

# WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:30pm

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

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>OPEN FORUM</b>	
	<p>The Vice Chairman welcomed all &amp; invited members of public to speak.</p> <p>Ms Jackie Stringer was in attendance to speak as the new owner of The Country Kitchen Café. The cafe will become a franchise of the Black Dog Deli. They hope to open at the end of March 2023. Ms Stringer asked if parking is available at the village hall &amp; whether signage could be put in place – Cllr Perry will take this back to the VHMC. Councillors wished Ms Stringer well with this venture.</p> <p>Mr Ian Watson spoke re the Planning Application for The Old Thatch, Cuckolds Green – plans were shared – there were no questions arising.</p> <p>There being no more public questions the Chairman took his seat and opened the meeting.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr David Reeves, Cllr Trevor Oram, & Cllr Alison Evans.	
<b>3</b>	<b>PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS</b>	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall. The Chairman – Item 9.1	
<b>4</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023</b>	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2023, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Forder & seconded by Cllr Hutson - All in favour – The Chairman signed a copy along with the December minutes.	
<b>5</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>26 High Street</b> – The Clerk contacted Mr Harvey (The Developer) following last months meeting and he had advised that he hoped the issue would be resolved within 3 weeks, however scaffolding is still in place which means vehicles continue to use The Larches to access Palmers Lane.	
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Warm Rooms/Community Support</b> – Time 4 Tea continues to thrive on Mondays along with the Singing Group on Tuesdays.	
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Clearance of The Wren/Trees at Village Hall</b> – clearance work was done on The Wren last week. After obtaining a second quotation Dr Drane has booked the tree work to be done on 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2023.	
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Maintenance Work at Wrentham Old Cemetery</b> - Cllr Brooks has not	

	received a response to his email re the pathway & fallen gravestones etc. The Chairman said it is important that the PC understand what work ESC/Norse are contracted to undertake so we can judge if further work needs to be funded. Cllr Brooks will try to obtain a copy of the existing Service Level Agreement.	
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Damaged/Missing Signage at Northern entrance to Village –</b> replacement of these is currently on the Highways List & will be done in due course, though it is deemed low priority.	
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Dyer Terrace Footpath Repair -</b> this is scheduled to be completed week commencing 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2023.	
<b>5.7</b> <b>5.7.1</b>	<b>Any other Matters Arising –</b> Cllr Perry previously expressed concern that there will be increased pressure on the Doctor's Surgery when the Chapel Road development is complete & that residents who already struggle at times to get appointments will find it even harder. The Clerk contacted Longshore Surgery to see what plans they have in place to mitigate the impact of the new development – they advised they are planning to have addition sessions at both Wrentham & Wangford which they are confident will deal with any increased demand.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Report from Cllr Annette Dunning (SCC) –</b> none received. Councillors were disappointed that Cllr Dunning has not attended PC Meetings or submitted a report.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Report from Cllr Norman Brooks (ESC) –</b> monthly report previously circulated to all. Cllr Brooks spoke re – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement action at Marsh Farm – this was listed for Court late January and was adjourned to March 2023. Cllr Brooks is hopeful the Court will order that items/rubbish be removed within time limits. If this order is not complied with then ESC will have the power to clear the site themselves and bill the owner.</li> <li>• ESC are raising Council Tax by 2.9% - this was the minimum sustainable rise.</li> <li>• Retained Business Rates – the system allows retention if funds are pooled and spent across Suffolk – an additional £3million has been allocated which will make a real difference.</li> <li>• Work on Gull Wing Bridge is on track &amp; within budget – the steel is due to arrive via Barge in mid March.</li> <li>• East Suffolk Services will take on all services currently undertaken by Norse in July. This company is owned by ESC but managed by a Board of Directors on a day to day basis &amp; should make it easier to get jobs done.</li> <li>• Locality Budget – Cllr Brooks has some ECB funding available – The Clerk will submit an application for funding of the replacement VAS poles (£1140).</li> <li>• Cllr Brooks will be standing for re-election in May.</li> </ul> <i>Cllr Brooks was thanked for his support and left the meeting.</i>	<b>FB</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>HIGHWAYS ISSUES</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	<b>UPDATES RE SID/VAS SIGNS/REPLACEMENT POLES</b>	
<b>8.1.1</b>	Cllr Buxton has now received the 2 new VAS signs. The Clerk has contacted Highways re upgrading the existing VAS poles – the cost is £570 per pole & we are unable to undertake this work ourselves. Cllr Buxton proposed that The Clerk progress the replacement of 2 poles (Southwold Road, outside Wrentham House & A12 at southern entrance to village), seconded by The Chairman – all in favour – The Clerk will progress.	<b>FB</b>

