

# WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council held by Video Conference at 7:30pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Present:** **The Chairman** – Mr Ian Watson  
**Councillors** – Mr Mark Buxton, Mr Kevin Cross, Miss Alison Evans, Mr David Fletcher, Mr Simon Forder, Mrs Lindsay Hanger, Mrs Lucinda Hutson, Mr Roger Middleditch, Mr Trevor Oram, Mr Keith Perry, Mr David Reeves.  
**The Clerk** – Mrs Frances Bullard  
**Suffolk County Council** – Cllr Tony Goldson  
**Waveney District Council** – Cllr Norman Brooks

		<b>ACTION</b>
	The Chairman welcomed all and reminded them that the meeting is not being recorded, anyone wishing to record the meeting must declare this in advance.	
<b>1</b>	<b>OPEN FORUM</b>	
	<p>Prior to the start of the meeting an Open Forum was held.</p> <p>Mrs Hutson confirmed that development land on Chapel Road has been sold by Benacre Company. Mrs Hutson met with 3 prospective developers, Cripps were a clear favourite &amp; the sale has now completed. The Chairman explained the PCs role in the planning process and said that comments &amp; concerns from tonight's meeting will be published on the PC website and updated as responses are received from the developer.</p> <p>Mr Marc Nolan of Chaplin Farrant Architects spoke on behalf of the developers, he said Cripps Developers are a Beccles based company with a track record of providing high quality homes, they are keen to work with the local community and take all views on board. Site plans were shared and discussed. The proposal is for 65 dwellings with approximately half being single storey to minimise the impact on surrounding countryside &amp; dwellings. There will be 18 affordable homes, primarily single storey. A new attenuation pond is included to alleviate flooding and create an environmentally friendly wetland habitat. A fully equipped play area is included in the scheme along with footpaths to encourage dog walkers etc. Archaeological work is due to begin next week. It is anticipated the total build time of the site will be 2 years. There will be a further consultation event, hopefully face to face.</p> <p>The Chairman invited members of public to speak and raise any questions with Mr Nolan.</p> <p>Valerie Barber spoke re the 'ransom strip', she said it is a lovely area and supports lots of wildlife, she would like to see it remain along with the fence on the field side of it. Mr Nolan said there are no plans to change this.</p> <p>Valerie Barber spoke re surface water and concerns that this may increase, Mr Nolan said the new attenuation pond is in addition to the existing one &amp; designed to prevent flooding. The Environment Agency will be consulted and need to approve the work.</p> <p>Valerie Barber said originally 60 dwellings were proposed – this has now risen to 65 which means less space and more cars. Mr Nolan said there are more dwellings, however a greater percentage are bungalows and because</p>	

of this he estimates there will potentially be less cars than if 60 houses were built.

Valerie Barber said the footpath shown on the plans is not currently well used, residents tend to walk along the side of the ransom strip to the A12. Mr Nolan said there is potential to extend the footpath to the A12 and he will look into this.

Greg & Joni Tallamy spoke, they live in Priory Road, their orangery and dormer windows overlook the entire site, they are very concerned that the 2 storey buildings in the centre of the site will overlook their garden. There were diggers on site today and 8 workmen looking into their garden. The headlights of cars driving down the new roads on site will shine directly into properties on Priory Road. They would like to see a screen of established trees. Mr Nolan said he will visit the site to review this.

Greg & Joni Tallamy feel the footpath along the outer edge of the site imposes on houses along Priory Road. Mr Nolan said the potential for this to be relocated will be explored.

Greg & Joni Tallamy spoke re flooding – the stream is currently cleared by the Environment Agency twice a year – they fear any excess water will flood and impact on Priory Road residents. Mr Nolan said water will not be allowed to run off site, there will be control mechanisms. Mr Nolan advised that the first part of any build is drainage and foundations – Cripps maintain clean and tidy sites – roadways go in very early to minimise mud/surface water. Mr Nolan will speak with the Engineers and provide further detail.

Keith & Rita Perry – echo concerns raised – they spoke re the sewage which is currently pumped to near Pyes Hall – can the system cope? Mr Nolan said Anglian Water will be statutory consultees, they have confirmed that there is spare capacity, at peak times waste can be stored on site and pumped out at quieter times, this will be managed.

Rita Perry expressed concern the safety of the pond, especially to children. Mr Nolan said, unlike the original pond, the new pond will be larger and shallower, with gently sloping sides, for much of the time it will be very shallow or even empty. He anticipates the pond will enhance the area rather than detract from it. It will be designed with safety in mind. Keith Perry asked if the area would be maintenance free – Mr Nolan said all open space on site will be managed through a maintenance company & be paid for by residents. Roads will be maintained by Highways and drainage by Anglian Water.

John Stammers of Priory Road spoke re flooding – this year there has been more flood water than in the last 20 years & at its peak was approx 2 feet deep. He believes the attenuation pond is higher than the land which floods. Mr Nolan said he understands concern however the Environment Agency will not permit any work which will add to the flooding. Mr Nolan is happy to visit individual properties and discuss concerns.

Fiona Anderson of Chatten Close echoed concerns – she said the footpath from Chapel Road around the field follows the buffer zone to the High Street and she would like to see this remain. Mr Nolan said Secure by Design (Police) advice does not encourage footpaths that are between properties or not overlooked but he would certainly look into extending the path to the A12.

Fiona Anderson spoke re the pond and said children can drown even in shallow water – she would like to see the safety of the pond reviewed.

Fiona Anderson spoke re traffic on Chapel Road – the school bus currently stops almost opposite the site entrance. Mr Nolan said currently it is National Speed limit from the West and he would welcome a reduction. He will look at the possibility of a layby being created which could accommodate the school bus and be used as additional parking outside school hours. He will also work with Highways to look to introduce a safe pedestrian crossing. The Clerk said there are already issues on this road as it is used by lorries to cut through to the A12 rather than go along Guildhall Lane, Mr Nolan will discuss this with Highways.

Simon Brimacombe spoke re the ransom strip – this has previously been maintained by Benacre Company – Mr Nolan will look into this and advise.

Simon Brimacombe said single storey dwellings are being built to minimise visual impact yet his house on Chatten Close will now face houses which will result in a loss of light/view. Mr Nolan said there will be a minimum of 30m between the properties but he will review.

Simon Brimacombe spoke re the number of new dwellings – 65 could lead to 130+ vehicles coming and going, the junction of Chapel Road & A12 is already busy. Dentists and Doctors are already in short supply and this development will lead to greater demand. Mr Nolan said there is little that can be done to improve the Chapel Road/A12 junction. ESC will have consulted with health care providers as part of the Local Plan process.

Simon Brimacombe asked if the entrance to the site and approach roads will be kept clean during the build. Mr Nolan said wheel washing is likely to be a condition of planning & the site will be very well managed.

Chris Mead said he was surprised by the low proportion of affordable housing. Mr Nolan said ESC guidance is for 25% therefore 18 out of 65 is acceptable.

Chris Mead said if thermal efficient houses are being built, has ground or air source heating been considered. Mr Nolan said all options are considered – 20% of energy has to be generated on-site.

Claudia Osborne said her concerns have already been addressed – her main concern is that the attenuation pond appears to be higher than the houses on Priory Road.

The Chairman asked that priority for affordable housing be given to local people. Mr Nolan said this is managed by ESC and he will liaise with the Housing Officer to ask that priority be given to people with a local connection.

The Chairman thanked all for their input & said it had been good to have been able to hold constructive conversations at this early stage in order to work towards the best outcomes for all.

Mr Nolan thanked everyone for a positive session. He will feedback via the Clerk and advise asap re further consultation opportunities.

Open Forum closed & PC Meeting started.

