

WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Monday 16th October 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: **The Chairman** – Cllr Ian Watson
Councillors – Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr Sue Child, Cllr Lindsay Hanger, Cllr Simon Forder, Cllr Lucinda Hutson, Cllr Paul Wren
The Clerk – Mrs Frances Bullard (via Teams)
Suffolk County Council – not present
East Suffolk Council – Cllr Paul Ashton
Members of Public – None present.

		ACTION
1	OPEN FORUM	
	The Chairman welcomed all – as there were no members of public present no open forum was held.	
2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr David Fletcher, Cllr Alison Evans, Cllr Keith Perry, & Cllr Roger Middleditch.	
3	PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall Cllr Hutson – item 10.5.1	
4	TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PC MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2023.	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 th September 2023, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Forder & seconded by Cllr Hutson - All in favour – The Chairman will sign a copy.	IW
5	MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	26 High Street – no issues raised.	
5.2	Updates from Asset Register Review –	
5.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Bin in layby as you enter village from the South – The Clerk confirmed she has requested this and has chased ESC for an update. Cllr Ashton will also chase this. 	
5.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of benches at Wrentham Cemeteries – The Chairman has ordered two benches and expects delivery in the next 2 weeks 	
5.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown footpath at end of Bonsey Gardens – The Clerk has reported & chased this. 	
5.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged posts & rails at Crossways Car Park – The Clerk has reported & chased this. Cllr Forder has cleared the footpath near the bus shelter of vegetation. Cllr Ashton said there has been some confusion as the site was not on ESC Asset Register however this has been amended & work will be done. 	
5.2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Bin for Crossways Car park - it was previously agreed that a larger bin should be installed – The Clerk has requested this and chased ESC. Cllr Ashton will also chase this. 	
5.3	Tree Planting in Oakhill Close – Following a visit to Mr David Hooper, who suggested the planting, Cllr Ashton has put a request into Housing for trees/shrubs to be planted in Oakhill Close.	
5.4	Allotments – water leak/overgrown plots – Stephen Gilbert, plumbing is due to attend on Wednesday & repair the water leak – Cllr Forder has kindly offered to meet him at the allotments. As discussed last month The Clerk has written to the licence holders of the overgrown allotments – one has decided to give up their	

	plot – The Clerk will send a Final Notice to the other two licence holders giving them 4 weeks to tidy their plots.	FB
5.5	Update from Lionlink Consultation Event – Cllr Wren advised the event held at Reydon was very well attended – The Government committed to move to Green Energy by 2035 – National Grid Ventures was set up – Lionlink are a commercial company who buy and sell electricity. The initial proposal was for offshore cabling to come ashore at Aldeburgh/Dunwich – there was a lot of opposition to this - they are now looking at our area for landfall – the current proposed site is just South of Potters Bridge. The cables will go from the landfall site to the proposed 6 meters high Converter Station at Friston and then on to London where the electricity is needed. There are groups set up in opposition to these proposals – they believe the cables should come in at Tilbury rather than anywhere in Suffolk. Consultation ends on 3 rd November 2023 & comments can be made online. Cllr Ashton advised the Friston site is subject to Judicial Review & therefore the entire project may change. Cllr Hanger said our infrastructure is already overloaded, the roads, flooding at Potters Bridge etc. The Chairman proposed the PC respond by saying ‘We support proposals to reroute the entire installation to Tilbury – our residents are already suffering from a high volume of speeding vehicles & flooded roads at Potters Bridge’. This was seconded by Cllr Wren. All in favour. The Clerk will draft a response & send to The Chairman & Cllr Hutson. The Chairman thanked Cllr Wren for his report.	FB
5.6	Maintenance Work at Wrentham Cemetery – Cllr Ashton confirmed a survey has been conducted & he has also visited the cemetery. There is no trace of the former gravel path therefore Cllr Ashton suggested more mowing rather than trying to reinstate the path. The Chairman said it would be preferable to have the path reinstated as the only reason there is no trace of it is that it has not been properly maintained by ESC over the years. Cllr Ashton will establish what the commitment from ESC would be. Hedge work is scheduled to be done – The Chairman said the hedge trimming and clearance will need to be done before the Spring.	
5.7	Any other Matters Arising –	
5.7.1	Play Area – Cllr Ashton advised Cabinet has approved spending on 6-7 play areas and Wrentham is one of these. ESC will conduct local consultation to establish what is required. The Chairman said as a minimum we would like to see the slide reinstated and work on the boundary hedges to remove the inner hedge.	
5.7.2	Signage for 1, 3 & 5 Bonsey Gardens – Cllr Ashton has submitted a request for signage to overcome the issues residents are experiencing with deliveries. The pavements in Bonsey Gardens are also in very poor condition.	
5.7.3	Dyer Terrace Footpath – The Clerk has made ESC aware that tree roots are already damaging the recently repaired footpath. Cllr Ashton advised this will be monitored.	
6	REPORT FROM CLLR ANNETTE DUNNING – SCC	
	No report received. Cllr Wren said at the September meeting Cllr Dunning advised she would be seeking a meeting with Cllr Paul West – SCC Cabinet Member for Highways – nothing further has been heard – The Clerk will seek an update.	FB
7	REPORT FROM CLLR PAUL ASHTON (ESC) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Peters Court tower block in Lowestoft is to be demolished – over the next 12 months all tenants will be rehoused which may have a knock-on effect on ESC Housing Stock. Eventually the site will be redeveloped. • Cost of Living Crisis – plans are in place to continue Warm Rooms and other support – full details are on both ESC & the PC websites. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESC passed a motion re offshore Wind Energy – there is concern re the lack of co-ordination between projects. • ESC are opposed to Sizewell C as it is currently proposed – this is due to the lack of mitigation re the impact on Minsmere, local housing and tourism. • Gull Wing Bridge is 2 weeks behind schedule but on budget. • Potters Bridge flooding – this is an ongoing Highways issue which is affecting both residents and businesses – the Environment Agency have been unable to keep the outfall clear as they have been denied access to the land. The Chairman advised Cllr David Bevan from Southwold is leading work on this – Cllr Ashton will link with him for an update. 	PA
8	HIGHWAYS ISSUES	
8.1	<p>UPDATES RE SID/VAS SIGNS/REPLACEMENT POLES</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 & 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>Cllr Buxton spoke re the hedge of a property along London Road which is obscuring the VAS pole – Cllr Hutson has asked for this to be addressed.</p>	
8.2	CHAPEL ROAD BRIDGE	
	<p>The Clerk confirmed a further FOI request was submitted to clarify the points raised last month – a response has been received which effectively says no action is required until 2025. Cllr Wren has some further queries which he will send to The Clerk to raise.</p> <p>Cllr Wren advised he has raised the issue of the Lorry Route with Police & Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore – he is hoping this will lead to a review of Chapel Rd j/w A12 by the Police. Cllr Wren will continue to pursue.</p>	PW/FB
9	PLANNING	
9.1	<p>Any further Planning Applications/Matters –</p> <p>Chapel Road Development – The Chairman and Clerk have requested a poster to go on the noticeboard/website to promote the affordable housing available but unfortunately nothing has been forthcoming. Cllr Ashton advised ESC Housing had held an event at Wrentham Village Hall to promote this – unfortunately neither The Clerk or Councillors were aware. The Chairman said in the original plans Chapel Road was to be widened near the entrance to the development – at present it seems to have become narrower – Cllr Ashton will visit the site.</p>	PA
10	FINANCE	
10.1	<p>Balances at Bank – £61,364.82 - Business Saver Account (WRAC) - £1.01 - Current Account - £26,754.41 - Business Saver Account (CIL) - £34,609.40</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that interest received from CIL monies is not ringfenced & will therefore be moved to the Current account.</p>	
10.2	Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00	
10.3	Clerk's salary & expenses of £1.32 (SAGE subscription)	
10.4	Quarterly HMRC payment – Nil	
10.5	Any other accounts received –	
10.5.1	The Chairman proposed a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion for our Remembrance Wreath – seconded by Cllr Childs – All in favour (Cllr Hutson abstained due to a declared interest.	
	Above payments 10.2 to 10.5.1 were proposed by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Wren, All in favour. Online payments have been raised by The Clerk and will be approved by The Chairman/Vice Chairman.	IW/LH

