

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 6 March 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R Anscombe, C Harvey, B Lacey, J Leadbetter. Eight members of the parish

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs A Arnold, T Alston, Mrs C Nickson and Ms S Payne.
2. **To receive declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda** – none.
3. **To receive the following reports:**
Police – monthly report available online
County Councillor – Cllr Stringer would be arriving late due to a previous meeting.
District Councillor – arriving later.

4. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A number of parishioners were present at the meeting to express concerns over the increased number of HGV's using the haulage site at Town Lane. It was understood part of the site had been let to another haulage company and that an application to the Traffic Commissioner had been made to allow a further 10 HGV's to use the site. Some of the main concerns raised included:

- HGV's unable to find the site due to inadequate signage thereby entering the village and having to manoeuvre large vehicles through narrow roads back to the site in the process causing damage to grass verges and creating potholes. This was happening on a regular basis.
- A record had been made of HGV's accessing Town Lane from the A140 every 7 or 8 minutes including during the night. The night time access was causing disturbance and noise to residents.
- Town Lane and the junction accessing it from the A140 was totally inadequate for the number of HGV's now using it creating a dangerous situation and visibility problem for other vehicles on the A140 and those entering and existing the junction. Town Lane was not wide enough for an HGV and motor vehicle to pass and totally impossible for two HGV's to pass thereby causing damage to the verges and wearing down of banks to create passing areas. The average width of Town Lane was 4.6m, the width of an HGV was 2.55m.
- Damage to the road surface in Town Lane, creation of potholes and wearing down of road edges.
- The school bus was unable to pass an HGV in the Lane.
- Motorcycles and pedestrians walking dogs were being forced off the lane.
- Increased litter along Town Lane discarded from the lorries and litter blown from the site into the surrounding countryside and resulting rodent issues.
- Breach of the current planning condition which allows 20 vehicles to park on the site, there were currently more than 20 vehicles and trailers parking up on the site overnight.

It was reported contact had been made with MSDC regarding the breach of planning condition and environmental issues and with Suffolk Highways regarding the damage to the road and danger now caused to other users of the lane.

(District Councillor Glen Horn arrived at the meeting)

Cllr Horn reported on the issues he had been investigating regarding the site. These included a challenge to the number of vehicles and containers allowed to park on the site overnight under the terms of the original planning permission and this is being taken up by the MSDC Enforcement Dept and a formal notice has been served on the site. Under the Operators Licence 28 vehicles are currently registered to use the site and it appeared this was being exceeded. It would be necessary for a log of the vehicles accessing the site to be recorded and sent to the Traffic Commissioner so that they could deal with the breach. In addition Cllr Horn suggested providing photographic evidence of excessive vehicle use and photographic evidence of litter scattered in the lane and surrounding countryside. Cllr Horn confirmed that MSDC would be able to deal with the breach of planning and the environmental issues and would work with Highways and the Traffic Commissioner regarding the highways issues.

(County Councillor Andrew Stringer arrived at the meeting)

Cllr Stringer reported that highway officers were in the process of working out what was happening at the site. As far as Trading Standards were concerned everything was in order. Cllr Stringer had spoken to the owner of the site asking that the tenant put up adequate signage and a Highway Officer had visited the site twice and two highways officers were now monitoring and gathering data on use of the site. Regarding reports of operations at 3am in the morning, Environmental Health would be arranging for a noise monitor. Cllr Stringer stated that the A140/Town lane junction would be re-assessed and if anything dangerous was found the police would be asked to gather data.

Pending planning enforcement proceedings, environmental health investigations and highway monitoring both Cllrs Stringer and Horn stated it was important to continue to gather data on use of the site and that any dangerous situations should be reported to the police, parish council, district and county Councillors as soon as possible. Any information available before the next parish council meeting would be forwarded to parish councillors.

5. **To approve Minutes of the meeting held 6 February 2017.**

Cllr Leadbetter proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.

6. **Matters arising from the Minutes.** - None.

7. **Town Lane Haulage Site** – report on concerns raised regarding increased HGV's at the site
See item 4 above.

