

Westhall Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 7 December 2015 at 7.50pm in Westhall Village Hall.

Members Present: Mr J Lickman (Chairman); Mrs L Palin; Mr K Studd; Mrs E Clark. Mrs L Studd.
In Attendance: Mrs M Rogers (Clerk); Mr T Goldson (SCC)
Public Attendees: None.

1. **Apologies:** Mr P Langford and Mrs McTaggart.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** All councillors declared interest in Budget and Precept.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Mrs Clark proposed, seconded by Mr Studd that the minutes of the November meeting be accepted and signed.
4. **Matters Arising from previous meeting minutes that are not included in the agenda.**

Locks Road Allotment Gate – Completed.

5. **Correspondence and Actions.**

1. SALC Waveney Area Meeting Minutes of September meeting
2. Community Action Suffolk Newsletter
3. WDC/Suffolk Coastal – Financial Briefing Presentations
4. East Suffolk Rail Partnership – Annual Report
5. WDC Planning Permission Certificate DC/15/3957/LBC Mr Empey
6. Glasdon Grit Bin Quote
7. SALC – Courses for Carers
8. NALC – New Audit Regime
9. Neighbourhood Planning Information Contacts
10. WDC – Garden Waste
11. SAALC – Queens 90 th birthday celebrations
12. Halesworth Parishes Meeting Minutes for October
13. WDC – Textile Bank
14. SALC – Government Housing Strategy.
15. WDC – Call for sites.

6. **Finance.**

- a) **Clerk.** Proposed payment for December by Mrs Palin, seconded by Mrs Clark. Cheque 100636 for £90.00 signed. No PAYE
- b) **2016/17 Budget and Precept.** Estimated budget for this period amounted to £2773 and whilst bank balances are healthy after discussion it was proposed by Mrs Studd, seconded by Mrs Palin that the Precept be increased by 3% as last year. This amount of £75 equates to 52p per house based on 2015 electoral roll count of 143 houses. Risk assessment will be addressed in February. Mr Goldson stated that Halesworth Town Council were increasing their precept with a view to funding the present “Free 1 hour Car Parking” scheme this in turn would lead to local parishes being asked to contribute towards these costs.
- c) **New Audit Regime.** In 2017 smaller councils will no longer have to go through a lengthy audit process, they will complete an Annual Return and publish this on the parish website. NALC have set up a

company to appoint new auditors to act on behalf of PCs should the public wish to raise questions on PC finances. We have the option to opt out and appoint our own auditors but this could be a costly process. Councillors voted to remain with the Sector Led Body audit procurement. Proposed Mr Studd, seconded Mrs Clark.

- d) **Grit Bins.** Glasdon quote of £351.57 for 3 90ltr grit bins including fixings was discussed. Mr Studd proposed these be purchased, seconded by Mrs Palin. Clerk will liaise with Mr Derek Oldham (SCC) for agreement of sites before these are completed.
- e) **Donations.** Were discussed at length. The car park fund was essential. Mrs Studd proposed seconded by Mrs Clark that £100.00 be transferred as 2015 contribution. Decision on further donations will be made following any village arrangements to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday.

7. Planning. None

8. Topics for discussion.

- a) **Mill Common Parking.** The application form is being completed. A cost breakdown was awaited from Mr Kerridge before resident's signatures are obtained. Mr Goldson asked what contribution the PC would be making.
- b) **Grass Verges Cutting.** Mr Goldson stated that SCC would continue to cut verges, but should we require junctions to be cut separately we would have to pay to get this done ourselves.
- c) **Green Energy** (ongoing).
- d) **BM Fund.** The letter to be sent to BM was discussed and agreed.
- e) **Neighbourhood Plan.** Chairman and Clerk had attended the Halesworth meeting which was largely a question and answer session. Mrs Studd stated that it seemed that the reasons behind NPs had changed it was no longer a document outlining what facilities your residents would like to see in place but a document based on development. Clerk had forwarded details of websites where more information was available and where plans mainly in draft stage could be viewed. WDC are now pressing for sites for development. Mrs Studd stated she would prepare a letter stressing the lack of infrastructure in Westhall and that any development should be infill only. There was concern that this was the view of residents.
- f) **Queens 90 birthday celebration.** Clerk had contacted the Community Council who were going to discuss this at their next meeting. PC thought a 'bring a plate of food' type get together would be appropriate.

9. Vacancies. None.

10. Roads & Footpaths.

Footpath 4 has been completed and tree roots cleared.

Clerk had reported several street lights which had been affected by the recent gale.

11. Reports from SCC/WDC/Suffolk Police.

Mr Goldson stated that SCC were looking at reducing their council tax. Social Care amounted to 2% and had been ring-fenced to reduce this to zero by 2020.

12. Any Other Business.

Textile Recycle bin will be withdrawn by WDC/Norse as the recycling company is no longer in business. Any clothes and textiles should be placed in the plastic bag provided and placed in the blue bins.

13. Summary of Newsletter for Publication.

November summary had not been included in HCN and will be incorporated in the December issue.

14. Date and Time of next meeting. – Monday 1st February 2016 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.