

**Minutes of Westhall's Annual Parish Meeting  
Monday 13th May 2024 in the Westhall Village Hall**

**Attendees:** Parish Councillors – Mr Shaun Darch, Mr P Langford, Mr Charles Baker, Mrs M Rogers, Mr J Lickman, Mrs L McTaggart, Mr T Betts and Mrs A Donnachie (Clerk/RFO), East Suffolk District Councillor Beth-Keys-Holloway and members of the public

**1 Welcome and approval and signing of the Chairman's Report from 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.**

**2. Parish Council Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman delivered a report on the year's events and successes, reproduced here:

*I would like to firstly thank the Clerk and Councillors for your help and support following my election to Chairman last year.*

*The year started with the County, District, Town and Parish Elections with all 6 of our current Councillors being duly elected, leaving just 1 seat vacant. Fortunately, we were delighted to co-opt Mr Trevor Betts as a Parish Councillor in March of this year.*

*We also welcomed 2 new East Suffolk District Councillors, Beth Keys-Holloway and Geoff Wakeling along with Annette Dunning as our Suffolk County Councillor. Throughout the year they have attended our meetings whenever possible and provided us with regular monthly Parish Reports, District and County news.*

**Planning**

- *2 extra ordinary planning meetings were held to discuss and submit comments to recent changes to plans pertaining to the Locks Road development of 18 new homes and the redevelopment of Tony's Store and the Old Post office.*
- *There were over 13 applications to discuss, debate and submit consultee comments to the Planning Department.*
- *Poultry Farm the PC continue to liaise with the site management team, environmental health and local residents to try and resolve outstanding issues.*
- *LionLink NISP's EIA Consultation for which we thank Cllr Langford who waded his way diligently through 700 pages of very complicated and technical data to allow the Council to submit comments on the effects of this project on local residents and the environment.*
- *We also received new planning guidelines – Rural Development Supplementary Planning Document and guide to Self-Build and Custom build housing to name 2.*

**Incidents:**

*Although flooding has been a longstanding problem around the village, this year has been particularly difficult with a series of storms causing disruption due to roads being impassible. We also experienced water supply and electricity outages, signage damage pot holes, fly tipping problem and concerns over speeding vehicles.*

*In November the Clerk collected 500 free bulbs from East Suffolk Council under the Suffolk in Bloom Project. These were planted around the village and in the Recreation Ground by Councillors and other volunteers and have successfully provided a much more colourful Spring display.*

**Donations:**

*The Parish Council approved donation of £500 to the Recreation Charity to help with maintenance of the Pleasure Grounds Car Park and a donation of £100 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance Service.*

*Cllr Lickman carried out the Annual Inspection of Assets and we thank him for his help with maintenance of these assets and for working hard on trying to get our road signage repairs carried out.*

*Repairs were carried out to the Car Park with our thanks to Mark Woolnough, David Miller and Ollie for providing the equipment and materials.*

*The 2022/23 Annual Internal Audit, Accountability and Governance Review, was successfully signed off by our newly appointed internal auditors at Heelis & Lodge.*

*Going forward we will continue to work hard on the outstanding issues from the previous year. With the General Election in July and possibility of a change in government, it will be interesting to see how things change and what effect this could have on local communities.*

*Regards*

*Shaun Darch, Chairman, Westhall Parish Council*

2. Comments from members of the public – A resident raised the issue of reduction in CIL payments to Parishes who do not have a Neighbourhood Plan. **Action: Clerk to seek clarification on the CIL regulations and place on Agenda for our July meeting.**
3. Any other business - None