no single storey residential dwelling with attached garage and new vehicular access. Location: The Willows, Park Road, Wetherden, Suffolk IP14 3JS Comments agreed following the meeting: The Parish Council do not oppose the updated plans but would like to draw attention to the limited road width outside the proposed driveway. With it being used as on road parking by the adjacent cottages, allotment holders and occasionally users of the playing fields this road width is often limited still further by vehicles legally parked on the opposite roadside.

2024/61 **Purchase of new equipment at the play area**

Deferred to the next meeting.

2024/62 **To sign the 2024/25 Haughley Youth Football Club**

On behalf of Wetherden Parish Council, the contract for 2024/5 was signed by the Chairman Cllr Perry and Haughley Youth Football Club.

2024/63 **Padel Court**

Further information will be available at the next meeting.

2024/64 **To consider common/playing field/projects and concerns**

Townlands car park: A meeting to be arranged with Alex Jarrett to discuss what is needed. No further update concerning the installation of EV charging units at the car park. To be pursued again early next year.

2024/65 **Urgent business**

Concerns were raised by Cllr Lewis that a registration notice received from the Land Registry relating to the land at the rear of his property has the same title number. Cllr Lewis to seek legal advice.

2024/66 **Date of next meeting**

Date agreed as 20th January 2025.

With no further business the meeting ended at 8.25pm