8. **To consider planning applications for recommendation to MSDC** – none received

9. **Planning decisions received from MSDC**

4711/16 : 4 Church Street – conversion of double garage into combination of ancillary living accommodation and storage. **Planning Permission Refused.**

4507/17 : Wetheringsett House, Church Street – erection of 1 two storey detached dwelling with detached garage rear of Wetheringsett House, sharing existing drive. **Planning Permission Granted**

10. **Wetheringsett Village Hall report**

Cllr Leadbetter reported a balance of just over £700 in the village hall account. The Water Board bill was much reduced but there were a few invoices to pay including the annual insurance premium of £430, slightly more than last year, which would be covered from the School income and Curtains Up pantomime. Ongoing repairs included the back door maintenance and replastering the rear wall, these will be dealt with during the spring. Future events included the Eastern Angles play on 22 April and the County Council elections on 4 May. The finances were in a relatively healthy state.

11. **New Village Hall report**

The Chairman reported that Cllr Ms Payne was considering standing down from the new village hall project due to dealings with Suffolk CC concerning funding from the Big Lottery Fund. It is hoped the situation will be clarified and Cllr Ms Payne will re-consider.

12. **To agree purchase of the proposed VAS equipment**

Having investigated the options available Cllr Harvey proposed purchase of the Radarlux equipment (details circulated to members for consideration) at a cost of £2760 approx (euro conversion). Cllr Leadbetter proposed the purchase, seconded Cllr Lacey and agreed.

13. **Request for extension of speed limit on Station Road**

Deferred pending resolution of Town Lane

14. **Wetherup Street** – report on excessive vehicle speed

Deferred until further speed checks during spring.

15. **Defibrillator** – Community Training Programme – deferred

16. **Play Area Report**

A tree adjoining the play area had fallen onto the fencing during a recent storm. Cllr Alston had arranged for the tree had been removed and fence reinstated. Members recorded thanks to Cllr Alston for his help.

Cllr Mrs Arnold had informed the Chairman that she was unable to carry out weekly inspections of the play area at present. Cllr Leadbetter stated he would ask the village hall caretaker, Mrs Stanndard, whether this could carry out this task on a temporary basis.

17. **Wetheringsett Emergency Plan report** – deferred

18. **Finance**

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

2. Accounts for payment

Wetheringsett Village Hall – Parish Council Hire of Hall 2016/17 - £140.

Clerk's sal/expenses – February 2017 - £255.64

Radarlux Radar Systems – 3259.41 euros (approx. £2760 via bank transfer)

Cllr Lacey proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.

3. To consider increasing Fidelity Guarantee cover

It was suggested this was increased from £25,000 to £30,000. Proposed Cllr Leadbetter, seconded Cllr Harvey and agreed.

19. **Review of Financial Regulations, Asset Register and Risk Assessment**

All documents had been circulated for consideration prior to the meeting. Cllr Leadbetter proposed adoption with the recommendations as discussed, seconded Cllr Lacey and agreed. Final documents with local amendments to be circulated for information of each council member.

20. **Clerk's report/correspondence**

Suffolk Constabulary – notification of Locality Police meeting 3 March and Public Meeting 2 May at Eye Town Hall – details circulated

SALC – Government Housing White Paper – document circulated

Wetheringsett Primary School – The Headmistress had stated the school had no internet connection at the Hall.

SALC – dates for Area North meetings circulated. Next meeting 22 March at Eye Town Hall.

SALC - OneSuffolk Website – claim for setup cost of £50. Cllr Leadbetter proposed, seconded by Cllr Harvey that the parish council claimed back the setup cost for the onesuffolk website via the Transparency Code Fund.

21. **Chairman's Urgent Business** – none

22. **To consider Twitter items** – none

23. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests**

It was reported there had recently been a house burglary in Wetherup Street.

Cllr Harvey reported that he and Cllr Alston had attended the Planning for All conference at Mildenhall on 2 March. The conference had covered parish council neighbourhood plans and it was agreed that this item should be given consideration at a future parish council meeting.

24. **Date of next meeting: Monday 3 April 2017, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed 10pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: