

WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Monday 17th October 2022 at 7:30pm

Present: **The Chairman** – Cllr Ian Watson
 Councillors – Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr Sue Child, Cllr Alison Evans, Cllr Simon Forder, Cllr Lindsay Hanger, Cllr Lucinda Hutson, Cllr Roger Middleditch, Cllr Trevor Oram, Cllr Keith Perry, Cllr David Reeves
 The Clerk – Mrs Frances Bullard
 Suffolk County Council – Not Present
 East Suffolk Council – Cllr Norman Brooks
 Members of Public – Two present

		ACTION
1	OPEN FORUM	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed all & invited members of public to speak.</p> <p>Emma Dye spoke re the need for a skatepark or other facility for youngsters from the village. Currently young people from the village travel to Kessingland or Southwold to use skatepark facilities. Emma feels it is important for them to have something closer to home, this will encourage them to be outside & support wellbeing. Emma has visited many homes in the village to gather opinions and has support from 105 households at present. She is happy to lead this project and find out more about costs etc. The Chairman thanked Emma for her enthusiasm & input and said this is a very big project, ideally Emma will need to find a group of people to assist her. There will many obstacles along the way, not least where it could be sited. However, it is excellent that so many residents are in favour & the PC will support Emma in exploring options. Cllr Oram & The Clerk spoke re a similar project some years ago in Kessingland, the skatepark took many years to come to fruition but is now well used and established in the community. Cllr Brooks said the cost would likely be a minimum of £100,000 – Southwold are currently going through the process & struggling to raise funds – planning permission can also be difficult to obtain. The Clerk will link with Kessingland & Southwold Clerks & also try to establish who leads on such projects at ESC so she can put Emma in touch with them.</p>	FB
2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr David Fletcher.	
3	PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall. Cllrs Hutson, Reeves & Evans – item 8.5 Cllr Oram – item 8.6	
4	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th SEPTEMBER 2022	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 th September 2022, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hutson & seconded by Cllr Buxton - All in favour – a copy was signed by The Chairman, along with the July minutes which were approved last month.	
10	Report from Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC) – brought forwards	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESC Chief Executive Stephen Baker retires at the end of 2022 – Chris Bally (from SCC) has been appointed to fill the post. • Lowestoft Gull Wing Bridge – the first section goes into place next weekend. • ‘Ease the Squeeze’ – all info is on ESC website – please 	

	<p>signpost people to the support available. Cllr Hanger spoke re difficulties she has encountered while supporting a resident to access the foodbank, despite long waits on the phone & leaving messages no contact has been made – Cllr Brooks will link directly with Cllr Hanger. The Community Partnership is looking to set up a mobile unit – The Clerk will share details of their next meeting & try to get attendance. Cllr Perry said the Time 4 Tea group are ready to set up a Warm Room. Cllr Brooks will bring Gemma Fraser along to the next meeting so support can be discussed further. The Parish Charity also exists to help those most in need. The Clerk has produced a poster for the website & noticeboard to direct people to support.</p> <p><i>Cllr Brooks was thanked for his support & left the meeting.</i></p>	FB
5	MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	<p>Parish Councillor Vacancy – the vacancy was duly advertised & no election was called so co-option can now take place. The Clerk will create a poster for the website & noticeboard – she will also send a copy to Cllr Hanger for inclusion in The Wren.</p>	FB
5.2	<p>26 High Street – an update has been received from Cllr Dunning - <i>I have been in contact with owner of the High Street property and Highways. We have now written to the county solicitors to see if we can adopt the footpath, bringing it into public ownership and then keeping the full pull in on the highway. Soon as I have a cost for this I will let you know, but it does seem to be the best option currently, financially at least. The cost could then be shared 3 ways to obtain the footpath the parish so desperately wants and needs. Meantime we have extended the bollards for the footpath, whilst further works take place on the frontage of the building.</i></p> <p>Cllr Evans advised The Larches is currently being used to access Palmers Lane, this is of concern to residents as cars are travelling through at speed. The Clerk will contact Mr Harvey to ask how long this is likely to continue for.</p>	FB
5.3 & 5.5	<p>Work on Drains at Village Hall – <i>Meeting suspended to allow Dr Nigel Drane to speak</i> – Phase one of drain works have now been completed & an invoice received for £5335. Further damage has been found & remedial work is required, estimates have been received – phase 2 - £2000-3000 & phase 3 £4000-5000. <i>Meeting reconvened.</i> Cllrs discussed these recommendations and felt phase 2 could go ahead as the work is of an emergency nature – three quotes would be required for the phase 3 work. Cllr Hutson proposed up to £3000 of CIL monies be used for phase 2 work, this was seconded by Cllr Buxton, all in favour. Dr Drane will obtain a written quotation for phase 2 this & 3 quotations for phase 3.</p> <p><i>Meeting suspended to allow Dr Nigel Drane to give updates -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Nicholas Church toilet facilities – options continue to be explored including a portalo. • Solar Panels at Village Hall – Solar Together Suffolk (SCC Scheme) have completed a survey and provided a quotation of £12,000 for a 16 panel scheme (plus £5000 for battery to allow storage if required). Following discussion Councillors felt this quotation is expensive and the benefits would not outweigh the costs. If this is revisited in the future 3 quotations would be required. • Village Hall - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion took place re the appointment of a Hall 	FB

