

Draft until signed

# WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 November 2018 in the village hall

- Present: Cllrs Chris Harcourt, Paul Sutton, Ivan Austin, Stephanie Hensley  
Jen Larner – Clerk, four members of the public
- 2018/100 Apologies for absence** – Cllrs John Bushell, Duncan Perry
- 2018/101 Declarations of interest** – none
- 2018/102 Minutes of Parish Council meeting** – the Parish Council meeting minutes of 15 October 2018 were signed as a true record.
- 2018/103 Public participation** – two volunteers have come forward to help with the Speed Indicator devices – moving them around the village and downloading the data. Huge thanks were expressed to Chris Aldred and Roger Tombs, and Cllr Chris Harcourt will meet them to talk them through the procedure. Discussion took place regarding the increased number of HGVs coming down Park Road and across the crossroads, despite the 7.5 ton weight restriction. The suggestion was made to have an extra sign regarding the weight restriction at the top of Park Road and the clerk will follow this up. Cllr Paul Sutton will check that the existing sign is clear, cutting back the hedge if necessary. Everyone was asked to report this problem on the Suffolk County Council Highways website, preferably with proof (pictures and dates/times). Discussion also took place on the recent resurfacing of the road – a patching job as it is deemed a 'country road' so not fit for a proper surface despite being the official diversion for the recent A14 work. Firework night – it was reported that this was 'chaos' with unsatisfactory parking arrangements and no stewarding. The green on the house opposite the village hall is being eroded by people parking on it during big events at the hall/playing field, such as the football tournament. The clerk will write to James Rand with comments about bonfire night and Haughley junior football club regarding the tournament.
- 2018/104 Crawford Educational Trust** – Richard Cooke gave us an update on the trust, which was founded in 1867 for educational purposes to benefit the children of Wetherden. He reminded us that grants have been made in the past to the parish council for the playing field. He also submitted the latest accounts for both the Wetherden School charity and the Crawford Educational trust, and gave us advance notice that he will not be seeking re-election when his term of service ends in March 2019. The list of Trustees for all the Wetherden charities was updated and circulated.
- 2018/105 Finance report** – the clerk's finance reports ending October 2018 were approved. The following payments were authorised: Dianne Batten £88.31; Clerk October salary £312.31; Clerk October expenses £44.84; Neil Douglas for pavilion floor £75. Payment received was £1000 from Cllr Rachel Eburne's locality budget towards the roof of the pavilion, and £1257.78 Community Infrastructure Levy from the conversion work at Grange Farm. This needs to be spent in this financial year and the expenditure notified to BMSDC.
- 2018/106 Draft budget 2019/20** – the first draft of the 2019/20 budget had been circulated, along with the reserves list. Discussion took place on long term projects that will be needed in the village and whether more should be put in reserves. However there was concern that the budget may then be too high. It was agreed to bring this to the December meeting for further consideration.
- 2018/107 Update on playing field/common projects** – the Clerk had sent a letter to the Wetherden football club and received a response. It is an issue which still needs

resolving and it was agreed to put this on the December agenda and invite the football club to attend and discuss it.

Cllr Paul Sutton reported that the pavilion floor has now been completed but that there is a leaking tap, which, along with the leaking roof, had led to more rot than anticipated. He will get quotes to fix the tap. He will also take the remainder of the tin left from the roof to the recycling centre. The next job is to paint the pavilion inside and out, and this will be carried out by the community payback team. The common is gradually being strimmed, with habitat islands left for the birds over winter. Discussion took place regarding the increase of weeds in the stream following the Environment Agency's clearing of it. Paul reported that this is mostly starwort and wild celery relatives, both of which are beneficial. Mint and watercress have also been spotted, a sign of clean water and good for newts to lay eggs on. He will continue to monitor the situation.

The damage to the pirate ship has been noted.

Paul has compiled a list of the work required in terms of the community payback team. It was agreed that they do a wonderful and worthwhile job and to continue using them. He will draw up the rota for the jobs they will do in 2019, but is requesting that someone else takes over the responsibility from him for administering this from May onwards.

**2018/108 Asset maintenance** – no problems were reported with any of the assets.

**2018/109 Planning applications** – DC/18/04461 White House farm, dwelling and holiday cottages without compliance to condition no 3. No objections raised.  
DC/18/04225 5 Park View, erection of first floor side extension. Planning permission granted.

Appropriate Assessment Consultation Submission draft Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan – no objections raised.

Retrospective application for installation and operation of a concrete batching plant, Lawn Farm quarry. Granted.

**2018/110 Correspondence** – BMSDC draft homes strategy and homelessness reduction strategy consultation now open to 7 December. Friday 30 November Older Persons Fair 10-12 at Needham Market community centre. CAB – Suffolk County Council plan to withdraw all funding, which would affect Mid Suffolk branch to the tune of £40K. CAB thanks for donation sent. Leaflet about Connecting Communities from Suffolk County Council – for noticeboard.

**2018/111 Urgent matters** – it was noted that the telegraph pole opposite the village hall has a black box on it with the door swinging open. The clerk will contact the lighting team at Suffolk County Council.

Next meeting Monday 17 December.

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