

## WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council  
held at The Village Hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7:30pm**

**Present:** **The Chairman** – Cllr Ian Watson  
**Councillors** – Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr Simon Forder, Cllr Lucinda Hutson, Cllr Keith Perry, Cllr Paul Wren  
**The Clerk** – Mrs Frances Bullard (via Teams)  
**Suffolk County Council** – Cllr Annette Dunning  
**East Suffolk Council** – Cllr Paul Ashton  
**Members of Public** – None present.

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>OPEN FORUM</b>	
	The Chairman welcomed all – as there were no members of public present no open forum was held.	
<b>2</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr David Fletcher, Cllr Alison Evans, Cllr Sue Child, Cllr Lindsay Hanger & Cllr Roger Middleditch.	
<b>3</b>	<b>PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS</b>	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall Cllr Forder – item 10.7 Cllr Hutson – item 9.2	
<b>4</b>	<b>TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PC MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17th JULY 2023.</b>	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hutson & seconded by Cllr Forder - All in favour – The Chairman will sign a copy.	<b>IW</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>REPORT FROM CLLR ANNETTE DUNNING – SCC (brought forwards)</b>	
	<p>Cllr Dunning spoke re proposed plans for Lionlink - onshore cabling to link with an interconnector at Friston – Wrentham were not included in the original consultations but a newly proposed route goes through Reydon, Southwold &amp; Walberswick. Cllr Dunning shared a map of the proposed route – there will be a new consultation &amp; public meetings. This is a significant project and Cllr Dunning urged all to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>Cllr Dunning spoke re the recent fatal traffic collision in Wrentham, condolences were expressed to the gentleman’s family &amp; all concerned. Thanks were expressed to the emergency services for their excellent response to a difficult incident. The Chairman said there has been concern for some time in the village regarding road safety and it will remain a priority of the Parish Council to lobby for road safety improvements including the Crossways junction &amp; the rerouting of lorries from Chapel Road. Cllr Dunning will arrange a meeting with Cllr Paul West, Cabinet Member for Highways, and will ask that when/if funds are available Wrentham is considered.</p> <p>Cllr Dunning spoke re Sizewell C – she continues to fight for support to villages further North along the A12 who will also be impacted by this development.</p> <p>The Chairman spoke re the bridge in Chapel Road, this was built in 1827, and the number of HGVs using Chapel Road may impact on its condition.</p> <p>The Chairman spoke re the request for a bus pull-in in Chapel Road – unfortunately this was not supported by Highways, plans show that the road will be widened but at present it seems to have been narrowed.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Dunning spoke re concern raised by residents of 1, 3 &amp; 5 Bonsey Gardens who are experiencing difficulties when receiving deliveries as it is not clear they are part of Bonsey Gardens because their properties face onto Chapel Road – Cllr Dunning will share the detail with Cllr Ashton who will explore increased signage.</p> <p><i>Cllr Dunning left the meeting.</i></p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>26 High Street</b> – the gate/fence has now been reinstated so vehicles are no longer using The Larches for access.	
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Fitting of gas struts to the trapdoor on the Village Hall Stage</b> – Cllr Forder has now completed this work and submitted an invoice. Thanks were expressed to him for this.	
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Updates from Asset Register Review –</b>	
<b>5.3.1</b>	<b>New Bin in layby as you enter village from the South</b> – it was previously agreed that a bin should be installed in the layby between Guildhall Lane & Pyes Hall Farm as a lot of litter seems to accumulate there. The Clerk confirmed she has requested this and has chased ESC for an update.	
<b>5.3.2</b>	<b>Repainting of bench on A12 near Priory Road</b> – Cllr Forder has completed this work and submitted his invoice. Thanks were expressed to him for this.	
<b>5.3.3</b>	<b>Replacement of benches at Wrentham Cemeteries</b> – Two benches are to be replaced - The Chairman will progress the order for these.	<b>IW</b>
<b>5.3.4</b>	<b>Flower bed outside Chinese Takeaway</b> – Cllr Forder & Trevor Oram have undertaken this work and submitted an invoice – thanks were expressed for this.	
<b>5.3.5</b>	<b>Overgrown footpath at end of Bonsey Gardens</b> – The Clerk has reported & chased this.	
<b>5.3.6</b>	<b>Damaged posts &amp; rails at Crossways Car Park</b> – The Clerk has reported & chased this. Cllr Forder has cleared the footpath near the bus shelter of vegetation.	
<b>5.3.7</b>	<b>Litter Bin for Crossways Car park</b> - it was previously agreed that a larger bin should be installed – The Clerk has requested this and chased ESC.	
<b>5.3.8</b>	<b>Grit Bin – Chapel Road junction with Oakhill Close</b> – The Clerk advised the request submitted previously was declined by SCC due to the close proximity to other grit bins.	
	The Clerk will send detail of all outstanding requests from ESC to Cllr Ashton who will try to obtain updates.	<b>FB</b>
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Any other Matters Arising –</b>	
<b>5.4.1</b>	<b>Allotments</b> – The Clerk will send a final letter to the licence holders of the overgrown plots giving them 4 weeks to tidy their plot before revocation of their licences is considered.	<b>FB</b>
<b>5.4.2</b>	<b>27 High Street</b> – The Clerk will send a letter to the owner regarding the overgrown hedge which is affecting the bus shelter.	<b>FB</b>
<b>5.4.3</b>	<b>Wrentham Cemetery</b> – The Clerk shared an email from Rosie Carter chasing maintenance work at the cemetery. Cllr Ashton advised a survey is being undertaken tomorrow morning.	
<b>5.4.4</b>	<b>Marsh Farm Planning Enforcement Action</b> – The Clerk has been advised that the landowner failed to attend court which resulted in a warrant being issued, this was executed and resulted in a £5134 fine. There has still been no compliance & ESC are considering next steps. Cllr Ashton will seek an update from Planning Committee tomorrow.	
<b>7</b>	<b>REPORT FROM CLLR PAUL ASHTON (ESC)</b> – Cllr Ashton advised -  East Suffolk Services are struggling a little to keep on top of grass cutting etc due	

