

# WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 January 2018 in the village hall

- Present: Cllrs Sonia Jewers, Chris Harcourt, Paul Sutton  
Jen Larner – Clerk, District Cllr Rachel Eburne, County Cllr Andrew Stringer
- 2018/143 **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs John Bushell, Zoe King, Stephanie Hensley
- 2018/144 **Declarations of interest** – none
- 2018/145 **Minutes of Parish Council meeting** – the Parish Council meeting minutes of 18 December 2017 were signed as a true record.
- 2018/146 **County Cllr Andrew Stringer's report** – this had been circulated. Andrew updated us on SCC's signing of the new Woodland Trust Tree Charter, pilot studies being proposed on plastic recycling and retention of business rates, increased support for the CAB. He was asked about skid warning signs on the road by Aggmax. This was because their wheel wash had been out of action. They have now purchased a road sweeper for such eventualities.
- 2018/147 **District Cllr Rachel Eburne's report** – this had been circulated. Rachel updated us on the Council's signing of the Woodland Trusts Tree charter and plastics recycling scheme, the rise in council tax (by 1/2%), the need to consider what the parish council wants to do with its CIL levy, and the ongoing consultation regarding the proposed merger with Babergh.
- 2018/148 **Clerk's report** – it was noted that the VAS sign has now arrived. It was agreed to ask in the newsletter for volunteers to help move it, charge the battery and download data.
- 2018/149 **Finance** – The clerk's finance report ending December 2017 was approved.
- 2018/150 The following payments were authorised: Dianne Batten £76.54, clerk's salary (including holiday pay) £440.78, Water £20.51, Vehicle Activated Sign £3450.
- 2018/151 **Updates on common/playing field** – it was noted, with thanks, that £700 has been received from Cllr Rachel Eburne's locality budget, towards the costs of restoring the pavilion decking, floor and roof, and providing secure storage for the football club. Cllr Paul Sutton will liaise with the Community Payback team, Bill Bowbrick and others to organise this work. The clerk will make contact with the football club and ask about the storage required. Fifteen sessions have been arranged with the payback team, for various locations around the village. Discussion took place regarding the piles of vegetation left along the river following the Environment Agency work and possible solutions for moving it, and options for planting along the riverbanks which now look a bit bare. The area will be strimmed regularly to prevent nettles.
- 2018/152 **Asset Register** – Cllrs present had checked the assets for which they are responsible, with the exception of the street lights, and reported no problems.
- 2018/153 **A14** – a report back on the meeting to consider the repairs to be carried out on the A14 between Woolpit and Stowmarket was given. This will not be the permanent resurfacing that is needed, but a temporary fix. The work will start on 12 February and is due to be completed by 4 March, with traffic being diverted through Haughley and Wetherden. The permanent resurfacing MAY be included in the 2020-25 budget. Anger was expressed at the cost, disruption and short notice of this work and the following actions were agreed:
- request that people lobby MP Jo Churchill, and businesses the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, to stress the need for permanent resurfacing and for it to be included in the 2020-25 Highways England budget as a matter of urgency
  - ask if anyone is keen to be involved in an ongoing lobbying/campaign group to maintain the pressure for the resurfacing
  - write to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking how speed restrictions

through the village. and the weight restriction on Warren Lane, will be enforced, (clerk to do)

- take photos of the current state of the roads and verges/junctions before work starts (Cllrs Sonia Jewers and Paul Sutton to do)
- Cllr Sonia Jewers to email Service Delivery Manager at Highways England regarding the current volume of traffic on the A14 on that stretch at the time of the road closures (8pm to 6am)
- proposed village facebook site to be set up before work starts so people can report issues and be kept informed (Cllr Stephanie Hensley)

Thanks were given to Cllrs Rachel Eburne and Andrew Stringer for asking good questions at the meeting, and keeping up the pressure on Highways England.

2018/154

**Planning applications and decisions** – DC/17/05922. 4 Church Walk. Retention of single storey outbuilding. No objection raised.

2018/155

DC/17/05179 Wetherden Hall, Base Green. Planning permission granted.

**Correspondence** – Information on new data protection regulations coming in May 2018; Sovereign playgrounds offering free quote and 3D design valid for a year on new playground equipment.

2018/156

**Urgent matters to be brought to council's attention** – Clerk's appraisal. This had been carried out by Cllrs Sonia Jewers and Chris Harcourt, and it was agreed to raise the clerk's salary to scp 25, with effect from 1 April 2018.

Next meeting MONDAY 12 February 2018 at 7.30pm at the village hall.

Jen Larner, Clerk

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