	<p>Manager/Caretaker. It is anticipated it will be difficult to find someone to undertake this role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A keysafe will be installed to allow access for regular hall users. ○ Nigel has concerns re an online booking system as it gives less control over bookings – after discussion it was agreed it could be used for provisional bookings with the proviso that no booking was confirmed until the VHMC had reviewed the request and contacted the potential hirer. <p><i>Meeting reconvened.</i></p>	
5.4	Update re ESC Ease the Squeeze initiative - Covered during Open forum.	
5.6	Any other Matters Arising	
5.6.1	The Chairman thanked Cllr Oram for his work on the PC Noticeboard & re-siting of High St bin.	
5.6.2	Cllr Oram advised he has linked with Cllr Brooks re the project for vulnerable youngsters at his farm – Cllr Brooks is approaching CSP for funding.	
6	HIGHWAYS ISSUES	
6.1	UPDATES RE HIGHWAYS MATTERS, INC ANPR PROJECT	
	<p>The Clerk confirmed she had again reported the damage to the signs as you enter the village from the North – Highways came back to say this is on their list but low priority unless funding is available – they were originally paid for from Cllr Goldson’s budget but unfortunately Cllr Dunning is not able to assist at present. The Clerk will go back to Highways to say this is unacceptable as the signs are vital in slowing down traffic as it enters the High St & were not installed correctly from the outset.</p> <p>All other matters raised last month have been reported to Highways by The Clerk.</p>	FB
7	PLANNING	
7.1	To approve the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 26th September 2022	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 26th September 2022, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Buxton - All in favour – a copy was signed by The Chairman.	
7.2	DC/22/3516/FUL – shared and discussed – this application was originally submitted and approved in 2018, with an amendment in 2020 – the original planning permission has now lapsed – there is only 1 minor modification on the new application – The Chairman proposed that approval be recommended, seconded by Cllr Forder, All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.	FB
7.3	Any further Planning Applications/Matters - None	
8	FINANCE	
8.1	Balances at Bank – £41,724.29 Business Saver Account (WRAC) - £1.01 - Current Account - £31,321.47 - Business Saver Account (CIL) - £10,401.81 The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements.	
8.2	Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55	
8.3	Clerk’s salary & Clerk’s expenses of £62.44	
8.4	HMRC payment – Nil (paid quarterly)	
8.5	Donation to British Legion for Remembrance Day Wreath – Cllr Child	

	proposed a donation of £50, seconded by Cllr Oram, 8 in favour, 3 abstained due to expressed interest.	
8.6	Invoice from Trevor Oram for noticeboard maintenance - £104.70	
8.7	Any other accounts received – None	
	Above payments 8.2 to 8.6 were proposed by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Forder, 7 in favour, 4 abstained due to expressed interest. Online payments have been raised by The Clerk and will be approved by The Chairman/Cllr Hutson.	
8.7	Community Infrastructure Funds – to review suggestions for spending – Spreadsheet shared & discussed. Cllr Buxton will obtain current prices for VAS signs. This item will remain on the Agenda.	MB
9	Report from Cllr Annette Dunning (SCC) – already covered.	
11	CORRESPONDENCE	
11.1 11.1.1	Any further correspondence received – Email re maintenance of the Old Cemetery – ESC cut the grass twice a year, some areas are left to rewild. Concern has been raised that the area is very overgrown and it is hard to find/access graves. The Clerk will seek an update from Norse as to when it is cut, when it is next due to be cut & whether the full area can be cut.	FB
12	UPDATE FROM CLERK'S ANNUAL APPRAISAL HELD 26.09.2022	
	The Chairman advised that he & Cllr Hutson had today conducted the Clerk's Annual Appraisal. There were no matters to report & The Clerk was thanked for her work.	
13	ANY OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA	
13.1	Village Litter Pick to be held on Saturday 12 th November – starting at the Village Hall at 9:30am – The Clerk will create posters to advertise this.	
13.2	Cllr Perry spoke re a new Choral Society being formed by Rita Perry – they will meet at the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings – the village is very lucky to have a pianist, singer & violinist – it will be a fun group & everyone is welcome.	
13.3	Cllr Evans advised that there will be a concert by Wrentham Town Band at the Village Hall on the afternoon of 4 th December 2022 – everyone welcome.	
13.4	The Clerk advised the defibrillator/CPR training has been postponed until ahead of the November PC meeting on 21 st November 2022.	
13.5	A Finance meeting is to be held on 19 th December 2022 ahead of the December Meeting.	
14	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 21st November 2022 preceded by CPR/Defib training at 6:30pm	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm