

# WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council  
held at The Village Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm**

**Present:** **The Chairman** – Cllr Ian Watson  
**Councillors** – Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr Sue Child, 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 (via Teams)  
**Suffolk County Council** – not present  
**East Suffolk Council** – Cllr Paul Ashton  
**Members of Public** – None

|              |   | <b>ACTION</b>              |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>1</b>     | <b>OPEN FORUM</b>   |                            |
|              | There were no members of public present so no open forum was held.  |                            |
| <b>2</b>     | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  |                            |
|              | Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Alison Evans.  |                            |
| <b>3</b>     | <b>PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS</b>  |                            |
|              | All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall.<br>Cllr Hutson – item 9.1 - owner of the land from which the tree fell across The Wren   |                            |
| <b>4</b>     | <b>TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PC MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023</b>  |                            |
|              | The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2023, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Fletcher & seconded by Cllr Hanger - All in favour – The Chairman will sign a copy.   |                            |
| <b>5</b>     | <b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  |                            |
| <b>5.1</b>   | <b>26 High Street</b> – Cllr Ashton advised he will speak with Cllr Dunning re progressing the bin store facility.  |                            |
| <b>5.2</b>   | <b>Updates from Asset Register Review –</b>   |                            |
| <b>5.2.1</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overgrown footpath at end of Bonsey Gardens</b> – The Clerk has previously reported this to ESC – The Chairman said the area is still very overgrown and in need of attention – he will provide photos and The Clerk will report again.</li> </ul>  | <b>IW/FB</b>               |
| <b>5.3</b>   | <b>Tree Planting in Oakhill Close</b> – Cllr Ashton is pursuing the planting of shrubs & small trees to enhance the street scene. He will liaise with residents & seek community involvement with watering etc.   |                            |
| <b>5.4</b>   | <b>Maintenance Work at Wrentham Old Cemetery</b> – The Chairman advised a quotation of £13,500 has been received to reinstate the path – all options need to be considered, eg membrane & gravel or more regular strimming. ESC have committed to cutting the grass and clearing some of the brambles from the hedges. The Clerk will update Mrs Rosie Carter who initially raised the issues. Cllr Hanger raised the poor state of the wooden cross memorial to Rev'd Bonsey – after discussion it was agreed that the renovation of private memorials is not within the remit of the Parish Council, however Cllr Fletcher will take a look at the issue. | <b>FB</b><br><br><b>DF</b> |
| <b>5.5</b>   | <b>Bonsey Gardens Playpark refurbishment</b> – ESC have advised they will publicise the survey re the play park refurbishment via their social media & a press release. They will also engage with local schools and youth groups. They will gauge response levels and look to hold an event to promote engagement if necessary. The Clerk has asked that we also receive posters to share on noticeboards and the website.   |                            |

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| 5.6   | <b>Jubilee Planters</b> – The Clerk will create a poster to go on noticeboards and in The Wren newsletter to seek volunteers to help maintain the planters.  | <b>FB</b>  |
| 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESC are currently setting budgets – it is anticipated that £1m will be used from reserves.</li> <li>ESC are launching a photographic competition with a £100 prize and winning photos will be used in ESC Magazine – more details on website.</li> <li>Potters Bridge – Cllr Ashton has made a site visit to both Potters Bridge and the outfall/beach. A petition has been launched to lobby Dr Therese Coffey to keep the B1127 open &amp; for flooding to be responded to quickly – The Clerk will add details to the PC Website &amp; share with all. Cllr Child advised she has written to the Environment Agency &amp; SCC asking what their plans are for Potters Bridge &amp; received a standard response from Cllr Matthew Hicks. There are regular updates on Facebook &amp; Next Door re whether the road is open or flooded.</li> <li>Cllr Ashton will chase the funding for the bench at Wrentham Old Cemetery from his Enabling Communities Budget.</li> </ul> | <b>FB</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><b>PA</b> |
| 8     | <b>HIGHWAYS ISSUES</b>   |  |
| 8.1   | <b>UPDATES RE SID/VAS SIGNS/REPLACEMENT POLES</b><br>Cllr Buxton has tested the new VAS signs today on a temporary pole in his garden – all worked well – he hopes they will be in position on the upgraded VAS poles by the end of February.  |  |
| 8.2   | <b>CHAPEL ROAD BRIDGE</b>  |  |
| 8.2.1 | 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.<br><br>Cllr Wren advised many sugar beet lorries are using Chapel Road at present.<br><br>As we have done all we can with SCC Highways re the bridge this item will now be removed from the agenda.   | <b>FB</b>  |
| 8     | <b>ANY OTHER HIGHWAYS MATTERS</b>  |  |
| 8.3.1 | The Clerk advised that SCC have responded to her report re damage to Guildhall Lane (possibly by another badger sett) – they will not take any action at present but will continue to monitor.   |  |
| 8.3.2 | It was noted that following recent work at the pedestrian crossing the lights appear to be at the wrong angle & more visible to driver's exiting Southwold Road.   |  |
| 8.3.3 | The Old Forge – hedge work has been done but the ivy is still encroaching onto the footpath alongside the B1127 – The Clerk will make contact.   | <b>FB</b>  |
| 8.3.4 | Clyffton House – The Chairman will make contact with resident re hedge trimming.   | <b>IW</b>  |
| 8.3.5 | Cllr Middleditch advised there are lots of deep potholes on Falcon Inn Road – The Chairman will take pictures and report to Highways.  | <b>IW</b>  |
| 9     | <b>FLOODING</b>  |  |
|       | Several residents attended last month to raise concerns re flooding. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Hutson whose staff have managed to remove the fallen oak tree from The Wren. The PC are putting pressure on the Environment Agency to carry   |  |

