

Minutes of Westhall's annual parish meeting Monday 8th May 2017 7.30 Westhall Village Hall

Attendees: PC Cllrs - Mr P Langford (Chairman), Mr C Baker, Mrs E Clark, Mr J Lickman, Mrs L McTaggart, Mr K Studd and Mrs L Studd (also as Clerk)
Members of the public

1. Parish Council Chairman's report on the year: Mr Langford delivered a report on the year's events and successes, reproduced here:

Another busy year and I would initially like to thank all the Councillors for their dedication and support. You are not paid for the time and effort that you expend on behalf of the Parish and without it the Community would not operate as effectively as it does.

We have had some success and after many years of problems, parking improvements have finally been made at Mill Common, helped by a large funding grant from WDC and Councillor Goldson (now re-elected). This has vastly improved access through the village and therefore road safety and will hopefully be completed with the area seeded soon.

The Parish Council was instrumental in getting the Bernard Matthews related 'Villages Community Fund' set up and then saved from being disbanded a year later! The Fund's Panel, including representatives from Westhall have made grants to the village hall and the school in Holton and recently to Westhall Community Council for improvements to the village hall.

The parish has acquired two more dog waste bins, paid for by the PC and Councillor Goldson's Locality Budget, in an effort to deal with dog waste and keep the footpaths clear for users.

Other initiatives supported or dealt with by the Parish Council include:

The railway line through the parish has been 'muted' somewhat by extensive, albeit noisy, improvement works.

The village can now access better radio Broadband, due to the installation on Tyneholme's grain silo. Villages can apply to SCC to help fund the cost under the BetterBroadbandSuffolk scheme.

The Parish has a draft Emergency Plan for dealing with an incident, including notifying parishioners and utilising the village hall for evacuation and shelter.

On the planning front:

The village decided that an area behind Locks Road was unsuitable for large scale development due to the lack of infrastructure. The Parish Council also asked that it be excluded from Waveney's draft Local Plan citing that infill housing was acceptable, but largescale (for the village) was unacceptable.

Following a meeting at the village hall, there is the prospect of redevelopment of the poultry farm at Fox Covert. It is hoped that, although traffic will increase, the welfare standards for the poultry will be improved, the smell will be reduced and it will be better managed to reduce noise disturbance.

SCC may be resolving the anomaly of Footpath 14 and Bridleway 16 at Stradbroke Town Farm, which would be most welcome ahead of an initiative to welcome walkers to the area surrounding Halesworth.

Finally, thanks to Bob McTaggart for his sterling work around the village keeping it tidy.

2. Comments from members of the public:

- a. A resident suggested additional kerbing would be of benefit at a few points along Wangford Road in the centre of the village, and this might warrant a parish fund-

Signed (P Langford, Chairman):

raising activity ***Action: Chairman to obtain an estimate from Mark Kerridge of Suffolk Highways of how much this would cost.***

- b. Potholes and unofficial passing places in Locks Road are deeply rutted ***Action: Chairman to ascertain from Mark Kerridge if these are Suffolk Highways' responsibility.***
- c. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council's Chairman, and to the Clerk for her work.

3. Any other business: None

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