

WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: **The Chairman** – Cllr Ian Watson
Councillors – Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr David Fletcher, Cllr Simon Forder, Cllr Lucinda Hutson, Cllr Roger Middleditch, Cllr Paul Wren
The Clerk – Mrs Frances Bullard
Suffolk County Council – Cllr Annette Dunning
East Suffolk Council – Cllr Paul Ashton
Members of Public – Two

		ACTION
1	OPEN FORUM	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed all.</p> <p>Julia Ewart introduced herself as the potential Parliamentary Candidate for the Liberal Democrats.</p> <p>Mr Tony Robinson spoke regarding flooding. Since the last meeting there has been a lot of rainfall. He noted the fallen tree has been removed from the River Wren. He spoke re the Freedom of Information request he sent to the Environment Agency – in their response they state they check the River Wren each year but have no record of the fallen tree. Tony shared a map from the Environment Agency showing the area they maintain, this runs from Priory Road to behind the Five Bells PH. There is a section in the middle which they have not maintained due to the presence of Himalayan Balsam. Cllr Dunning advised that in Halesworth a working party clear the Himalayan Balsam from the riverbank by hand pulling. Mr Robinson said that yesterday the water level was again almost up to the top of the bridge & he feels this is the issue most likely to cause an emergency in the village.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Robinson and said a joined-up approach is needed to ensure that any work to increase the flow of water upstream is balanced with the ability of the river downstream being able to cope. Cllr Middleditch said the issues at Potters Bridge need resolving to allow flood water to flow away.</p>	
2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Sue Child, Cllr Alison Evans, Cllr Lindsay Hanger & Cllr Keith Perry.	
3	PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall.	
6	REPORT FROM CLLR ANNETTE DUNNING – SCC (Brought Forwards)	
	<p>Cllr Dunning has provided a written report which The Clerk will circulate to all.</p> <p>26 High Street – new plans/costings to improve the area in front of the building have been received from Milestone – the total cost is £11,210.97 – Cllr Dunning will pay 50%, the Developer & the PC will pay 25%. The work will be done as soon as the Mr Harvey gives his agreement. Cllr Dunning will discuss the bin store with Mr Harvey & Cllr Ashton will confirm the refuse collectors will collect & return the bins to the bin store on collection day.</p> <p>Chapel Road – Cllr Dunning advised work is ongoing to address the use of Chapel Road by HGVs.</p>	FB

4	TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PC MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2024	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 th January 2024, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hutson & seconded by Cllr Wren - All in favour – The Chairman signed a copy.	
5	MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	26 High Street – no further updates.	
5.2 5.2.1	Updates from Asset Register Review – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown footpath at end of Bonsey Gardens – The Clerk has twice reported this to ESC – The Chairman will revisit to see if any work has been done. 	
5.3	Tree Planting in Oakhill Close – Cllr Ashton has met with the Housing Dept & agreed the planting of shrubs & small trees to enhance the street scene in the Autumn. He will liaise with residents & seek community involvement with watering etc. The Chairman thanked Cllr Ashton for his work on this – The Clerk will remove from the Agenda.	FB
5.4	Maintenance Work at Wrentham Old Cemetery – Cllr Fletcher has rebuilt the memorial to Rev'd Bonsey and will reinstall it later this week. The Chairman thanked Cllr Fletcher and will liaise with Mrs Rosie Carter, Cllr Ashton, & Cllr Hutson to visit the area and establish which paths need cutting.	IW
5.5	Bonsey Gardens Playpark refurbishment – The ESC Consultation is now live – it has been publicised on the noticeboard and website – The Clerk also sent a link to all those who have shown an interest in improving the play park previously.	
5.6	Jubilee Planters – The Clerk has created a poster to go on noticeboards and in The Wren newsletter to seek volunteers to help maintain the planters. She will also seek help from the allotment holders when writing to them about this year's rent.	FB
5.7	Any other Matters Arising – None.	
7	REPORT FROM CLLR PAUL ASHTON (ESC) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potters Bridge – Cllr Ashton met with Cllrs Bevan & Ladd, Southwold Town Council & Reydon PC last week. The landowner, Mr Phil Jones, has applied for, and been granted, a licence to clear the outfall. He cleared the outfall last Saturday and the flood water quickly receded. SCC have cleared culverts and created gullies. Highways will now assess the road for any damage from the longstanding flooding. • Enabling Communities Fund – Cllr Ashton will chase funds for the bench at Wrentham Cemetery. • Sizewell C – initially traffic impact will be greater nearer the site but will gradually increase as people commute from Lowestoft etc. There will be some abnormal loads transported from the Port of Lowestoft down the A12 to Sizewell – advance notice will be given. Sizewell workers being accommodated at Pontins, Pakefield, will impact although it is anticipated they will be bussed to & from site. 	