11	CORRESPONDENCE	
11.1	Email from Sue Albone seeking donation to Waveney Hygiene Bank – The Clerk shared an email from Sue asking if the PC would support the Hygiene Bank – Sue had hoped to attend but unfortunately had to send apologies. As Councillors had questions regarding the Hygiene Bank it was agreed that The Clerk would invite Sue to attend next month.	FB
11.2	External Auditor’s Report – The Clerk advised that as the External Auditor had not completed their work by the end of September they had published an interim statement which has been displayed on the noticeboard & website.	
11.3	Email from Cllr Hutson re Potters Bridge flooding – already covered.	
11.4	Email from Cllr Hutson re grass cutting at St Nicholas Church – Cllr Hutson advised that as the Churchyard is redundant the grass cutting is the responsibility of ESC, she asked that it be cut ahead of Remembrance Day, Cllr Ashton will request this and ask that if this is not possible then The Clerk be advised so that volunteers can be found to do the job.	
11.5	Email from ESC – Consultation on Review of Polling Districts – The Clerk advised this consultation is available to view & respond to on ESC Website.	
11.6	Email from ESC – Consultation on Renewal of Control of Dogs Public Protection Orders – The Clerk advised this consultation is available to view & respond to on ESC Website.	
11.7	Email re next Community Partnership Meeting – 18th October 2023 – 6pm at Marram Green, Kessingland – The Clerk will forward details to Cllr Wren who may attend.	
11.8	Email from Mr Barley re Resident’s Parking – The Clerk shared an email from Mr Barley re parking in the village and asking that Resident’s Parking bays be introduced – The Clerk has advised Mr Barley that Resident’s Parking schemes are run by ESC.	
11.9	Any further correspondence – None	
12	ANY OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA	
12.1.1	Cllr Forder advised foliage from the garden of The Old Forge is again overgrown and is limiting visibility of road signs – The Clerk will make contact and ask that attention be given to it.	FB
12.1.2	Cllr Hanger said the hedge at Tom Thumb Cottage is again overgrown and impacting on the pavement – Cllr Wren will speak with the homeowner.	PW
12.1.3	Cllr Evans has raised concern that due to renovation work there is a steep drop beside the pavement in front of 4 Southwold Road – Cllr Forder will speak with the homeowner.	SF
12.1.4	The Chairman reminded all re the upcoming Litter Pick – it was agreed to bring it forwards a week to Saturday 4 th November so as not to clash with Remembrance events. The Clerk will create a poster for the noticeboard & website.	FB
12.1.5	The Councillor reminded Cllr Hanger that he needs updates from those volunteering under the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.	

12.1.6	Cllr Wren advised that he attended the Police & Crime Commissioner's Public Meeting at The Wherry Hotel on 10 th October – he spoke re a new policing model which will see policing teams being rearranged – unfortunately the model does not offer any extra officers & Cllr Wren feels the East has lower staffing compared to South or West areas. Cllr Wren raised the issue of speeding in the village. Cllr Wren also has the contact details of the Locality Inspector and will make contact with him.	
13	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 20th November 2023 – 7:30pm – preceded by a Finance Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:16pm

DRAFT