

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1 July 2024, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett.

Present: Cllrs D Howard (Chairman), S Alderton, Mrs E Cain, Mrs L Drury, Mrs R Leech and N Lingard.

County and District Cllr A Stringer and two members of the public

1. **Apologies and Consent to absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs E Aldred, T Alston, B Lacey, Mrs K van Zyl and Mrs J Weir
2. **Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none
3. **Election of Vice Chairman**
The Chairman proposed Cllr Lingard for the role of Vice Chairman, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech. Cllr Lingard accepted the role. Proposal unanimously agreed.
4. **Reports**
 1. Police available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk>. No comments were raised
 2. County Councillor - Cllr Stringer presented his report (copy attached to the Minutes).
 3. District Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his report (copy attached to the Minutes).
 4. Footpaths – no report available.
 5. Trees – no report available.
 6. **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – no comments were raised.
5. **To consider for approval Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 1 July 2024**
Cllr Mrs Leech proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Alderton – unanimously agreed.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes for report** – none.
7. **To consider Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC**
 1. DC/24/01524: Wetheringsett Manor School, Church Street – re-consultation – construction of Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). It was reported a water drainage report from the school was still pending. Concern over water run-off from the school into Church Street was raised it was believed this was contributing to flooding in Church Street together with the proposed development of school and increased numbers of pupils and staff attending which would put further pressure on the existing overloaded drainage system.
Having considered the application a recommendation of refusal was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed due to the existing large run-off of surface water from the Manor School site on to Church Street during rainfall. This impacted the drainage system in Church Street contributing to flooding in Church Street and neighbouring properties. Parish councillors recommended a drainage survey and report was prepared before agreeing to any hard surfaces at the Manor School site.
8. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC**
 1. DC/24/01675: Rectory Cottage, Church Street – Erection of front porch to south elevation. Listed Building Consent Granted
 2. DC/24/02412: Wetheringsett Lodge, Church Street - Application of works to trees in a Conservation Area. High pollard No.1 Horse Chestnut (T1) to reduce weight on structurally poor stem. Reduce No.1 Oak (T3) low over extended limbs on north side by 2m to relieve leverage/weight. No objection from MSDC
9. **Planning Correspondence**
Emails from a resident concerning the planning application for Clay Cottage, Pitman's Corner had been noted.
10. **Neighbourhood Plan Report**
It was reported the Independent Examiner had completed her report, this was now with the Working Group for fact checking.
11. **To confirm flood meeting arrangements with Suffolk County Council 10 July 2024**
Arrangements had been confirmed with the Flood Team at Suffolk CC, the meeting would be held at 4pm on 10 July 2024 at Wetheringsett Village Hall.
12. **Church Street:**
 1. Report on sewage complaints
Anglian Water had attended Church Street to carry out an inspection following the report of sewage escaping into residential gardens in Church Street, through Church Street surface water drains and properties in All Saints Close. The sewage pump tripping had also been reported. Anglian Water had been unable to trace any blockages during the inspection. They had advised this was reported to Environmental Health at MSDC.
The Chairman proposed and councillors agreed the meeting was opened to the public

A resident reported on individual properties impacted by the sewage overflow and stated she had received an email from the water authority stating the problem could take 2/3 years to remedy.

Meeting closed to the public

Action: Councillors agreed to contact Environmental Health to request early inspection and report, this would also be raised at the flood meeting on 10 July.

2. Update report on remedial work to surface highway drainage – pending following Suffolk CC inspection.

13. **Wetheringsett cum Brockford Emergency Plan**

1. Report on draft Emergency Plan document – report on draft document to be requested for next meeting.
2. To confirm members of the Community Emergency Group incorporating a flood monitoring group – deferred.

14. **Report on proposed expansion project at Wetheringsett Manor and taxi service to and from the school**

Expansion of the School to incorporate a Key Stage 2 department was proposed from September 2024. This would result in a further 20 pupils and 10 staff attending the school. The impact of the expansion on the village was discussed in terms of additional taxis and staff vehicles travelling to and from the school and the increased load on the sewage and drainage system and possible water run-off into Church Street. It was agreed a letter outlining these concerns would be sent to Ofsted.

15. **Village Hall**

1. Management Committee report

Cllr Lingard was pleased to report a new Treasurer, Mrs Penny Anscombe, had been appointed. Cllr Lingard had been nominated as a Trustee. The finances were in a fairly healthy position with just over £4,000 in the deposit account and almost £2,000 in the current account. Some service bills were however expected. The solar panel tariff had as yet to be resolved and backdated to 17 June 2024.

