

# WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council  
held at The Village Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7:30pm**

**Present:** **The Chairman** – Cllr Ian Watson  
**Councillors** – Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr Alison Evans, Cllr David Fletcher, Cllr Lindsay Hanger, Cllr Simon Forder, 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** – not present  
**Members of Public** – 9

|          |  | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| <b>1</b> | <b>OPEN FORUM</b>  |               |
|          | <p>The Chairman welcomed all &amp; invited members of the public to speak.</p> <p>Mr Todd of The Chestnuts spoke re flooding – he believes flooding in The Chestnuts is partly due to a non-return valve or gate, which shuts when water levels are high in the Wren, preventing surface water from draining away down a pipe into the river. Mr Todd asked what can be done going forwards to prevent further flooding. The Chairman said the PC are not directly responsible but can raise issues on behalf of residents. He advised our District Councillor, Paul Ashton, has been in touch with various agencies. The Clerk shared the response from the Environment Agency following concerns raised at the last PC Meeting.</p> <p>Mr Sewell of Eagle Court's main concern is the impact of the Chapel Road development &amp; the loss of land for water to soak away into. He spoke re the fallen tree downstream and concern this is being left so as not to impact further on Potters Bridge. The Chairman advised a large attenuation pond has been built by the developers, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, to deal with surface water. Cllr Hutson said, as landowner, she was unaware of the fallen tree, despite it having come down in the storms of 1987, until it was raised at the last PC Meeting, a site visit was made next day &amp; the tree will be removed as soon as conditions allow heavy lifting equipment to gain access.</p> <p>Paula of The Chestnuts advised her garden was completely flooded during recent storms and asked if she is permitted to build up her garden to prevent this happening in future. Andy from Tom Thumb Cottage said he was advised by a builder to raise his garden with sleepers to protect from flooding. Mr Knights of The Chestnuts believes residents own the land right up to the river bank. The Chairman said this will depend on individual deeds. Cllr Perry said the Environment Agency are responsible for the bed of the river but the banks are the responsibility of landowners. Mr Sewell said he had had railway sleepers laid – if the land is owned up to the edge of the river then the landowner can take action to reinforce defences.</p> <p>Mr Robinson said he did not know about the fallen tree until recently and although the tree fell many years ago it appears to have sunk further into the bank and is now causing issues as there is very little gap for water to flow under the tree when water levels are high. Mr Robinson is concerned not enough is being done. Mr Robinson sent a Freedom of Information request to the Environment Agency &amp; expects a response by 10.1.2024. They have offered to meet on site and say they are engaging with stakeholders. If the Environment Agency make regular inspections, as they say, how were they unaware of the fallen tree for so many years? The landowner has said they will remove the tree when weather</p> |               |

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|              | <p>conditions permit access with heavy lifting equipment but Mr Robinson believes it should be done sooner as he believes the tree is having a huge impact as there is very little fall in the river from the Village Hall to the tree. Mr Robinson suggested a tree surgeon could remove the mid section of the tree. Mr Robinson is frustrated the PC have not inspected the tree or taken more action. Cllr Hutson, as landowner, said she will explore the possibility of removing a section of the tree with her Farm Manager. The Chairman said that immediately after the last PC Meeting the PC made contact with the landowner, the resident of the property the tree has fallen into &amp; the Environment Agency - we are all fighting for the same cause and nobody has a hidden agenda or wants to cover anything up.</p> <p>Cllr Middleditch spoke re the new attenuation pond – at the height of Storm Babet it was half full and cleared quickly. Cllr Middleditch believes the flooding at Potters Bridge is impacting further upstream.</p> <p>Cllr Forder suggested de-silting is required – The Clerk advised the Environment Agency have confirmed they are progressing this. The Clerk will go back to the Environment Agency and ask that this be done asap as there is lots of concern re flooding in the village.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for their input and the open forum closed.</p> | <b>FB</b> |
| <b>2</b>     | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>   |           |
|              | Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Sue Child.  |           |
| <b>3</b>     | <b>PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS</b>   |           |
|              | All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall.<br>Cllr Hutson – item 9 - owner of the land from which the tree has fallen across The Wren<br>Cllr Wren – DC/23/4713/FUL – item 10.2  |           |
| <b>4</b>     | <b>TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PC MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023.</b>  |           |
|              | The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hutson & seconded by Cllr Hanger - All in favour – The Chairman signed a copy.   |           |
| <b>5</b>     | <b>MATTERS ARISING</b>   |           |
| <b>5.1</b>   | <b>26 High Street</b> – The Clerk will seek an update from Cllr Ashton re the bin store as Cllr Hutson is concerned the location for this shown on the original plans is not in place.   | <b>FB</b> |
| <b>5.2</b>   | <b>Updates from Asset Register Review –</b>  |           |
| <b>5.2.1</b> | • <b>Overgrown footpath at end of Bonsey Gardens</b> – The Clerk has reported & chased this. The Chairman will see if this work has been done.   | <b>IW</b> |
| <b>5.2.2</b> | • <b>Damaged posts &amp; rails at Crossways Car Park</b> – The Clerk confirmed these have now been replaced.   |           |
| <b>5.3</b>   | <b>Tree Planting in Oakhill Close</b> – Work is ongoing by Cllr Ashton.  |           |
| <b>5.4</b>   | <b>Maintenance Work at Wrentham Old Cemetery</b> – The Clerk approached three companies for quotes & to date only one has responded. The Chairman has met with Drives 4 U and awaits their quotation, it is expected to be in the region of £20,000. This is a 120m path and alternatives may have to be considered.   |           |
| <b>5.5</b>   | <b>Bonsey Gardens Playpark refurbishment</b> – The Clerk has received a copy of the draft consultation. The Clerk will raise the question of how the survey will be circulated to residents and why there is no option for those without children to respond – they too may have an opinion or suggestions for the site.   | <b>FB</b> |
| <b>5.6</b>   | <b>Jubilee Planters</b> – The Clerk will seek support in maintaining the planters in the New Year.   |           |

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| 5.7    | <b>Any other Matters Arising –</b><br>None.  |              |
| 6      | <b>REPORT FROM CLLR ANNETTE DUNNING – SCC</b>  |              |
|        | No report received.  |              |
| 7      | <b>REPORT FROM CLLR PAUL ASHTON (ESC) –</b><br>Apologies received from Cllr Ashton.  |              |
| 8      | <b>HIGHWAYS ISSUES</b>   |              |
| 8.1    | <b>UPDATES RE SID/VAS SIGNS/REPLACEMENT POLES</b><br>Cllr Buxton plans to get new signs up asap. The Chairman and Cllr Middleditch are happy to assist.  |              |
| 8.2    | <b>CHAPEL ROAD BRIDGE</b>  |              |
| 8.2.1  | The Clerk confirmed a response was received to our latest FOI request – Cllr Wren has reviewed this – they confirm the bridge was inspected following the 2017 recommendations and there were no underlying defects or impact on the bridge from carriageway defects – they advise the bridge will continue to be monitored.   |              |
| 8.2.2  | The Clerk advised she has emailed Cllr Dunning to explore the possibility of SCC making contact with hauliers who regularly use Chapel Road – a response is awaited.   |              |
| 8.3    | <b>ANY OTHER HIGHWAYS MATTERS</b>  |              |
|        | The Clerk has received a report from a resident that there is subsidence on Guildhall Lane in the same area as previously – it is believed this may again be due to badgers or the previous repair being inadequate – she has made Highways aware.   |              |
| 9      | <b>FLOODING</b>  |              |
|        | As per Open Forum.   |              |
| 9.1    | <b>Emergency Plan - To be added to January 2024 Agenda.</b>  |              |
| 10     | <b>PLANNING</b>  |              |
| 10.1   | <b>DC/23/4550/FUL – Construction of a single storey flat roof rear extension – 58 London Road –</b> Plans were shared and discussed. This is a substantial extension. Neighbours will be consultees. The Chairman proposed there be no objections – seconded by Cllr Perry – All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.   | <b>FB</b>    |
| 10.2   | <b>Any further Planning Applications/Matters –</b>   |              |
| 10.2.1 | <b>DC/23/4713/FUL – Single storey front and rear extensions including internal remodelling. A modification of the scheme approved under DC/23/1267/FUL: the rear extension has been reduced in size –</b> Plans were shared and discussed. Cllr Perry proposed there be no objections – seconded by Cllr Evans – All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.   | <b>FB</b>    |
| 11     | <b>FINANCE</b>   |              |
| 11.1   | Balances at Bank – £58,646.20 - Business Saver Account (WRAC) - £1.01 - Current Account - £24,830.45 - Business Saver Account (CIL) - £33,814.74<br>The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements.  |              |
| 11.2   | Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00   |              |
| 11.3   | Clerk's salary, back pay & expenses of £41.82 (SAGE, mileage)  |              |
| 11.4   | Quarterly HMRC payment – £116.80   |              |
| 11.5   | Any other accounts received –  |              |
| 11.5.1 | Invoice from Wrentham Christmas Trees – Christmas Tree - £100.00   |              |
|        | Above payments 11.2 to 11.5.1 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.<br><br>Thanks were expressed to Wrentham Christmas Trees for a discounted tree and to Cllr Middleditch for erecting it. Cllr Perry said it has been suggested that the tree should have bigger lights next year. | <b>IW/LH</b> |

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| <b>11.6</b> | <b>TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 6:30PM ON 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023</b>  |  |
|             | The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hutson & seconded by Cllr Hanger - All in favour – The Chairman signed a copy. |  |
| <b>12</b>   | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>   |  |
| <b>12.1</b> | <b>Email from SCC re ANPR Rota</b> – The Clerk advised that Wrentham’s next slot on the ANPR rota is 19.02.2024.  |  |
| <b>12.2</b> | <b>Any further correspondence –</b><br>None.  |  |
| <b>13</b>   | <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA</b>  |  |
| <b>13.1</b> | The Chairman thanked all for their support over the last 12 months – all are volunteers and making a difference. Thanks were expressed to The Chairman for his continued efforts.   |  |
| <b>14</b>   | <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 7:30pm</b>  |  |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

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