

Westhall Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 7th September 2015 at 7.30pm in Westhall Village Hall.

Members Present: Mr J Lickman (Chairman); Mrs L McTaggart; Mrs L Palin; Mrs L Studd;
Mr K Studd and Mrs E Clark. .
In Attendance: Mrs M Rogers (Clerk)
Public Attendees: Mr M Rogers; Mr Nick Hoare and Mrs Kim Hoare

Prior to the meeting Mr and Mr Hoare gave a short address on a Green Community Energy Project. This could be a Westhall Community Project or a Co-op to include those who wanted to invest. The idea is based on a visit to Kelsale where they had installed around 34 solar panels local to a Community Centre, the electricity generated is used by the centre and any excess is sold back to the grid to raise an income for the village and paid to those people who had invested. There were obviously questions of where to place any panels, how much it would cost but there were grants available to cover some of the upfront installation and surveys. Chairman stated that we would probably have to talk to the community as a whole but it was a good idea but he would like to view the Kelsale set up and talk to those people involved.

1. **Apologies:** Mr P Langford; Mr T Goldson and PC S Green (Suffolk Constabulary).

2. **Declaration of Interests:** None

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Mrs L Palin proposed, seconded by Mrs McTaggart that the minutes of the August meeting be signed. It should be noted that with regard to Item 8(f) Wind Turbines the PC gave their support to Mrs Miller.

4. **Matters Arising from previous meeting minutes that are not included in the agenda.**

Locks Road Allotment Gate – Ongoing.

5. **Correspondence and Actions.**

1. T Coffey MP visit. (in shop)
2. VAS equipment Costs
3. Halesworth Parishes Meeting Notes
4. Vertas (formerly Eastern Solutions Ltd) introductory letter.
5. SCC – Annual Town & Parish Liaison/Budget meeting
6. WDC – Planning Permission Certificate – Tyneholm.
7. EDF – Newsletter
8. WDC/SCDC Neighbourhood Plan – Networking Forum
9. WDC Community Planning Newsletter – Aug 15.
10. SCC – Next Halesworth Parishes Meeting + VAS Equipment
11. SCC – Traffic Order
12. SALC Waveney Area Meeting – 17 Sept.
13. Charity Commission News
14. Clerks Magazine.

6. **Finance Matters.**

- a) **Clerk.** Proposed payment for September by Mrs Clark, seconded by Mrs Studd. Cheque 100629 for £90.00 signed.
- b) **Internal Auditor** – Mr Studd agreed to stand. PC gave thanks.

7. Planning. None

8. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION.

- a) **Mill Common Parking.** Letters had been sent out asking for response by 7th September. PC will visit each resident.
- b) **Halesworth Parishes Meeting.** Held on 13 August. Mr Tim Passmore Police Commissioner for Suffolk gave a talk on local policing, crime reduction, and cost cutting and said he was open to suggestions from public on how things could be improved. He encouraged parishes to install VAS equipment.
- c) **WDC Local Development Plan.** (Future Development in Waveney) The current plan holds until 2021 and WDC wished to identify areas for housing until 2025 with the overall new plan covering until 2030. WDC are looking at ways to involve local communities in their review process and consultations, asking for parish projections for the future, especially housing. The LDP review processes are as follows - Issues and Options Consultation with parishes will run till March/April 2016; Preferred Options Consultation until May/June 2017; Publication for Representations by October/November 2017; Submission for Examination by Government by December 2017; Examination hearing Feb/March 2018 leading to adoption May 2018. The PC were asked for their vision of Westhall in 2036 looking at housing growth, needs of the elderly, infrastructure requirements (open space, allotments, community facilities, roads, transport). Would we want physical settlement limits based on village services? In response Mr Lickman stated that it was inevitable that there would be new houses built in the village, but the lack of infrastructure would limit this to individual build rather than estates. Yes we had a village shop, but this was limited to the future; yes we had a village pub and village hall but the needs of younger people and attractions to younger people were not there, for example social and leisure and social opportunities, any clubs were run voluntarily at present and it was not envisaged that this would change. Although children were bussed to a local school there was a limit on intake. It was stressed by all PC members that there is a lack of Broadband coverage with Fibre Optics not being allocated to the village until at least 2020. The mobile phone coverage was non-existent in some areas, and in general the phone lines were old and in a bad condition. Lack of Broadband would not attract businesses to the parish. WDC stated that it was encouraged to designate areas in parishes for development as at present developers could purchase land anywhere and they would get planning permission. In this light we should designate areas in the village for protection and any extras that need addressing. PC asked with regard to creating its own Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. WDC replied if we wished we could of course go ahead but the idea of talking to parishes about their needs for incorporation into WLDP was hoping to do a similar job.

After discussion chairman asked what could be achieved by a parish local plan, as it should represent the community as a whole. Do we consult with the parish? We must look at any extras we required and identify areas to safeguard, and sent to WDC for inclusion in the WLDP.

- d) **Grass Verges Cutting.** A list of local farmers would be drawn up and PC will visit in person to ask if they would maintain the verges adjoining their land with at least one cut early in the Summer months and possibly re-cutting out the 'grips'.
- e) **Emergency Planning.** In his absence Chairman had talked to councillor Langford as Emergency Officer for Waveney, his comments were that it would be a good idea to liaise with CC for village hall usage, local farmers for snow clearance and residents with medical knowledge. A list should be compiled.

9. Vacancies. None.

10. Roads & Footpaths.

Footpath no. 4 at Cox Common. SCC have acknowledged there is a problem along this path but no action has been taken to date.

Clerk reported extensive deep flooding at bottom of Hares Lane again to SCC Highways. Although water no longer leaks from the ditch higher up it really required a new ditch or run off at flood point into the stream at the bottom as the bank either side is high. There was also flooding at the junction where the drain is sited higher than the lowest point of the road. The area has been marked by Highways Department but no action to date.

11. Reports from SCC/WDC/Suffolk Police. None.

12. Any Other Business. None

13. Summary of Newsletter for Publication. General summary of meeting.

14. Date and Time of next meeting. – Monday 5th October at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.