

Draft until signed

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 June 2018 in the village hall

- Present: Cllrs Chris Harcourt, Stephanie Hensley, Paul Sutton
Jen Larner – Clerk, County Cllr Andrew Stringer, District Cllr Rachel Eburne
One member of the public
- 2018/24 **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Duncan Perry, John Bushell
- 2018/25 **Election of vice-chair** – nominated by Cllr Chris Harcourt, seconded by Cllr Paul Sutton, Cllr Stephanie Hensley was duly appointed Vice Chair with Cllr Paul Sutton to deputise if she is away.
- 2018/26 **Resignation of Sonia Jewers** – the resignation of Sonia Jewers had been received by the clerk. Sonia was warmly thanked for her hard work and commitment to the parish council.
- 2018/27 **Declarations of interest** – none
- 2018/28 **Minutes of Parish Council meeting** – the Parish Council meeting minutes of 21 May 2018 were signed as a true record.
- 2018/29 **County Cllr Andrew Stringer's report** – this had been circulated. Andrew updated us on the school transport discussions and Aggmax.
- 2018/30 **District Cllr Rachel Eburne's report** – this had been circulated. Rachel updated us on the purchase by MSDC of the former NatWest bank in Stowmarket, for which ideas for use are sought. The Haughley neighbourhood plan is now at pre-submission state. There is a proposal that Mid Suffolk Councillors' allowances will rise significantly.
- 2018/31 **Public participation** – the question was raised regarding Aggmax and its ongoing breach of conditions. Cllr Stephanie Hensley reported back on the last meeting she attended at the site and discussion followed. The question of the resurfacing of the roads through the village, and mending of potholes, was also raised. The clerk will forward the SCC proposed programme of pothole repairs.
- 2018/32 **Co-options to parish council** – there are now two vacancies, one of which can be co-opted. It was agreed to keep up the request for potential councillors by all means (social media, newsletter, word of mouth etc).
- 2018/33 **Clerk's report** – the clerk reported that a member of the public had contacted her to say that the new dog waste bin was being used, and is now full to overflowing. The clerk has asked MSDC to empty it as a matter of urgency, and to add it to the list of bins they empty. The location of the bin was also questioned – whether it would be better either at the Park Road end of the footpath, or at the end of the path by the children's playground.
Dianne Batten has also reported a fire in the litter bin in the playing field, which has damaged the old bin and charred the fence. Cllr Paul Sutton will check this out, removing the bin if necessary and seeing if a new one is needed.
- 2018/34 **Finance** – The clerk's finance report ending May 2018 was approved.
- 2018/35 The following payments were authorised: Dianne Batten £96.16, clerk's salary £312.31, Wave £13.45, Cllr Paul Sutton (expenses) £20.89. The latest PWLB payment of £475.37 went out on 1 June.
Cllr John Bushell may have to miss too many meetings to be an effective cheque signatory, so Cllrs Steph Hensley and Paul Sutton agreed to add their names as cheque signatories. Cllr Duncan Perry will also be asked if willing to add his name.
- 2018/36 **Data protection** – the clerk has put a privacy statement on the website. The document retention policy had been circulated but it was agreed that this, and the data protection policy, would be considered and agreed at the next meeting in July.
- 2018/37 **Consultation on Minerals and Waste plan** – this had been circulated to councillors and was discussed at length. Particular concern was expressed

regarding the toxic cement dust which is blowing over the footpath and could affect neighbouring houses, particularly the ones about to be built which are in very close proximity. It was noted that testing the air quality is difficult as receptors would need to be in residents' gardens or on the footpath and there is no proof that dust is coming from Aggmax. County Councillor Andrew Stringer reported that Aggmax has submitted a new planning application for the existing site, due to two breaches of planning conditions. This means that proper conditions can now be imposed. In terms of the consultation on expansion of the site, it was agreed that the clerk will draft and circulate a response based on the objections of noise, dust, sound, proximity to the new housing. Each councillor is encouraged to make an individual response in addition to the parish council one. The deadline is 23 July.

2018/38

Updates on common/playing field – Cllr Paul Sutton reported that he has now strimmed the triangle of grass opposite the end of Beech Lane. The clerk has approached two contractors to see how much they would charge to maintain this area. The community payback team cannot undertake this as their stringent health and safety regulations mean that they cannot work on a road. He also reported on the state of health of the ash trees around the village, the group around the common causing some concern. He has begun photographing each tree.

Pavilion – a second quote has been received for the repairs to the pavilion roof, involving breathable membrane and metal (as now) with a 30 year guarantee, at a cost of £3150. The third firm approached were not interested in quoting. Cllr Stephanie Hensley has another possible contractor in mind and will email Cllr Paul Sutton with details. It was agreed to go with the cheaper quote, as there is £1900 in reserves, plus the locality money from Cllr Rachel Eburne. Cllr Paul Sutton will talk to Cllr Duncan Perry regarding materials.

Suggested jobs for the community payback team are goalpost painting, shed painting, and oiling of the new memorial bench. The clerk will email Cllr Sutton the maintenance agreement regarding the bench.

2018/39

Planning applications and decisions – DC/18/01465. The Old Rectory, Base Green, conversion of rooms in outbuilding to form 1 bed annexe. Planning permission granted.

DC/18/01474 Ye Old Smithy, erection of 2 storey side extension. Granted.

DC/18/01668 Lyneside, Base Green, erection of bungalow. Granted.

2018/40

Correspondence – SALC – workshop on community energy and neighbourhood planning, 4 July. The details will be circulated to councillors. Celebration of Rural Housing in Suffolk, 4 July at Lavenham. Posters to be put on noticeboards.

2018/41

Urgent matters to be brought to council's attention – a sign has been erected on the Ashfield Road saying 'no access to Mutton Hall'. This is on the verge, which is public land and thus not allowed. The clerk agreed to write and point this out.

An idea was expressed regarding land opposite Little Orchard, to maintain lower undergrowth and hedges for birds and wildlife.

Next meeting Monday 16 July.

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