8	HIGHWAYS ISSUES	
8.1	UPDATES RE SID/VAS SIGNS/REPLACEMENT POLES Cllr Buxton has tested the new VAS signs on a temporary pole in his garden – all worked well – he will need a scaffold tower to install them on the upgraded poles. The Chairman, Cllr Buxton & Cllr Forder will progress.	IW/MB/SF
8.2	ANY OTHER HIGHWAYS MATTERS No issues raised.	
9	FLOODING	
	<p>There were flood warnings over the weekend – The Chairman visited the centre of the village and reviewed water levels.</p> <p>We need to be proactive to prevent future flooding – it was agreed that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman will co-ordinate a working party to tackle the Himalayan Balsam. • We will continue to promote the Flood Alerts service to residents. • The Clerk will ask for an update from the Environment Agency re the de-silting work. • The Chairman will obtain details of all who were flooded previously and try to engage them as ‘points of contact’ when flood alerts are issued. <p>Church Corner – The Chairman has had a site meeting with the landowner, Mr Stephen Richmond, re water run-off from his paddocks. Church Corner was severely flooded on Sunday. Mr Richmond will be digging trenches to direct the excess water to the triangle of land on Church Corner.</p> <p>There are 3 blocked drains at Cuckolds Green – The Chairman will report these via the Highways Map.</p> <p>Cllr Wren has reported a blocked drain along Southwold Road.</p>	<p>IW</p> <p>FB</p> <p>IW</p> <p>IW</p>
9.1	Emergency Plan – The Chairman is progressing the plan.	
10	PLANNING	
10.1	Any further Planning Applications/Matters – None.	
11	FINANCE	
11.1	Balances at Bank – £56,187.08 - Business Saver Account (WRAC) - £1.01 - Current Account - £23,391.29 - Business Saver Account (CIL) - £32,794.78 The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements.	
11.2	Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00	
11.3	Clerk’s salary – expenses of £43.14	
11.4	Quarterly HMRC payment – Nil	
11.5	Any other accounts received – None	
	Above payments 11.2 to 11.3 were proposed by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Buxton, All in favour. Online payments have been raised by The Clerk and will be approved by The Chairman/Vice Chairman.	IW/LH
11.6	INTERNAL AUDIT 2023/24 The Clerk has spoken with Mrs Rosie Carter who is willing to undertake the Internal Audit of the PC’s accounts – Cllr Hutson proposed that Mrs Carter be appointed, seconded by Cllr Middleditch, All in favour. The Clerk will progress.	FB
11.7	ALLOTMENT RENT 2023/24 The Chairman proposed there be no change in the rent, seconded by Cllr Buxton, All in favour. The Clerk will write to allotment holders. The Clerk spoke re a plot which was allowed to become very overgrown by the former tenant. It is not in a fit state to offer to a new tenant and is encroaching	FB

	on neighbouring plots. It was agreed that The Clerk would contact Mr Trevor Oram to give a quote to clear the plot before birds start nesting.	FB
12	CORRESPONDENCE	
12.1	Email from Dr Nigel Drane re Village Hall 100 Club (previously circulated)	
12.2	Email from SALC re Suffolk Devolution Events (previously circulated)	
12.3	Email from Cllr Wren re damaged Dog Waste Bin, Southwold Road – The Clerk has reported this and ESC have said they will give attention.	
12.4	Email from Cllr Watson re St Nicholas Church Bells renovation project – The Chairman advised Cllr Child is leading a project to renovate the bells at St Nicholas Church – she has a very good network of contacts & has linked with Dr Drane. The Clerk has clarified recent changes to the legislation which has been amended to allow PC's to give financial support to the Church. However it is unlikely that CIL monies can be used for these projects & The Clerk is awaiting confirmation. The current congregation is very small and it is difficult to encourage more community groups to use the church without improvements to the heating system – Cllr Fletcher reviewed the heating system a few years ago and it is very complicated and would be costly to replace. It was agreed to discuss this matter further next month – The Clerk will add to the Agenda. Any further correspondence –	FB
12.5	Email from Cllr Evans giving details of Mrs Brenda Sallow's funeral shared with all.	
12.5.1		
13	ANY OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA	
13.1	Litter Pick – the next Village Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 24 th February 2024.	FB
13.2	It was noted that the Village Stores has changed hands and reopens tomorrow.	
13.3	Cllr Wren spoke re the Village Sign at the Village Hall – this is badly worn and now leaning – The Clerk will add to next Agenda.	FB
13.4	Cllr Fletcher advised new pads are required for the Defibrillator – The Clerk will order these.	FB
14	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 18th March 2024 – 7:30pm	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.26pm