

**Minutes of Westhall Parish Council meeting
Monday 5th September 2016 7.30 Westhall Village Hall**

Councillors Present: Mr P Langford (Chairman), Mr K Studd, Mrs E Clark, Mrs L Studd (also as Clerk), and Mrs L McTaggart.

In Attendance: Cllr Tony Goldson (SCC)

1. **Apologies and acknowledgment of absences:** Mr J Lickman
2. **New Parish Councillor:** Declaration of acceptance of office signed by Mr C Baker, witnessed by Mr K Studd.
3. **Declaration of financial interests:** None
4. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Resolution passed that minutes of 4th July meeting are correct record.
5. **Clerk's report on progress of actions from last meeting:** all actions completed but following noted:
Item 4c - response submitted to consultation on improving access to countryside (with thanks to Mr G Harvey)
Items 5a and b - Barclays account updates still on-going
Item 7a - Mill Common road works booked for 17th October - 18th November, involving two periods of road closure and parking suspension. Full details awaited from Suffolk Highways.
Item 8b - two workshops available for 'Developing Emergency Plans' - 20th October 9:30-12:30 at Riverside Lowestoft or 28th October 14:00-17:00 at SDC offices Melton Hill.
6. **Finance:**
 - a. Annual return and BDO's certificate of completion of audit of 2015-16 accounts approved. **Action: Clerk to publish**
 - b. Payments authorised to SALC - £50 + VAT (clerks's training) and Linstead Garden Machinery - £100 (strimmer repairs)
 - c. WDC environmental grant of £10,000 and VAT reclaim of £167.09 received. **Action: Mr Langford to speak to Mark Kerridge about payments of WDC grant and PC's contribution of £1000 toward Mill Common roadworks**
 - d. Agreed that Halesworth DC's request for contribution toward £17,000 cost of free parking in Halesworth from April 2017 should be discussed in light of amounts that Halesworth businesses, and other PCs, were prepared to offer. Cllr Goldson advised each year would be looked at individually, and cost forecast to rise to £32,000 in 2018. **Action: Clerk to add to agenda for discussion at Halesworth Parishes meeting on 28th September. Mr Langford, Mrs Studd & Mr Lickman to attend.**
 - e. Agreed means of funding future car park maintenance was an issue for charity, 'Recreation Ground', that owns the car park. (Non-public meeting of Westhall PC in its independent capacity as charity's trustee to follow PC meeting.)
7. **Planning:** Re: planning application for an extension to 4 Old Vicarage Cottages, received during summer recess, PC's decision to approve was ratified.
8. **Waveney DC's statutory consultation on changes to dog controls in public spaces -** Cllr Goldson announced draft withdrawn for amendment. Dog fouling on Redisham bridleway is very bad. **Action: Clerk to ascertain cost of additional dog waste bin and notices, and of Waveney Norse to empty an additional bin.**

Signed (P Langford, Chairman):

9. **Waveney Parishes meeting 13th July** - Clerk, in Mr Lickman's absence, reported some PCs are training councillors in use of hand-held speed monitors. Promised speaker on Special Police Officers for next meeting on 28th September now unavailable.
10. **Roads & footpaths:** No PC comments re: SCC Highways consultation. Mr Langford reported from Mark Kerridge of Suffolk Highways that Westhall PC should not see reduced service; e.g. reports of potholes would still be actioned. Report online: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/potholes/report-a-pothole/>
(But if pothole poses immediate danger to public safety - call **0345 606 6171**)
11. **Recent interruptions in water supply:** Mr Lickman had reported to Dr Therese Coffey MP, prompting apology and information from Essex & Suffolk Water. In 2013 pump at Halesworth Tower was replaced to improve water pressure and supply in Westhall area. There is a system to maintain water pressure, albeit at a lowered level, in event of power cut, but water pressure monitor failed in July so water tower was emptied. Relevant data link has now been upgraded. They are still reviewing power interruptions to identify how to improve reliability. **Action: Mr Lickman to accept E&S Water's offer to meet following completion of review, to discuss their plans for Westhall area.**
12. **The Racehorse:** PC had been asked to consider applying to register pub, closed since departure of last tenant, as an Asset of Community Value. Owner has advised he is looking to sell pub as a going concern. Registering an Asset of Community Value merely creates period for community organisation to raise funds should owner decide to sell, but confers no right of pre-emption or discount.
(<http://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/understanding-the-community-right-to-bid/>)
PC could not see any prospect of raising sufficient funds to buy pub, or how PC and community could run pub. It was hoped owner could sell as a going concern but, if a planning application is made to change use, PC will be notified and entitled to comment.
Decision taken not to apply for registration.
13. **Correspondence (as listed with Agenda):** Locks Road closure 19th-23rd September. Nothing else of note.
14. **Reports from other organisations:** None
15. **Any items of information:**
 - a. Mrs Clark shortly to conduct annual allotment inspections. **Action: Clerk to supply list of current tenants and plots.**
 - b. Mr Langford reported gritting and winter preparation workshop 9th November 13:45-16:30 at Kelsale-cum-Carlton for anyone using grit bins who wants to be covered by Suffolk Highway's insurance.
 - c. Westhall's website now includes more info - local events, planning and other news, oil syndicate rules etc www.westhall.onesuffolk.net
16. **News items for Halesworth Community News:** Mill Common road works dates, Essex & Suffolk Water info, Racehorse closure discussion, completion of audit.
17. **Next meetings:** 7.30pm - 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December. (NOTE: Meeting dates in 2017 to move to 2nd Monday of the month)

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.