

WETHERINGSETT CUM BROCKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held 11 April 2016

Present: Cllrs R Anscombe (Chairman), Mrs E Aldred, Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, M Baker, J Leadbetter, Mrs C Nickson, Mrs S Perry and County Councillor A Stringer.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Miss J Canham and Ms S Payne.
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **To receive the following reports:**
 1. Police – no report.
 2. County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his report (copy attached to the Minutes). Items raised included concerns over the increasing potholes some of which were quite severe. Cllr Stringer reiterated his advice from earlier meetings that these should be reported via the Suffolk CC highway maintenance link. Due to the increased number of potholes it was suggested and agreed that a road maintenance warden was appointed to report on village highway issues each month. The Chairman offered to take on this role.
 3. District Councillor – no report. A email regarding attendance and issues that need to be raised had been circulated to members. Early notification of the Annual Parish Meeting date to be given to Cllr Horn.
 4. Footpaths – Cllr Mrs Aldred was pleased to report there were currently no problems to report.
4. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – none.
5. **To approve minutes of the meeting held 7 March 2016**
Cllr Alston proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Baker and agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
7. **Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC:**
 1. 0695/16 : Barn on land at Town Lane – notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of an existing agricultural building and land within its curtilage to residential use to form one dwelling. Cllr Mrs Perry proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Mrs Nickson and agreed.
 2. 0699/16 : Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of two 2 storey dwellings with detached car ports and construction of new shared vehicular access and driveway. Cllr Alston proposed a recommendation of refusal, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold and unanimously agreed, on the following grounds:
The site suffers from severe waterlogging. The proposed two dwellings would add to this existing problem.
The restrictions put in place when the neighbouring property, Wetheringsett Lodge, was built, ie that any dwelling should be kept to single storey, should also apply to this application.
Church Street is very narrow along the boundary of Wetheringsett House and the proposal does not conform to Suffolk CC Highways criteria. Any new dwellings should therefore share the existing vehicular access, ie there should be a shared drive with the existing dwelling and only one vehicle access point.
There is no provision in the application for suitable screening of the dwellings for the benefit of neighbouring properties.
8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC:**
 1. 0658/16 : 5 Hockey Hill – erection of 2 storey extension to south elevation. **PPG**
9. **Village Hall Report**
Cllr Leadbetter produced annual accounts to 31.3.16. These showed an income of £4975 and expenses of £4467, £500 less than last year.
Following the report at the last meeting of the increased water bills from Essex and Suffolk Water and Anglian Water, Cllr Leadbetter was pleased to report that following discussions with both authorities these had been reduced to £500 and £300 respectively. Insurance for the forthcoming year had been paid. Bookings were going quite well and there was support from regular users of the Hall. On behalf of the Council, Cllr Alston recorded thanks to both Cllrs Leadbetter and Anscombe for their negotiations with the Water Boards.
10. **Proposed new Village Hall report** - copy report from Cllr Ms Payne attached to Minutes and circulated to Members. No questions were raised but a timeline report for the project was requested for the APM.
11. **Proposed mobile VAS**
Nothing further had been heard from Mickfield Parish Council as to whether they wished to pursue a joint

project. County Cllr Stringer agreed to raise this at a Mickfield PC meeting for an update on their current position.

12. Proposed Defibrillator

Cllr Baker reported he had been in contact with the residents on both sides of the telephone kiosk and both were fully supportive of the project. Regarding the repainting of the kiosk, due to the health and safety requirement on the type of paint that could be used, Cllr Baker had been informed there was a 17 month wait for repainting work to be carried out at a cost of £1500. Due to the delay Members took the view the alternative suggestion of attaching the equipment to the outside of the village hall be investigated. Cllr Baker agreed to look into the costs and requirements for this alternative site.

13. Play Area report

Cllr Mrs Arnold stated the graffiti reported on the bench had been removed and there was evidence that smoking had taken place in the play area. Other than these concerns there were no other imminent issues but Cllr Mrs Arnold suggested councillors and residents would need to be more vigilant in monitoring use of the play area. The bench in question was in need of refurbishment at some point in the future.

14. Wetheringsett Footpath reports on progress and actions required:

1. Leaflet – Cllr Mrs Perry produced the final leaflets for distribution. These would be available from the Church Porch and the Middy. A note would be included in the Parish Magazine for information of Parishioners. Cllr Alston suggested a supply was made available at the Best Western Hotel.

2. To consider a formal Footpath Map

Cllr Alston stated this was required to assist local farmers in controlling walkers from straying off the official footpath. Cllr Mrs Perry provided an A3 size map detailing all footpaths with their numbers to Cllr Alston who would progress a suitable map to handout/publicise in the village.