<b>2</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	Apologies were received and accepted from Miss Fran D'Alcorn.	
<b>3</b>	<b>PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS</b>	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall. Mrs Hutson – 8.5 The Chairman – 8.6	
<b>4</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY VC ON 15th FEBRUARY 2021</b>	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held by VC on 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Mr Perry & seconded by Mr Forder - All in favour – a copy will be signed by The Chairman.	<b>FB</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Update re Coronavirus Covid-19 situation</b> – Mr Perry said there are no issues and requests for help are low. Most residents have now had their first vaccination. The Clerk will circulate the update from Cllr Brooks.	<b>FB</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Parish Council Website</b> – There is a new page for Parish Councillor Profiles – please send a profile picture to Mr Cross if you are happy to be added to this page. The Clerk thanked Mr Cross for updating the site, often at short notice.	<b>All</b>
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Update re Spring Litter Pick</b> – took place on 27 <sup>th</sup> February – fantastic response with 34 volunteers – many thanks to – Alison Evans, Andy Marshall, Lisa & Amber, Chris Mead, David Fletcher, Dean Howard, Fiona Anderson, Hannah, Jacqui Stringer, Jane Drane, Jane Samkin, Jenny Knights, Daisy, Molly & Ralph, Keith Perry, Kevin Cross, Coral, Linda Allen, Lindsay Hanger, Lucinda Hutson, Lynn Newman, Margaret & Peter Boyce, Simon Forder, Stuart Cook, Trevor & Donna Oram, Victoria Vere Nicoll. A huge amount of rubbish was collected – 2 vans were needed to remove it all. The Chairman purchased additional equipment (item 8.6) – thanks to Southwold Town Council for the loan of extra kit. The Chairman will look to extend the litter pick to Covehithe and Benacre in the Autumn. Mr Oram thanked The Chairman for organising and ensuring Covid restrictions were followed. The Clerk has been advised there will be a Beach Clean at Covehithe on 24 <sup>th</sup> April.	
<b>5.4</b>	<b>26 High Street – CIL update from Cllr Brooks</b> – Cllr Brooks has been in touch with the CIL Team who advise that a CIL Liability Notice was issued for the original application DC/18/3696/FUL however there were deductions for demolition and re-use, and no increase in gross floorspace which resulted in a zero liability. Therefore no CIL is payable for this development. The Chairman said this is very disappointing.	
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Village Charity – Appointment of Trustees</b> – The Chairman advised Mr David Reeves and Mr Mike Day are standing down, he expressed thanks for their many years of service as Trustees. The Chairman proposed Dr Nigel Drane be appointed to November 2021, Mr David Fletcher be appointed to November 2022, Mrs Rita Perry be appointed to November 2023 & Miss Alison Evans be appointed to November 2024, this was seconded by Mrs Hutson, All in favour. This will get things back on track and mean one appointment will be made each year in line with the constitution of the Charity.	
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Suffolk Rewilding</b> – The Clerk has been advised St Nicholas Churchyard and both the old and new Cemetery are to be adopted to the scheme. The Clerk has spoken with Cllr James Mullender who is happy to extend the scheme to part of the play park. Mr Oram will visit the play area and advise at the next meeting of the most suitable area to be set aside for rewilding.	<b>TO</b>