	<p>to the unusual weather this year.</p> <p>SCC have moved to using Acetic Acid rather than Glyphosate to control weeds – ESC are looking to do the same though it may not be as effective.</p> <p>Oakhill Close tree planting – ESC are linking with The Forestry Commission &amp; Woodland Trust re a bigger project – Cllr Ashton will continue to make enquiries.</p> <p>26 High Street – Bin store – work is progressing.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>HIGHWAYS ISSUES</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	<p><b>UPDATES RE SID/VAS SIGNS/REPLACEMENT POLES</b></p> <p>Poles are now in place – Cllr Buxton will drill and mount signs after doing a test pole on his own driveway – a cherry picker will be needed to mount the signs &amp; Cllr Middleditch has offered to help, The Chairman is also happy to assist. Cllr Buxton will submit an invoice for the specialist drill bit required to drill through steel poles.</p> <p>ANPR camera visited the village recently – the data from this has not yet been received but will come via Cllr Dunning as before.</p> <p>CSW reported some unpleasant behaviour from motorists towards their group to the Chairman. They conducted a check during the ANPR visit - they checked 1340 cars in an hour - 16 of which were speeding.</p>	
<b>8.2</b>	<p><b>CROSSWAYS JUNCTION UPDATE –</b></p> <p>Covered under Cllr Dunning's report.</p>	
<b>8.3</b>	<b>CHAPEL ROAD BRIDGE</b>	
	<p>A FOI request was submitted to Highways re safety assessments conducted at the bridge in the last 5 years – Cllr Wren has reviewed the response – an Engineer had queried its capacity for 20 tonne single axle vehicles – The Clerk will try to establish when it was deemed suitable for 20 tonne vehicles.</p> <p>An Engineers Report in 2017 recommended investigations into settlement – They also recommended reinspection in 2019 - The Clerk will establish if this was done.</p> <p>Cllr Wren advised that in 2001 the Government asked all County Councils to reassess bridges on Lorry Routes – The Clerk will try and establish whether this was done.</p> <p>Chapel Road is on the SCC Lorry Route &amp; when this was last reviewed the PC raised objections and suggested that lorries should use Guildhall Lane rather than Chapel Road to access the A12 however these objections were ignored and the Lorry Route was unchanged.</p> <p>The junction of Chapel Road and A12 is narrow which makes it very difficult for cars to turn in if lorries are waiting to exit, visibility is poor even for HGVs. Properties on either side are in the Conservation Area – the owner of Tom Thumb Cottage reports that the cottage shakes when lorries pass.</p> <p>Cllr Wren advised some repairs (pointing) have been done but it appears they have used modern bricks &amp; cement rather than lime mortar.</p>	<p><b>FB</b></p> <p><b>FB</b></p> <p><b>FB</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	<p><b>To Approve the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023</b> – The minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Forder &amp; seconded by Cllr Perry - All in favour – The Chairman will sign a copy.</p>	<b>IW</b>

