

**Westhall Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 8.15 pm in Westhall Village Hall.**

**Members Present:** Mr P Langford (Chairman); Mr J Lickman; Mr K Studd; Mrs E Clark. Mrs L Studd, and Mrs L McTaggart.  
**In Attendance:** Mrs M Rogers (Clerk).  
**Public Attendees:** None

**Election of Officers.**

Prior to the meeting a chairman for 2016 was elected. After discussion it was decided against a rota system. Mr Studd proposed, seconded by Mrs Clark that Mr Langford be elected chairman. All PC voted agreement and Mr Langford accepted the position. Mr Lickman stated he had considered retiring from the council due to future commitments but would continue for the foreseeable future.

**Declaration of Acceptance.** This will be passed to Mr Langford for completion.

**Consideration of re-election of Bankers.** After short discussion it was voted that Barclays bank will remain PC bankers.

1. **Apologies.** Received from Mr T Goldson SCC. He had asked if, as a gesture, the PC could make a small contribution to the Car Parking Project.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Mrs Clark proposed, seconded by Mrs Studd that the minutes of the April meeting be accepted and signed.
4. **Matters Arising from previous meeting minutes that are not included in the agenda.**  
Mrs Studd referred to correspondence received in March items 5 and 6 asking for help with funds, were the PC making donations? Clerk stated that such donations were usually considered in November/December when the annual budget was discussed and if funds were available any decision was made then. Clerk was asked to send letters to both parties asking for them to apply later in the year.
5. **Correspondence and Any Actions.**

1. WDC – First half Precept received
2. Sizewell C Newsletter
3. SALC – Community Transport Event
4. Halesworth Campus
5. SALC – Launch of Transparency Fund
6. SALC LAIS 1389 New Governance and Accountability Guide
7. SALC – Scam
8. WDC – Environment Grant
9. SALC – Suffolk Coastal Community Health Workshops 2016
10. WDC – Waveney Local Plan – First public consultation
11. SALC – Government Planning Changes
12. Westhall – Response to WDC re NP.
13. SALC – LAIS Updates
14. SALC – Provision of Internal Audit Service
15. WDC – WDC Indoor sports facilities consultation
16. Anglian Water – Pollution Watch
17. T Coffey MP – Report
18. SALC/SCC Recycle Centres

19. SLCC – Clerks Magazine

Mrs Studd gave a short report on item 4. A buyer had been found for Dairy Hill and WDC may be able to submit the plans for the Health Centre by September. A new road would have to be built across the old school site to the new Health Centre and this could involve a six month tender process.

**6. Finance.**

- a) **Clerk.** Proposed payment for May by Mrs McTaggart, seconded by Mrs Clark. Cheque no. 100648 for £90.00 signed. No PAYE.
- b) **SALC** invoice for renewal of annual subscription. Proposed payment Mrs McTaggart, seconded Mrs Studd. Cheque no. 100649 for £168.83 signed.

**7. Planning.**

**Waveney Local Plan.** A draft consultation documentation has been received and this included potential land options for development for discussion. The owner of the land to the rear of existing houses in Locks Road has submitted this to WDC for new 37 houses. Mrs Studd has already passed PC comments for future development in Westhall to WDC emphasising the lack of infrastructure. Further discussion highlighted the fact that the sewerage plant would not cope with extra build within the village. Clerk stated that the sewerage at Mill Common did not extend to the rail track and was sited too near the surface at this point and could be a problem in the future. In Locks Road several houses were set lower than the sewer and had had pumps installed to pump their sewage into the main pipe.

**8. Topics for discussion.**

- a) **Mill Common Parking.** The WDC Environmental Grant Panel has requested a site visit prior to their decision on the PC application for funds towards the project. Mr Goldson's request for PC to make a payment was discussed and £1000 was thought appropriate. This could be made up of unused £500 clerk salary allocation, as the clerk is retiring, and £500 from our bank reserves. Proposed Mr Lickman, seconded Mrs McTaggart council voted agreement, but reflected that this may be paid when work commenced.
- b) **Neighbourhood Plan.** As stated previously Mrs Studd had informed WDC Planning of our decision. Councillors will attend the WDC consultation exhibitions.
- c) **Broadband.** Following Mr Hansen siting of the 'RADE' aerial on his grain silo, Mr & Mrs Studd had had a receiver installed at their home and now received 20mbps broadband speed. The price of a receiver is £150 and monthly usage costs also apply.

As the government decisions on the provision of upgrading BT systems to fibre optic cables had changed the possibility of installing a free internet hub within the village was considered and discussed. Clerk had contacted SALC who said that precept money could not be used for such purpose as this is budgeted money and the possibility of applying to the community fund was suggested. Mrs McTaggart stated that the village hall was well used and would not be free for people to log on to the internet all the time. The idea was abandoned but 'RADE' leaflets would be placed in the shop and pub to let residents decide if they wished to use Mr Hansen's facility.

- d) **Sports and Leisure Facilities.** Clerk had passed this to the Community Council. Councillors had been unable to attend the presentation at WDC.
- e) **Emergency Planning.**

Clerk had identified 30 village residents who could be placed on a vulnerable list with UK Power Networks and Essex and Suffolk Water. A letter of explanation would be delivered to each person

asking them to confirm if they wished to be registered or how they could do it themselves. Mr Langford stated that with a potential for 30 residents to be affected an Emergency Plan should be seriously considered if only to identify volunteers with essential skills. This will be looked at further.

**9. Vacancies.**

Clerk had had one contact with regard to the Parish Clerk/RFO vacancy, but he had since withdrawn his interest. Mrs Studd stated she would take the position and as a councillor would be unpaid. Of the

With regard to the vacancy for a councillor a notice will be displayed until May 18 if there was no interest the present clerk suggested she be co-opted.

**10. Roads & Footpaths.**

Bacons Green Lane is subsiding and requires reporting to Mark Kerridge of SCC Highways. Clerk stated that a large pot hole had been marked for repair.

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

**12. Any Other Business.**

Mr Lickman had received a letter from the Community Council who were letting the South Suffolk Camping and Caravan Club hold a rally of up to 20 caravans on the village playing field for two weeks from 22 July, there would also be dogs in the area. The village hall facilities would be available for their use. The CC were asking if a large waste bin could be placed on the Village Hall Car Park by the SSCA. PC considered the effects of noise to the surrounding residents, the Pleasure Ground should be cordoned off as no parking of cars or vans could be allowed on this space, directional signs should in place, a telephone number of the person in charge and the waste bin should be lidded. It was suggested that any damage to the car park should be made good by the Community Council as the surface was now vulnerable.

**13. Newsletter for Publication.** Broadband, Advertisement for Clerk/Councillor. Wind Farm Fund. Broadband, Emergency Planning.

**Date and Time of next meeting.** – 6 June 2016 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.