2. Report on School Licence Agreement and Diocesan Lease

No progress had been made with the Village Hall Lease.

The Chairman of the Village Hall comm was in contact with the School regarding renewal of the Licence Agreement, electricity charges and school use times of the hall.

16. **Grasscutting report** – grass cutting was going to plan with some areas left for wild flower seeding.

17. **Play Area report**

1. To consider applying for a MSDC Capital Grant to fund play equipment improvements

Cllr Alderton reported he was looking into replacement of the bench and providing 2 picnic tables/benches and equipment for toddlers possibly Spring type seats which would cost in the region of £300 - £1000. Quotations would be obtained for consideration and/or grant funding applied for.

With regard to equipment on the field, as this was the School field a discussion would need to be held between the Diocesan representative Daniel Jones and the School.

3. Items arising from annual inspection report

Cllr Alderton and Cllr Lacey had made an inspection following the ROSPA report. The wooden structure was sound, a photograph would be taken and sent to the Inspector.

18. **Report on installation of Radar Speed Sign for Brockford Street** – deferred.

19. **VAS speed equipment report**

The equipment was currently at Park Green. The next location would be Brockford Street.

The Chairman reported the Manor School had offered to fund a permanent VAS at the current Hockey Hill location. The Chairman would pursue this with the school.

20. **Community Speed Watch Scheme** – progress report and to consider Parish Council funding occasional hire of Village Hall for group meetings

Cllr Mrs Drury reported the individual volunteers had been approved by the police community speed watch team. The equipment would be held by the working group. Use of the Village Hall for community speed watch team meetings funded by the Parish Council was discussed. Cllr Alderton proposed the Parish Council paid the hire charges, seconded Cllr Mrs Drury – proposal carried.

21. **Report on siting further Kill Your Speed Signs** – deferred.

22. **Report on Wetheringsett Parish Council gov.uk domain name**

A brief report on charges for setting up a domain name were reported by Cllr Alderton. Further investigation was required and would be reported at the next meeting.

23. **Finance**

1. To consider s.137 donation requests – none received.

2. Accounts for payment

MSDC – waste/dog bin emptying 2024-25

£478.34

B Reeve Grasscutting – cemetery/play area – June 2024

£166.66

Clerk sal/expen June 2024

£337.85

Cllr Alderton proposed payment of the above, seconded Cllr Mrs Leech – proposal agreed

4. Finance Report

The Parish Council bank balance as at 19 June 2024 stood at £22,820.32, this included the sum due for payment for the Solar Panels.

Revised bank signatories. Cllr Alderton stated he was willing to become a bank signatory, Cllr Mrs Cain proposed the addition of Cllr Alderton, seconded by the Chairman and unanimously agreed.

24. To consider for adoption the following policy documents:

1. Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020

Cllr Lingard proposed adoption of the above Councillor Code of Conduct, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain – unanimously agreed.

3. GDPR compliant documents

The GDPR documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Mrs Leech proposed adoption as circulated, seconded Cllr Mrs Cain – unanimously agreed.

25. To consider response to Norwich to Tilbury pylons consultation – 26 July 2024

Councillors proposed and agreed a response of objection to the proposed pylons on the grounds of desecration of the Suffolk countryside and that the power connection to Tilbury should be via the sea.

26. Clerk's report/correspondence

The latest edition of the Good Councillor Guide provided by SALC had been circulated to all councillors.

The demolished Park Green sign at the A140/Town lane junction would be reported for reinstatement to Suffolk CC Highways.

27. Chair's Report – none.

28. Any other business for information exchange/future agenda requests

Cllr Lingard reported a query had been raised regarding the status of the footpath at Brockford Green to Town Lane and whether it could be re-graded to a bridleway. This was a process that would need to go through Suffolk CC, there was no support from parish councillors and would need to be an agenda item if pursued.

29. Date of next meeting : Monday 5 August 2024, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

County Councillor Report – July 2024

SEND Improvement Plans

Scrutiny Committee met on Thursday 13 June to review the council's priority action plan to improve SEND services. The plan had to be created following the poor Ofsted/CQC inspection report which was published at the end of January. The committee heard about the extra £4.4m funding to recruit more staff, including educational psychologists. There are plans to invest more money in the improvements and this will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting in July. The Department for Education will be undertaking 'deep dive' reviews into progress, the first one into the timeliness and quality of EHCPs which is due very soon. Among the issues discussed were communication with parents and carers and responses to complaints and the importance of early intervention to support young children with needs as soon as possible.