9.2	<b>DC/23/2830/ADN - Non illuminated Advertisement – static, non-reflective unlit post-mounted sign – private land adjacent to A12 road –</b> revised plans have been received however they still show the sign in the wrong location (opposite 27 London Road) and not in the new location of private land at the junction of Guildhall Lane & the A12 – The Chairman proposed that we place a Holding Objection until plans showing the correct location are received, seconded by Cllr Buxton, all in favour (1 abstention due to a declared interest). The Clerk will advise ESC.	<b>FB</b>
9.3	<b>Any further Planning Applications/Matters –</b> None.	
<b>10</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>	
10.1	Balances at Bank – £53,641.12 - Business Saver Account (WRAC) - £1.01 - Current Account - £19,123.37 - Business Saver Account (CIL) - £34,516.74 The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements. The Clerk confirmed that interest received from CIL monies is not ringfenced & has therefore been moved into the Current account.	
10.2	Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00	
10.3	Clerk's salary & expenses of £12.60 (postage stamps & SAGE subscription)	
10.4	Quarterly HMRC payment – £71.80	
10.5	Invoice from ESC for Uncontested Election - £123.42	
10.6	Invoice from Suffolk.Cloud for Mailbox - £25.00	
10.7	Invoice from Simon Forder for Gardening/Painting of Bench - £342.00	
10.8	Any other accounts received –	
10.8.1	The Clerk advised that a water bill for the allotments had been received and paid.	
	Above payments 10.2 to 10.8.1 were proposed by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Buxton, All in favour (1 abstention due to a declared interest). Online payments have been raised by The Clerk and will be approved by The Chairman/Vice Chairman.	<b>IW/LH</b>
10.8	<b>PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE – RENEWAL DUE 1.10.2023</b>	
	The Clerk presented quotations from Zurich and the existing insurer Ansvar via Community Action Suffolk. The Chairman had contacted his Insurer Broker who was unable to provide an alternative quote. Following discussion it was proposed by The Chairman that we move to Zurich at a cost of £558.23 with a 3 year undertaking as the cover is comparable, better in some areas, and significantly cheaper than Ansvar – seconded by Cllr Buxton – all in favour. The Clerk will progress & raise a payment to Zurich.	<b>FB</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
11.1	<b>Tree Planting in Oakhill Close – email from Mr David Hooper –</b> covered under item 7.	
11.2	<b>Any further correspondence –</b>	
11.2.1	<b>Maintenance at Wrentham Cemetery – email from Mrs Rosie Carter –</b> covered under item 7.	
11.2.2	<b>Allotments – email from Dr Nigel Drane</b> - there is another water leak at the allotments – he has turned off the water and The Clerk has asked a plumber to attend.	
11.2.3	<b>Dyer Terrace Footpath – email from Dr Nigel Drane –</b> the footpath has only recently been repaired and already tree roots are damaging the surface – The Clerk has advised ESC and will copy Cllr Ashton into the previous email trail.	<b>FB</b>
11.2.4	<b>Retired Councillor Mr David Reeves –</b> The Clerk advised the article she submitted to Clerks & Councils Magazine regarding David's retirement from the PC has been published this month. The Chairman will deliver a copy to David.	<b>IW</b>
11.2.5	<b>SAGE –</b> The Clerk advised that subscription prices will increase by 10% from October.	

11.2.6	<b>Police &amp; Crime Commissioner Public Meeting</b> – The Clerk advised that a public meeting is to take place on Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October at The Wherry Hotel – all welcome.	
11.2.7	<b>80 D Day</b> – NALC are promoting the lighting of beacons on 6.6.2024 to mark the 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day. Cllr Hutson advised the next village event will be to commemorate the 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day in 2025.	
11.2.8	<b>Football Goals</b> – The Clerk received a phone call from a resident enquiring about installing football goals he had purchased on grass at Walker Gardens – she referred him to ESC as they own the land.	
11.2.9	<b>External Audit</b> - The Clerk received a phone call from PKF Littlejohn querying the variances in income/expenditure this year as opposed to last – she was able to resolve the query and will publish the auditor’s report in due course.	
12	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA</b>	
12.1	<b>To set a date for the Parish Clerk’s Annual Appraisal</b> – this will be conducted prior to the PC Meeting on 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.	IW/LH
13	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – 7:30pm</b>	

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

DRAFT