8.1.2	Cllr Buxton said the batteries are showing signs of age on the older VAS – he has spoken with Westcotec and these cannot be converted to solar power but can be upgraded to 12v & new batteries (cost of approx. £90 per sign). This would then allow us to add our own solar panels at a cost of approx. £30 per sign.	
8.1.3	Cllr Wren spoke re the speed limit on Chapel Road, the 30mph limit starts right on a bend just before the new play area – from previous experience he knows how dangerous this can be – children will be crossing the road right where the 30mph limit starts. The Chairman said we have tried many times over the years to get the speed limit reduced at the top end of Chapel Road and have asked for a 40mph buffer zone – however this has been rejected by Highways. We have however managed to get additional signage – the developers will install ‘gateway’ signage & signs warning drivers of the play area. During the planning process for the new housing development the PC also campaigned for a bus pull in for the school bus but this was also rejected by Highways. Mr Wren also expressed concern re the number of HGVs using Chapel Road – The Clerk advised the PC share this concern and raised it in their response to the recent SCC Lorry Route Review – however it was decided no changes were required.	
9	<b>PLANNING</b>	
	<i>The Chairman handed the meeting to the Vice Chairman &amp; left the room.</i>	
9.1	<b>DC/23/0436/FUL &amp; DC/23/0439/LBC – The Old Thatch, Cuckolds Green</b> – Plans were shared & discussed. Cllrs felt it was good to see renovations being done with such integrity. Cllr Child proposed that approval be recommended, seconded by Cllr Buxton, All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.	FB
9.2	<b>Any further Planning Applications/Matters –</b> None	
10	<b>FINANCE</b>	
10.1	Balances at Bank – £63,148.83 Business Saver Account (WRAC) - £1.01 - Current Account - £28,615.83 - Business Saver Account (CIL) - £34,531.99 The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements.	
10.2	Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00	
10.3	Clerk’s salary & Expenses of £261.84 (including SAGE, Water Bill for Allotments £83.60 & Microsoft 365 renewal £135.36)	
10.4	Quarterly HMRC payment – Nil	
10.5	Invoice from Sally Walker for Village Website hosting - £82.88	
10.6	Any other accounts received –	
10.6.1	Invoice from TWM for VAS - £8402.23	
10.6.2	The Clerk advised that Cllr Buxton had paid the first bill from BT for broadband at the Village Hall & has been reimbursed for this.	
	Above payments 10.2 to 10.6.1 were proposed by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Middleditch, All in favour, Online payments have been raised by The Clerk and will be approved by The Chairman/Cllr Hutson.	
10.7	<b>Community Infrastructure Funds – to review suggestions for spending</b> – No new suggestions received.	
10.8	<b>Allotments – To agree rent prices for 2023/24</b> – following discussion Cllr Child proposed the rent remain unchanged, seconded by Cllr Hanger, All in favour. The Clerk will make contact with allotment holders advising of this.	FB
11	<b>FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS UPDATE</b>	
	The Clerk attended an Election Briefing by SALC & advised Councillors of	

	<p>the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Elections take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – notices will be displayed on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023</li> <li>• If the election is contested results will be known on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023</li> <li>• The existing Council will cease and new Councillors take their seat on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Declarations of Acceptance of Office will be signed at the Annual PC Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023</li> <li>• Nomination Forms were distributed – completed forms must be delivered to ESC between 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 &amp; 4pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Cllr Buxton kindly offered to collect nomination forms at the next PC Meeting and make an appointment to deliver them to Riverside.</li> <li>• The Clerk has access to the Electoral Register and can advise Electoral Numbers of Proposers &amp; Seconders.</li> <li>• All Councillors must complete a new Register of Interest within 28 days of election</li> <li>• Please advise the Clerk if you do not intend to stand for election.</li> <li>• There will be a session at 7pm on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (ahead of the PC Meeting) for anyone needing assistance to complete their forms</li> </ul>	
<b>12</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
<b>12.1</b>	<b>Letter from Boggis Electrical re Test &amp; Inspection of Defibrillator –</b> Boggis Electrical have advised the Defibrillator is due for Test & Inspection. The Clerk will obtain a quote for this.	<b>FB</b>
<b>12.2</b>	<b>Email from Cllr David Reeves –</b> Cllr Reeves has advised that he will not be standing for election in May. The Chairman will draft a letter of thanks for Cllr Reeve’s 38+ years of service to the Parish Council. The Clerk will make enquiries as to how we can recognise Cllr Reeve’s contribution to the PC.	<b>IW</b> <b>FB</b>
<b>12.3</b>	<b>Email from ESC re bulb scheme –</b> ESC are running a scheme where spring flowering bulbs will be made available to communities – it was agreed to request two batches of 500 bulbs for planting in the village. The Clerk will progress.	<b>FB</b>
<b>12.4</b> <b>12.4.1</b>	<b>Any further correspondence –</b> The Clerk was contacted by the CIL team re last year’s CIL report – the report had been completed but not uploaded to the PC Website – The Chairman has signed the report and The Clerk will upload it.	<b>FB</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA</b>	
<b>13.1</b>	Cllr Hutson spoke re the Coronation Party – the Horse & Groom PH have been in touch to say they only have one credit card machine which will be needed at the pub – after discussion it was agreed to ask them if they can obtain a second machine to use at the Village Hall.	
<b>13.2</b>	Cllr Wren spoke re complaints from Mill Lane residents that the sugar beet lorries cause their beds to shake. The Chairman said this is a rural area and some disturbance is to be expected during harvest time.	
<b>13.3</b>	Cllr Child is setting up a group in Reydon to teach bell ringing – sadly the bells at St Nicholas Church are unable to be rung at present.	
<b>13.4</b>	The Chairman reminded all re the Litter Pick taking place on Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.	

13.5	Cllr Perry spoke re Village Cinema event on Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February – Fishermans Friend – all welcome – next month will be Elvis.	FB
13.6	Cllr Forder advised the signs in the bus shelter showing the location of the Defibrillator have worn – The Clerk will refresh.	
14	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 7:30pm – preceded by an Election session at 7pm</b></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed the Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 6:30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 &amp; the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:38pm

DRAFT