

# WETHERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- Present: Cllr Duncan Perry, Cllr Richard Thurman, Cllr Stephanie Hensley, District Cllr Rachel Eburne, District Cllr Janet Pearson, County Cllr Andrew Stringer and three members of the public
- 2024/123 **Apologies for absence**  
Cllr Stacey Lascelles. Cllr Andy Lewis.
- 2024/124 **Declarations of Interest**  
None declared.
- 2024/125 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**  
The minutes of the meeting of Monday of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 2024/126 **District Councillor Rachel Eburne's report**  
Councils of Mid Suffolk and Babergh, with a Green Party administration, have been jointly awarded Council of the Year for their collaboration with different partners, working to improve services and focus on communities; as part of the Joint Local Plan part 2, all parish and town councils have been invited to complete a questionnaire regarding services and facilities present in each area; a new rural transport grants scheme with monies available of £600,000 has been just launched to provide passenger transport across the district, deadline 15<sup>th</sup> April.
- 2024/127 **County Councillor Andrew Stringer's report**  
A third Ofsted inspection in a row has led to the resignation of the Cabinet members for SEND; a new director of Children and Young people has been recruited and has experience of turning around local authorities that are underperforming in SEND provision; devolution consultation is now open for public consultation, if agreed it will mean the leader of SCC would be directly elected by people in Suffolk; Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects proposed in Suffolk continue to increase, but as with all Nsip's the government makes the decision with County, District and Parish being consultees in the process.  
Local issues: The dangerous pothole at the junction of Warren Lane will be repaired on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March; the timetable for the Quarry planning application is imminent.
- 2024/128 **Public Participation**  
Matters brought to the attention of the parish council included the ongoing problem of vehicles speeding through the village, SH suggested a temporary third speed indicator device that sits on the verge is hired, however, support from the local authorities to bring in the police is essential. To highlight speeding, data from the speed camera needs to be downloaded and sent onto the appropriate authority; unclear signage needs to be reinstated as this could prevent motorists from being prosecuted; relating to concerns raised by the village hall in respect of the abuse of the car park on match days, Tony (Scouse) from the Youth Football Team informed the meeting he has the opportunity for 40 tons of graded hardcore to be delivered free of charge to the village hall car park. With a tight deadline and permission required, a conference call following the parish council meeting has been arranged by Cllr Hensley between Keith Watts and Tony.

- 2024/129 **Clerk's report**  
The Clerk confirmed the Locality Budget Grant of £1000 towards the Pavilion refurbishment has been received. A thank you was given to Cllr Eburne. No further matters to report.
- 2024/130 **To receive finance reports and authorise payments**  
The finance report was agreed and payments as per the schedule were approved. Bank balance as of 22<sup>nd</sup> March stands at £23,095.70.
- Expenditure**
- |                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Litter picker  | 67.73  |
| Suffolk Cloud  | 350.00 |
| ICO            | 40.00  |
| Suffolk Cloud  | 40.00  |
| Clerk's salary | 434.90 |
| Anglian Water  | 26.22  |
- Income**
- |                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Wayleaves payment       | 126.59  |
| Locality Budget payment | 1000.00 |
- To appoint the internal auditor for the financial year 2023-2024**  
Councillors approved the appointment of Trevor Brown to undertake the 2023/4 internal audit – all in agreement.
- 2024/131 **Planning applications validated since the last meeting**  
Planning appeal has been submitted for the erection of 2No. single storey residential dwellings with garages and new vehicular access (following infill of existing swimming pool), The Willows, Park Road, Wetherden, Stomarket, Suffolk IP14 3J. The parish council objected to the original application.
- 2024/132 **Website**  
Still awaiting information from local groups for adding to the website. New gov.uk emails have been activated.
- 2024/133 **Flooding under the bridge at Ashfield Road/Blocked ditches**  
Flooding now cleared. Feedback received says the bank on either side is not being retained by grass and is just soil. Contact has been made with the landowners and is being progressed by the Highways Enforcement Agency. No further update at present.
- 2024/134 **Townlands car park resurfacing**  
Highways are still keen to support local projects, and with the car park now drying out, a site survey will be undertaken and possibly some works scheduled within the next two weeks. Cllr Perry to maintain regular contact with Highways.
- 2024/135 **To consider common/playing field/projects and concerns**  
The whole of the ditch next to the footpath by the football pitch has been dredged and some brambles removed, the top section is still to be done. James Bevan to be contacted regarding clearing out his section of ditch. A working group to be set up to sort out areas near the tennis courts and make good at the field when the football season is finished.
- 2024/136 **Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the council**  
None.
- 2024/137 **Date of next meeting**  
Annual Parish Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm followed by the Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm.