

Draft until signed

WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 September 2018 in the village hall

- Present: Cllrs Chris Harcourt, Duncan Perry, Paul Sutton, Stephanie Hensley
Jen Lerner – Clerk, District Cllr Rachel Eburne, County Cllr Andrew Stringer (from 8.15)
Four members of the public
- 2018/68 Apologies for absence** – Cllr John Bushell
- 2018/69 Declarations of interest** – none
- 2018/70 Minutes of Parish Council meeting** – the Parish Council extraordinary meeting minutes of 10 September 2018 were signed as a true record.
- 2018/71 Co-option** – Ivan Austin had expressed his interest in being co-opted. Proposed by Cllr Steph Hensley, seconded by Cllr Chris Harcourt and agreed by all, Ivan was duly co-opted and signed the declaration to accept the office of councillor.
- 2018/72 District Councillor Rachel Eburne's report** – this had been circulated. Rachel updated us on the May elections and ward changes. The new ward will be made up of Wetherden, Haughley, Stowupland, Old Newton and Gipping and will be called Haughley, Wetherden and Stowupland. It will have two councillors. The new boundaries have been drawn up based on estimates of the number of electors in 2023, so is likely to need to be changed in the light of recent planning approvals.
- 2018/73 County Councillor Andrew Stringer's report** – this had been circulated. Andrew updated us on the new wheelwash at Lawn Farm, instated after enforcement had been served on the company. He talked about developments at the County Council, to do with budget constraints, and possible future housing partnerships.
- 2018/74 Public participation** – some discussion took place in the light of the planning application on land adjacent to Arkholme being withdrawn.
- It was noted that Elmswell/Wetherden Road is due to be resurfaced next year, but that there are repairs needing doing first. People were encouraged to report these using the Highways reporting tool at SCC. The question was raised regarding the reinstatement of the yellow lines.
- A query was asked about the whereabouts of the minutes from 1991-2000. The clerk will see what was taken to the records office when she took up the post.
- 2018/75 Clerk's report** – the clerk reported that a volunteer had come forward to help with the maintenance of the defibrillator. Cllr Duncan Perry expressed his willingness to help too. Cllr Chris Harcourt will arrange a meeting with both of them to do a handover, and work out the best wording for new signs.
- 2018/76 Finance report** – the clerk's finance report ending August 2018 were approved. The following payments were authorised: Dianne Batten £90.25 and £88.31; Clerk salaries £312.31 and £456.45 (to include holiday pay); clerk expenses £40.30; Vertas £301.90; EoN £50.86; Allum roofing (pavilion) £2600.00; hall hire £45.00; Cllr Paul Sutton expenses £29.34; CAB £100.00; Haughley and Wetherden newsletter £150.00. Payments received were: cleansing grant £276.71; precept £6237.50; football club rent £450.00; allotment rent £20.00.
- 2018/77 Update on playing field/common projects** – three quotes had been received for cutting the triangle of grass next to the common. It was agreed to take the lowest one. A quote had also been received for cutting the common, but at present this is being undertaken by the community service team.
The new dog waste bin at the entrance to the playing field has now been emptied, and confirmation received that it will be added to the list and emptied weekly. The location has been confirmed as satisfactory for collection. A request has been received from the football club regarding dog waste on the pitches. It is not clear what can be done, as signs are already in place banning dogs from the playing field.

However the clerk will get quotes for signs that could be considered for around the pitches.

The repair of the pavilion roof is now complete. The cost was more than the original quote as it was not clear what the state of the roof would be until work started. The old metal from the roof will be offered to villagers free of charge (via facebook/newsletter) in case it's useful for allotments etc. It was noted that there is sufficient plywood left over to fix the floor. Other work needed includes treating the back door, as it is letting water in, refurbishing the decking, painting inside and out.

The shed, swings and goalposts have been painted, and the memorial bench has had three coats of oil. There are two sets of goalposts that are not being used, which either need removing, or nets provided.

The broken seat by the tennis court has been removed. One of the other two seats needs replacing as it is rotting. The raised beds are also in a state of disrepair, and need digging out and new ones putting in.

The common is being strimmed gradually, and raked, with some islands left as habitat. The number of species seems to be increasing eg more mint in the ditch (favoured by newts).

- 2018/78** **Community Infrastructure Levy funding** – there are many projects in the village that could be applied for, including those listed above on the playing field but also the surfacing of the remainder of the village hall car park, tennis court etc. There are two bidding rounds, October and May. It was agreed that a bid be put in, in May, following a meeting to be arranged with community groups and consultation as to the spending priorities. Three quotes have to be obtained for the work, and matched funding is advantageous. In the meantime we were reminded of Cllr Rachel Eburne's locality funding for smaller, more urgent projects.
- 2018/79** **Future use of community service** – Cllr Paul Sutton reported that he sets up the programme in January, for the year. He needs one or two volunteers to take this job on – it takes about 5 hours/month – so that we can continue to benefit from the work carried out once he leaves the council. This will be on November's agenda.
- 2018/80** **Traffic calming Elmswell Road** - Cllr Andrew Stringer explained the current position regarding yellow lines in this area. If there was a wish to see them extended beyond the current limit, a new legal order would be needed, costing £7000. Some money is already earmarked towards this, but the process was halted due to lack of agreement in the consultation process. Meanwhile people are parking illegally in front of the junction with School Meadow, making turning out dangerous. A consultation paper had been received showing the current traffic orders – stopping, waiting and loading prohibition and restrictions. The veracity of this was discussed.
- 2018/81** **Planning applications** – DC/18/02796 New House, Stowmarket Road, erection of ramped access to front. GRANTED. DC/18/03675 land adjacent Arkholme, erection of two dwellings. Now withdrawn. DC/18/03191 The Bungalow, Base Green, erection of two storey extension, one storey extension, and car port. GRANTED.
- 2018/82** **Correspondence** – October parish liaison meeting, 9 October, Needham Market; Gambling Act consultation ends 12 October.
- 2018/83** **Urgent matters** – new volunteer needed to help move Speed Activated Device from post to post. Agreed to put plea in newsletter.

Next meeting Monday 15 October.