15. Wetheringsett PCC request for additional cemetery maintenance

Cllr Mrs Aldred went through the work the PCC would like carried out, this included a severe cutting back of boundaries and tree pruning and on Church Street boundary to expose the gates/fencing. Cllr Baker suggested this should be carried out between November and February. Due to the severe nature of the work it was agreed this would be beyond a voluntary working group and that it would need to involve professional help. In the first instance it was agreed that Cllr Baker was instructed to prepare a specification of work including costings for consideration.

16. HM Queen's 90th Birthday Tea

Cllr Leadbetter reported this was going ahead on the 12 June and was being organized by Mrs Sue Stannard with help from ladies from the Church group. The afternoon would include a Tea Party and Tea Dance. Parish Council support of the event would be much appreciated and an estimated cost of £500 had been put forward. Cllr Alston proposed a donation of £400 from the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Nickson proposed an amendment of £500, seconded Cllr Baker and agreed.

17. To consider a Wetheringsett Village Calendar – fundraising project for new Village Hall

A report had been circulated to members for consideration requesting a suggested selling cost for the calendar. Members recommended a cost of no more than £10 with a view to obtaining sponsorship and that no more than 200 were printed.

18. To consider repairs to Hockey Hill Bus Shelter

Cllr Baker reported that he had taken advice from Mr Mark Gutteridge, a local carpenter, and other than the re-use of the roof tiles, the majority of the woodwork was beyond repair and it would be more economical to replace the shelter. Mr Gutteridge had given an estimate of £1495 to replace the shelter but this did not include the timber preservation treatment. It was agreed that another quote would be required and Cllr Baker offered to obtain this. In the meantime Cllr Baker would carry out a risk assessment of the shelter and arrange for it to be made safe or if this was not possible it would be removed.

19. The Richard Hakluyt Memorial Fund – report from Mrs R Foulger

On behalf of the Hakluyt Anniversary Committee Mrs Foulger formally invited each parish council member to the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the death of the Rev Richard Hakluyt, former rector of Wetheringsett and esteemed geographer and adviser to the Court of Elizabeth I. A memorial plaque had been commissioned to be placed in the chancel and a memorial service was planned for Sunday 27 November 2016 led by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich followed by a reception in the village hall. Background musical accompaniment and readings would be provided by Ancestral Voices. It was hoped the Primary School children would be involved putting on an exhibition about Richard Hakluyt and his work. The Hakluyt Society had international membership and other celebrations would be taking place at Christ Church College, Oxford and the Bodleian Library. This would be a high profile occasion for the village and the Committee hoped to take every opportunity to make it a lasting benefit to Wetheringsett. The cost of the memorial plaque was £2460 and limited funds were available for the event. To assist with

the cost the Committee was looking to raise further funding and therefore asked whether the Parish Council would consider making a donation to the event. Members fully supported the promotion of this historical event and suggested that a donation was made towards the cost of the refreshments. Cllr Mrs Aldred agreed to pass on the Council's proposal to Mrs Foulger.

20. Finance

1. Section 137 donation requests

Magpas Air Ambulance – based in Huntingdon but covering Suffolk. Cllr Baker proposed a donation of £50, seconded Cllr Mrs Arnold – 4 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention. Proposal carried.

Wetheringsett Village Fete – request for contribution towards Mini Farm. In line with last year Cllr Leadbetter proposed a sum of £170, seconded Cllr Mrs Aldred, 6 in favour, 2 abstentions. Proposal carried.

2. Accounts for Payment

Magpas – donation	50.00
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Wetheringsett Village Fete – donation (retain cheque until required)	170.00
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Suffolk CC – footpath leaflets	201.00
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Clerk sal/expenses March 2016	253.44
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NALC – Local Council Review subscription	17.00
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Gudgeon Prentice – legal fees re. new Village Hall	1803.00
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Cllr Alston proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Baker and agreed.

3. Finance Report – no further report.

21. Clerk's report/correspondence

An email had been received from a parishioner regarding the safety of BMX equipment in a small wood on Hockey Hill. It was understood this land was in private ownership. The email was therefore forwarded on to the landowner for response to the resident direct regarding any possible safety issues.

22. Chairman's Urgent Business – none

23. To consider Twitter items – Eastern Angles production at the Village Hall on 16 April 2016.

24. Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests

Dog Bins – it was the reported the dog bin at the Station Road/Hall Lane junction had not been emptied.

Village Fete – There was a suggestion that Emma Wnukoski was invited to the May or June meeting to discuss PC support of the fete.

25. Date of next meeting and Annual Parish Meeting – 7pm Monday 9 May 2016. Cllrs Alston and Leadbetter gave their apologies.

Meeting closed 9.35pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: