

Minutes of Westhall Parish Council
Monday 9th September 2019 at 7.30 pm Westhall Village Hall

Councillors Present: Mr P Langford (as Chairman), Mr J Lickman, Mr C Baker; Mrs L McTaggart, Mrs L Brown, Mr C Punt, Mrs A Donnachie (Clerk)

In Attendance: Cllr A Cackett and Members of the public

- 1 Apologies and acknowledgment of absences:** Apologies – Mrs S Self
- 2 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests:** None.
- 3 Minutes of previous meeting:** Resolution passed minutes of Westhall Parish Council meeting held on 8th July 2019 are correct record.
- 4 Chairman and Clerk's report on progress of actions from previous meeting(s):** All actions completed/designated to other Agenda items below, but following noted: **Item 10e (08/07/19) Councillor Training Session (08/07/19)** Cllr Baker attended this basic training for new councillors. Overview of content was forwarded to those who could not attend in June by Clerk. **Item 12e (08/07/19) Noticeboards:** Many thanks to Cllr Lickman and Vernon Brown for the 2 new noticeboards now located on side of Village Hall. The front noticeboard requires some maintenance. **Action: Cllr Lickman will carry out painting of the woodwork.**
- 5 Finance:**
 - 5a Financial Report by Clerk:** Bank reconciliation of accounts to 29th August 2019. Current balance held is £5,339.10.
 - 5b Update on Final Year End Accounts, Audit, Budget & Review of Reserves Policy:** Period for the exercise of public rights ended 23rd July 2019. It was noted that the PC will need to appoint a new internal auditor for next year's accounts. **Action: Clerk to follow-up on possible auditors.**
 - 5c Item 11a (12/11/18) Computer equipment for use of Parish Clerk:** A laptop, software and printer has been purchased for use by Parish Clerk at a cost of £757.78. A £500 locality grant from Cllr Tony Goldson going towards the cost. Many thanks to Cllr Goldson for this award and many thanks also to Cllr Lickman for sourcing and collecting this equipment.
 - 5d Annual Renewal of Parish Council insurance due 1st October 2019:** Agreed to renew policy at a cost of £234.08 **Action: Clerk to inform insurers and raise cheque.**
 - 5e Return of reporting form to Adnams Community Trust:** For grant towards village defibrillator training, maintenance and battery: **Action: Chairman to complete reporting form and forward with receipts no later than 31st October 2019.**
 - 5f Cheques signed to:** Clerk salary for September & October £181.00; Vertas for grass cutting £106.70 incl. VAT (to be reimbursed by Recreation Ground); Suffolk County Council for election fees £76.16; Halesworth Town Council for contribution to 1 hour free parking scheme £100.
- 6 Highways & Footpaths:**
 - 6a Revised Grit Bin Guidance:** Restocking of grit bins being carried out mid September. All 9 of our grit bins checked and only 1 at corner of Locks Road and Wangford Road need restocking. Areas around grit bins found to be overgrown. **Action: Clerk to inform highways department of location of grit bin to be restocked. Cllr Lickman to arrange grass strimming around some grit bins.**
 - 6b Sinking road surface in Butts Road:** Suffolk Highways have marked some but not all the areas of sinkage. **Action: Chairman to take photos and report to Suffolk Highways.**
 - 6c Overgrown Public Footpaths:** Overgrown footpath adjacent to Paradise Farm and also footpath between the sewage works and ditch being blocked by 2 fallen trees. **Action: Chairman has reported overgrown footpath alongside Paradise Farm.**
- 7. Planning:** No new planning applications received. It was noted that a second planning application at Oak Tree Farm, Cox Common had been refused.
- 8. Allotments:** Still 3.5 plot vacancies at Locks Road allotments, Awaiting response from one prospective tenant. Allotment inspections due to be carried out before annual rent renewals in November. **Actions: Cllr Lickman and Cllr Brown to carry out inspections later this week; Clerk to continue to advertise vacancies and to send out renewal letters prior to Allotment Meeting on 11th November.**
- 9. Sizewell C Stage 4 Public Consultation:** Information Pack outlines updates following Stage 3 Consultation and Learning from Hinckley Point C. Main changes are: Rail movement of material to/from site; Changes to boundaries for development consent (Marsh Harrier and Fen Meadow land) and areas for pylon carrying electricity generated away from the site. Existing proposals include: Upgrade access road B1122, including junction with A12 at Yoxford and new roundabout and dual carriageway to link B1122 to site; A12 to village bypass for Farnham and Stratford St Andrew; Beach landing facility combined with sea defences for oversized loads; Temporary structures including accommodation campus (2,400 workers) c/w parking and campsite (400 pitches).

Proposals included new rail siding or spur alongside the existing Sizewell Halt, upgrades to crossings on branch line to allow longer trains to be used and more freight per train movement. Minor alterations to the road layouts based on feedback to minimise disruption to existing properties. Minor amendments to other road junctions including A12/A144 Darsham and Darsham park and ride. Ongoing and continuation work on Environmental Impact Assessment and Consultations ahead of preparation of application to Government for Development.