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|        | <p>out desilting of The Wren downstream from the Village Hall. The Clerk has asked for updates and invited the Environment Agency to attend a future meeting. Cllr Perry advised there were 3 Environment Agency vans in the village recently – The Clerk said it was likely they were doing the walk along the river as promised. The Chairman has been approached by Neil from the Guildhall re the ditch at Church Corner – this is filling up with soil again as lots of water runs off the fields in Falcon Inn Road. The ditch alongside the paddocks in Falcon Inn Road is ineffective – The Chairman will speak with the owner of the paddocks to see if the ditch can be improved to reduce the amount of water running down to the ditch at Church Corner.</p> <p>Cllr Wren spoke re the drain at the end of Locks Lane – he has reported blockage to SCC who are waiting for ESC to clear the leaves etc before they can clear the drain.</p> <p>Cllr Wren advised there had been a large puddle along Southwold Road due to a blocked drain – his neighbour reported this and it has since been cleared.</p> | IW    |
| 9.1    | <b>Emergency Plan</b> – The Chairman is happy to take the lead on drawing up an Emergency Plan for the village & will progress.  | IW    |
| 10     | <b>PLANNING</b>  |       |
| 10.1   | <b>Any further Planning Applications/Matters – DC/23/4911/FUL – Moat Farm</b> - Plans were shared and discussed. The Chairman proposed there be no objections & that this is left in the hands of the Conservation Officer – seconded by Cllr Fletcher – All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.   | FB    |
| 11     | <b>FINANCE</b>   |       |
| 11.1   | Balances at Bank – £58,057.68 - Business Saver Account (WRAC) - £1.01 - Current Account - £24,121.89 - Business Saver Account (CIL) - £33,934.78<br>The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements.  |       |
| 11.2   | Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00   |       |
| 11.3   | Clerk's salary – expenses will be claimed next month   |       |
| 11.4   | Quarterly HMRC payment – Nil   |       |
| 11.5   | Invoice from Suffolk.Cloud – Website hosting - £120.00   |       |
| 11.6   | Invoice from Wave (Anglian Water) – allotment water - £139.91  |       |
| 11.7   | Invoice from SCC – upgraded VAS poles - £1140.00   |       |
| 11.5   | Any other accounts received –  |       |
| 11.5.1 | Invoice from Cllr Buxton for drill bits (VAS poles) - £20.95   |       |
|        | Above payments 11.2 to 11.5.1 were proposed by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Hutson, All in favour. Online payments have been raised by The Clerk and will be approved by The Chairman/Vice Chairman.  | IW/LH |
| 12     | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>  |       |
| 12.1   | <b>Any further correspondence –</b>  |       |
| 12.1.1 | <b>Email from Reydon PC re Holocaust Memorial Day 27.01.2024</b> – previously shared with all.   |       |
| 12.1.2 | <b>Email re funding for Electric Vehicle Chargers at Village Halls</b> – The Clerk has shared this with Dr Drane for discussion by the Village Hall Management Committee.  |       |
| 13     | <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA</b>   |       |
| 13.1   | Litter Pick – the next Village Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 – The Clerk will create a poster to advertise this.  | FB    |
| 14     | <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 7:30pm</b>  |       |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17pm