

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th January 2025

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
five members of the public

- 2025/67 **Apologies for absence**
Cllr Stacey Lascelles, District Cllr Rachel Eburne
- 2025/68 **Declarations of Interest**
None declared.
- 2025/69 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 25th November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 2025/70 **County Cllr Andrew Stringer's Report**
Despite planning refusing a recent application for a solar farm on fifty six hectares of land at Stowmarket, this has subsequently been approved by the Planning Inspectorate; the Suffolk Business Board has produced a strategy for the county for the next five years listing areas most important to the Suffolk economy. The plan was approved by Cabinet and will now be finalised by the Suffolk Board on how it will deliver the strategy; SCC have voted and agreed the right to part of the government's priority list to progress Devolution leading to the formation of a single Unitary for both Suffolk and Norfolk with an elected Mayor. County elections due to be held in May this year are to be suspended; the first house on the Broad Road Bacton development has arrived on site, steel framed with bricks already attached and pointed and takes only one week to erect and fit the roof.
Site visit at Lawn Quarry to take place the end of January; following a planning dispute, MSDC have served a breach of conditions notice to Elmswell Services.
- 2025/71 **District Cllr Janet Pearson's report**
Due to the increased number of new houses currently set out in the Joint Local Plan, MSDC have commenced conducting a review of the JLP; following the closure of the Maypole Pub, Council Officers have enquired whether there is anything they can do to help. Cllr Perry asked it to be minuted that Pixie and Jarryd had made a big difference to the village community during their tenure of the pub. Cllr Pearson to contact Biffa to take away the full bins. Other points raised included the additional planning requests to extend the Lawn Farm Industrial Estate with the prospect of trucks running overnight; following a planning review another call for sites will most likely go ahead.
- 2025/72 **Public Participation**
Matters raised involved the need for the rubbish at the Maypole to be cleared as well as empty beer kegs - in hand; reduction of speed limits in areas in the village prone to speeding – considered unnecessary by Highways; planning conditions not being met by the Elmswell filling station – alternative legal avenues are being discussed; with trucks driving down Park Road it was

suggested a one way system could should be pursued – this option will not be acceptable to SCC; lorry watch – with no public willing to volunteer, the scheme was unable to be progressed.

2025/73

Clerk's report

Nothing further to report.

2025/74

Finance report and to authorise payments

The finance report was agreed and payments per the schedule were approved. Bank balance as of 7th January 2025 stands at £34,378.24

Expenditure

Public Works Loan Board	475.37
Clerk's salary + bk pay	585.78
Litter picker	119.91
Anglian Water	26.03
HMRC	18.00
Clerk's salary December	425.75
Litter picker	102.78
Land registry reimbursement	7.00

b. It was unanimously approved that the sum of two thousand pounds be given to the village hall to support their donation to the contractor for improvements to the car park. Only rental equipment costs were included as labour was provided free by parents and other members of the football club.

2025/75

To consider the precept for the financial year 2025/2026

Following full and detailed discussion, it was unanimously agreed to set the precept for 2025-2026 as £13,765. This equates to a council tax increase of 3%.

2025/76

To consider planning applications received since the last meeting

DC/24/05039 Re-consultation of DC/24/05039 Erection of 1no single storey residential dwelling with attached garage and new vehicular access. The Willows Park Road Wetherden Stowmarket IP14 3JS. Alterations include widening the drive and increasing the splay.

2025/77

The re-application for the Asset Community Interest listing for the Maypole Pub

The renewal application has been completed and returned to MSDC. The Parish Council will be contacted if successful. Closing date end of February 2025.

2025/78

Purchase of new equipment at the play area

Three further play equipment companies have been approached with two meetings arranged for next week. Once quotations have been received, an application for CIL funding will be made to MSDC. The Joint Parish Council Chairmen to be approached to establish whether they are also looking to purchase new play equipment.

2025/79

Tennis Court / Padel Court – Cllr Hensley

To revive the under used tennis club, costs to clean and resurface the court are to be sought. A new net will also be required. If this proves to be unsuccessful, an alternative purpose for the court will need to be found. For interest only, a new Padel Court will cost in the region of seventy to eighty thousand pounds. Not to be pursued at this present time.

- 2025/80 **To consider common/playing field/projects and concerns**
A lorry has hit two of the wooden posts on the grassed triangle at the end of Rectory Hill. Cllr Perry to arrange repairs.
- 2025/81 **Urgent business**
Towards its running costs, a request for a donation of £200 has been received from Haughly Newsletter – unanimously approved.
Date of the village litter pick agreed as Saturday 22nd March 2025. Meet at the car park at 11am. Cllr Lewis to liaise with Andrew Stringer regarding the collection of black bags, litter pickers, high viz vests.
- 2025/82 **Date of next meeting**
March 24th 2025 at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting ended at 8.25pm