Action: *Chairman to forward comments by 27th September suggesting Park and ride at Darsham will not be retained after the construction phase. Reconsider retaining part of the facility for increased parking for those using East Suffolk railway line and provide legacy benefit for Darsham. Provision of electric vehicle charging points. Improvements to other N Suffolk stations to accommodate local employees. Note: Chairman has sent comments to EDF Energy about the Stage 4 Consultation on 13th September.*

- 10 Policing:** Cllrs Baker and Lickman attended the Halesworth Police Locality Meeting on 22nd July. They spoke about their success with issues relating to county lines (organised drugs groups working in local towns) but could not give more details on prosecutions pending. At present Suffolk has only been allocated one rural police officer PC Kevin Stollery despite an increase in rural crime on farms, etc. The Police are putting the emphasis on people reporting crime which allows them to look at patterns. Police asked that Councillors look to raise awareness of the 101 number where the public can report any non-urgent problems and the available internet information on the Suffolk website. Spoke of local councils sponsoring a PCSO, however this would not guarantee their services would be exclusive. With regards to the latest burglary at Tony's Store, 4 people have been arrested and released on bail.
- 11 Westhall Parish Council Website (<https://www.westhallonesuffolk.net>) Website Content:** Clerk has recently received an offer to explore the possibility of building an all inclusive website perhaps involving the Racehorse Community Pub Society, the Community Council and others. Still awaiting feedback from other groups. **Action:** *Place on the agenda for next meeting.*
- 12 Correspondence Received:**
- 12a Stop Search Scrutiny Meeting,** Public Meeting on Wednesday 25th September, 5pm-7pm, Sams Café, 132 Bevan Street East, Lowestoft NR32 2AQ. Young people in particular especially welcome.
- 12b Green Access Strategy, Suffolk – Consultation Launches.** Plan to identify the changes that will improve rights of way provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with mobility problems. Consultation open until Friday 20th September. Find out more at www.suffolk.gov.uk/rowip or obtain a paper copy or take the survey over the phone by calling 0345 603 1842
- 12c Waveney Area Forum Programme – 17th September 2019 at 7pm** The Riverside Centre, Bungay.
- 12d Suffolk Police Newsletter – launch of new format ‘Constables County’ –** Incorporates the whole of Suffolk. Published bi-monthly in electronic format only at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters>
- 12e Better Broadband for Suffolk –** Parish Councillor Briefing provides information about the project and the steps residents and businesses need to take to access the faster broadband speeds. Provides information on how to contact the team to find out about broadband in your area. For more information visit <https://betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/>. **Action:** *Clerk to upload to our website and display on noticeboard*
- 12f Mental Health & Care Partnership Norfolk & Waveney 5 Year Plan –** asking for councillor and public views and share ideas, visit <https://ingoodhealth.dialogue-app.com/>. **Action:** *Clerk to upload to our website*
- 12g British Red Cross Support at Home Service:** This volunteer service at James Paget University Hospital are looking to make people in the area aware of this service which aims to support people in crisis.. **Action:** *Clerk to upload information to our website and display on noticeboard*
- 13 Reports from other organisations:**
Cllr Cackett our District Councillor updated meeting on the following:
- 13a Halesworth Town Council:** Possible changes to parking around Halesworth Town Centre and Halesworth Station. Proposal to withdraw free parking from Thoroughfare car park to four others.
- 13b Climate Emergency:** On 24 July 2019 East Suffolk Council declared a Climate Emergency. An Emergency Task Group will be looking at ways of reducing carbon emissions and working more eco friendly. Parish Councils can also declare a Climate Emergency. **Action:** *Add to November Agenda; Cllr Cackett to forward further information and provide details of speaker on recycling.*
- 13c Parking on roads around Halesworth Police Station:** Cllr Tony Goldson joined the meeting and spoke about this problem which is currently being reviewed.
- 14 Any Items of Information:**
- 14a Dog loo bin by Paradise Farm:** This bin has sustained damage possibly by a vehicle. Clerk has contacted East Suffolk Norse to arrange for this to be emptied and repaired. **Action:** *Clerk to monitor situation and review next meeting.* Clerk asked if Parish Council would consider purchase of a dog loo bin to be located in the Church Lane area. **Action:** *Clerk to contact East Suffolk Norse for a quote to supply and review at next meeting.*

- 14b Village Hall Car Park – unauthorised parking:** Report of a trailer and motorcycle being stored in car park for several weeks. Owner, a new resident to the village, has now contacted the Clerk and will be arranging to remove the vehicles shortly to go into suitable storage. Reminder to parishioners that car parking is for the benefit of all villagers and those using the village hall, therefore no overnight parking without permission.
- 4c Paper Bank at Village Car Park:** Reported that bank has been full now for some time. Clerk contacted MH White Ltd, who supply the bank and it was to be emptied last week, however this has not happened. **Action:** *Clerk to contact supplier and monitor situation.*
- 14d Complaint about poor condition of areas around Racehorse Pub:** Overgrown vegetation around premises and encroaching onto footpaths and car park. Expected that the pub will continue to remain unoccupied and we will continue to monitor the situation.
- 14e Fly tipping of garden waste:** It was reported that garden waste is being tipped behind Meadow Close garages. **Action:** *Clerk to contact owners of this land and make them aware of situation. Cllr McTaggart to raise awareness with residents of this fly tipping and to monitor the situation.* Fly tipping also occurred off Butts Road which has now been cleared presumably by the landowner.
- 15 News Items for Halesworth Community News:** Grit bin restocking; Butts Road sinkage; Sizewell Stage 4 Public Consultation; Police matters.
- 16 Meetings for 2019:** 7.30 pm Monday 11th November (preceded by Annual Allotment Meeting & Rent Renewals)

Meeting closed at 9 pm