Councils call for more Foster Carers

Suffolk County Council is taking part in a new initiative for fostering under the banner Foster East along with ten other councils in the region. There is an urgent need for foster carers in the East of England, with more than 7,000 vulnerable children already in the care of their local authority, and a further 150 children coming into care every month.

The Foster East initiative is funded by the Department of Education and is a new, collaborative approach to foster carer recruitment and support. Potential foster carers will be nurtured through their fostering journey with their local council

and via a buddy network. Fostering is a flexible role with options for short term care from a weekend a month to longer term opportunities, all providing life-changing support for local children.

Foster East will give people considering fostering the opportunity to speak to an advisor from 8am to 8pm daily, and the chance to talk to an experienced foster carer to find out more about what the role involves and ask any questions. More information can be found on www.fostereast.org.uk

Funding Secured to boost Digital Technology Innovation

Suffolk County Council, working with Norfolk County Council and Connected Innovation, has secured funding from Barclays Eagle Labs Ecosystem Partnership Programme to boost support for the region's digital technology sector. This funding will be used for 'The Future', a joint project which aims to support and scale digital technology innovation in Suffolk and Norfolk by:

- Developing stronger connections between experienced entrepreneurs and the next generation of regional startups
- Developing a process for identifying, engaging and supporting early-stage startups and integrating them into the community
- Creating more opportunities for startup founders from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds by offering stipends to those who would not otherwise be able to commit to their venture full-time

The project will be delivered in Suffolk by Innovation Labs: <https://innovationlabsgroup.com/>

Eco Month at SCC

During June the council has been celebrating Eco Month to celebrate all the work being done internally and externally to tackle climate change, enhance biodiversity and protect the environment. Events have included a market at Endeavour House, a workshop for staff on energy bills, wildlife walks, litter picks and a guided visit to the Ipswich tidal barrier. Council staff were also coached on how they can make a difference in their jobs to reduce waste and printing and promote sustainability. Suffolk County Council has ambitions to achieve carbon net zero by 2030 and has taken many steps already to achieve this, including switching to a 100% renewable energy tariff, moving to electric vehicles for all staff pool cars, and moving street lights over to LEDs, which are 50% more efficient than traditional street lighting. The council has also reduced its gas use by 38%.

Cold Callers

Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards have asked residents to be vigilant about tradesmen knocking on their doors to offer services, after several examples recently of cold callers persuading people to part with large sums of money for unnecessary or substandard work. The council is recommending that residents only use workmen on the Trusted Trader website: <https://trustedtrader.team/Suffolk/about-us>

Residents can also protect themselves and their neighbours by nominating their area to become a No Cold Calling Zone – there are now more than 200 of these across Suffolk. In order to nominate your road or neighbourhood, visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/suffolk-trading-standards/fair-trading/no-cold-calling-zones>

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Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkqli_group/

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkqli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

District Councillors' Report – July 2024

General Election 4 th July	The parliamentary general election will take place on Thursday 4 th July. Due to the pre-election period, Cabinet and Council meetings at Mid Suffolk have been postponed until after the election. A reminder that valid photo identification is required to vote. For further details see www.electoralcommission.org.uk
Council meeting	The re-scheduled Council meeting will be on 25 th July. Items for discussion and approval include the potential adoption of a local listed building consent order and local development order. If approved this will potentially enable owners of listed buildings to apply specific energy efficiency measures to their homes without onerous planning requirements.
Cabinet meeting	The re-scheduled Cabinet meeting will be on 15 th July with a long agenda. Items for discussion and approval include a proposal to support residents in need, a new social value policy and a regeneration initiative for Stowmarket town centre. This is in addition to other matters as well as agreeing the response to the statutory consultation for the Norwich to Tilbury National Strategic Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Economic Lands needs assessment report	Babergh and Mid Suffolk have now published an Economic Land Needs Assessment document. This shows the future employment land requirements in the Districts to support the identified growth for 2023 to 2037, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The document can be viewed at babergh-and-mid-suffolk-economic-land-needs-assessment-report-june-2024 .
Student event	Babergh and Mid Suffolk are putting on an event in July for sixth formers to find out about careers in local government and how councils are structured. This is part of the Councils' local democracy project.
Locality Awards 2024/25	Applications for this year's Locality Awards grants are now open, but due to the General Election we cannot consider any applications until after 4th July https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards

Cllr Andrew Stringer

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