5.7	<b>Allotments – to agree rent for 2021/22</b> – The Clerk said last year rent was £17.50 for a half plot & £35 for a full plot – Mr Oram proposed this stay the same, seconded by Mr Middleditch, All in favour. The Clerk will send letters to allotment holders, she will request that payment be made by bank transfer due to Covid restrictions. Mr Cross asked if the allotments mentioned on the Village Charity constitution are the existing ones – Mr Reeves confirmed this is not the case – the allotments mentioned were on Southwold Road where the Doctors surgery is now.	<b>FB</b>
5.8 5.8.1	<b>Any other Matters Arising –</b> Mrs Hanger said the laurel hedge in front of Tom Thumb Cottage has now been trimmed from the footpath.	
6	<b>HIGHWAYS MATTERS</b>	
6.1	<b>VAS Monthly Data</b> – Mr Buxton has circulated the latest data – there appears to have been a slight reduction in vehicles, possibly due to lockdown. Mr Buxton spoke re a Community Speeding Forum which was held by SALC. Documents from this forum say local Police SNTs will use 3 <sup>rd</sup> party data which is different to what Mr Buxton was told last year. Cllr Goldson said he has raised this with the Chief Constable and 3 <sup>rd</sup> party data is not used. SCC will roll out ANPR scheme in June/July.	
6.2	<b>UPDATES RE HIGHWAYS MATTERS, INC FLOODING ISSUES</b>	
6.2.1	The ditch on Falcon Inn Road has now been dug out. There remains a mound which is possibly a water pipe. Cllr Goldson asked that Mr Oram contact him after purdah and he will double check that the drains have been 'blown out'.	
6.2.2	Mr Oram spoke re a 'slippery road' sign on the A12 – just after the Guildhall Lane junction which is very worn – The Clerk will report.	<b>FB</b>
6.2.3	Grit Bins – The Clerk has been advised these will all be refilled following the recent spell of cold weather.	
7	<b>PLANNING</b>	
7.1	<b>Any further Planning Applications/Matters</b> DC/21/1088/LBC – 31 High Street – plans shared and discussed – all internal alterations. The Chairman proposed to recommend permission be granted, seconded by Mr Perry, All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.  The Clerk advised a Planning Forum is being held on 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 2:30pm – if anyone wishes to attend please let her know.	<b>FB</b>  <b>All</b>
8	<b>FINANCE</b>	
8.1	Balances at Bank – £30,904.30 Business Saver Account (WRAC) (Lions donation) - £443.26 Current Account - £19,905.15 Business Saver Account (CIL) - £10,555.89 The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements. The Clerk confirmed the monies paid in January for the Oak Hill Close bench are to be transferred from the CIL monies – she will transfer this and the £300 CIL money received for Meadowside between accounts when online banking is in place.	<b>FB</b>
8.2	Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55	
8.3	Clerks salary & Clerks expenses of £5.24	
8.4	HMRC payment – Nil	
8.5	Invoice from Benacre Estate for allotment rental - £50.00	
8.6	Invoices from Mr Watson for Litter Pick equipment - £296.82	
8.7	Any other accounts received –	
8.7.1	Invoice from Communicorp for Clerks & Councils Subscription - £36.00	
8.7.2	Invoice from CAS – VH Insurance - £1322.83 – The Clerk advised that Legal Expenses has been added to the policy at a cost of £63.00	

	Above payments 8.2 to 8.7.2 were proposed by Mr Middleditch & seconded by Mr Perry, All in favour. The Clerk will arrange for cheques to be signed by The Chairman & Mrs Hutson.	<b>FB</b>
<b>8.9</b>	<b>ONLINE BANKING APPLICATION</b>	
	The Chairman is progressing the online banking application. He now has online access and papers will be signed tomorrow to add The Clerk as signatory.	
<b>8.10</b>	<b>INTERNAL/EXTERNAL AUDIT 2021</b>	
	The Clerk has spoken with Rosie Carter who has confirmed she is happy to conduct the internal audit this year. The Clerk will progress in due course.	
<b>9</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Email from Mr Wren re cutting of hedgerows</b> – The Clerk has responded to Mr Wren after speaking with the landowner.	
<b>9.2</b>	<b>Any further correspondence received –</b>	
<b>9.2.1</b>	Email from Fresh Start New Beginnings seeking donations. They are a Suffolk based Charity supporting child survivors of sexual abuse. Miss Evans proposed a £50 donation, seconded by Mr Middleditch. This led to a proposal from Mr Fletcher that £50 be donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, seconded by Mr Middleditch, all in favour. The Clerk will raise cheques and arrange for The Chairman & Mrs Hutson to sign.	<b>FB</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>10.1</b>	Chapel Road development – following tonight’s open forum The Clerk will create a spreadsheet and record responses from the Developers, this will be published on the PC website. Mr Oram said his biggest concern is the Chapel Road/A12 crossroads, Mr Perry said only traffic lights would solve the issue. Mr Reeves said 20 years ago a scheme was drawn up with Highways for 4 sets of lights and pedestrian crossings however residents voted against it at a public meeting.	<b>FB</b>
<b>10.2</b>	The Clerk advised Delegated Authority (Covid) expires on 28 <sup>th</sup> March – it was agreed there is no need for this to be renewed. The Clerk said current legislation allows remote meetings to continue until early May – she expects to hear more about this shortly.	
<b>10.3</b>	The Annual Parish Meeting will be postponed until May.  The Chairman thanked all for attending and their patience during a long meeting.	
<b>11</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 7.30pm – by video conference</b>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:25pm