

WRENTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Wrentham Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Monday 15th July 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: **The Chairman** – Cllr Ian Watson
Councillors – Cllr Mark Buxton, Cllr Alison Evans, Cllr David Fletcher, Cllr Simon Forder, Cllr Lindsay Hanger, 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 – Cllr Paul Ashton
Members of Public – Four present.

		ACTION
1	OPEN FORUM	
	<p>Mr & Mrs Kelly spoke re the footpath that runs from The Lane to Chapel Road. This is very overgrown & difficult to get through, it is also used by an on-call firefighter to access the Fire Station. The Clerk has reported this.</p> <p>Ann spoke re the proposal for ESC to use the emergency access in The Larches to collect bins from Palmers Lane. Cllr Ashton explained this is just an option for the refuse collectors to walk through and collect the bins before returning them to Palmers Lane. Ann said cars currently park in front of the emergency access gate – this will need to be addressed as it is an access point for emergency service vehicles and should be kept clear at all times. A solution is needed so the bins are not left obstructing the pavement in front of 26 High Street.</p> <p>Jacqui Wynn spoke re Chapel Road development issues – Cllr Ashton will meet with Jacqui.</p> <p>Jacqui Wynn spoke to residents re a new village sign – there seems to be little enthusiasm but preference would be to include a Wren & the Village Pound on the sign.</p>	
2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENC/E	
	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sue Child.	
3	PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS	
	All as Sole Trustee of Village Hall.	
4	TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PC MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH JUNE 2024	
	The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 th June 2024, having previously been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hutson & seconded by Cllr Buxton - All in favour – The Chairman signed a copy.	
5	MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	26 High Street – Discussion re poor quality of work on the pavement etc – Cllr Dunning is aware – Highways have visited and will take up with the Contractor. No payment will be made until issues are resolved.	
5.2	Maintenance Work at Wrentham Old Cemetery – Cllr Ashton advised Contractors have been carrying out work today. Cllr Ashton is looking at a Cemetery Improvement Plan across the district & will do all he can to make improvements. All options are being explored including increased flexibility from East Suffolk Services and use of Community Payback.	

5.3	Bonsey Gardens Play Park Refurbishment – Results of the public consultation are awaited – Cllr Ashton & The Clerk have requested an update.	
5.4	<p>Discussion re CIL spending –</p> <p>Village Sign - The Clerk has shared brochure with all for consideration. Design of the sign was discussed – it was suggested a St Nicholas Church, Village Pound & the river could be included. The sign needs to be uncluttered. The Sizewell one in the brochure is a good example. Councillor Fletcher will send pictures to The Clerk to be put forward to the design team. The Clerk will progress.</p> <p>Play Area – once more is known re ESC plans the PC can discuss whether to commit CIL funds. Cllr Hanger suggested funding regular grass cutting and installation of football goals.</p> <p>Cllr Wren suggested the PC purchase its own grass cutting equipment to be used by trained volunteers on a rota basis. Cllr Ashton said this may be possible for the play park but not verges etc. It may be easier to employ a self-employed gardener to do the work as required.</p>	FB
5.5	<p>Move to gov.uk email address – The email address is now in place and the website switches over next week. The old addresses will redirect to the new ones. The Clerk will publicise the new website & email address – www.wrenthamparishcouncil.gov.uk clerk@wrenthamparishcouncil.gov.uk</p>	FB
5.6	<p>Chapel Road (matters raised by Mrs Wynn) – covered under Open Forum. Cllr Perry spoke re the bund which was included in the planning application to screen the new development from Chapel Road residents. This is 1 metre in some areas and 3 metres in others and has no planting on at present. Cllr Perry will provide photos & The Clerk will email Cripps Developments.</p>	KP/FB
5.7	Any other Matters Arising –	
5.7.1	Reinstatement of a beacon within the village – Carried – The Clerk will progress.	FB
6	REPORT FROM CLLR ANNETTE DUNNING (SCC)	
	No report but The Chairman has spoken with Cllr Dunning.	
7	REPORT FROM CLLR PAUL ASHTON (ESC)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sizewell C Community Fund is now open and taking bids. Cllr Ashton is attending a Transport Forum next week. It may be possible to bid for funding for additional VAS due to the increase in traffic Sizewell C will bring. • Gull Wing Bridge due to be opened soon. • New local MPs following General Election – ESC have submitted a letter of expectations. The Chairman asked about the new Government's approach to Planning – Cllr Ashton hopes to know more in the next few weeks. There is a huge solar farm application on the Suffolk/Cambs border & various offshore projects likely to get approval. ESC continue to fight for offshore cabling to go into Tilbury rather than along the Suffolk coast. Local Plan was last updated 6 years ago & ESC already have adequate housing to meet targets – Plan will be reviewed in next 12 months. • First Light Festival took place in Lowestoft and was a great success. • ESC are holding roadshows in Halesworth, Beccles, Southwold & Beccles – more details available on ESC website. • Conservation Areas – Article 4 directions are being reviewed – Cllr Ashton is not aware of any changes in Wrentham. 	

8	HIGHWAYS ISSUES	
8.1	UPDATES RE SID/VAS SIGNS/REPLACEMENT POLES New VAS received from Elancity, appears to be very well made, Cllrs Buxton & Forder will install at the end of Walker Gardens. Batteries are not working well on older signs – upgrading of more poles and purchase of further VAS to be discussed at September meeting.	
8.2 8.2.1	Any Other Highways Matters – Entrance Signs at Northern end of Village – The Chairman & Cllr Hutson will propose some new dates to meet with Highways.	IW/LH
9	FLOODING MATTERS	
9.1 9.1.1 9.1.2	River Wren – desilting etc – The Clerk has received some guidance from Rachel Kellett of Halesworth Town Council re the clearance of Himalayan Balsam. Work needs to be done in conjunction with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and is undertaken in June/early July. The Clerk has received no updates from The Environment Agency re desilting work – she will seek an update before raising with the new MP.	FB
9.2	Emergency Plan – ongoing.	
10	PLANNING	
10.1	DC/24/2283/FUL – Avocet Cottage, 5 West End Corner – Alterations to existing outbuildings to create an annex/studio with attached shed & greenhouse – Plans were shared and discussed – all work is at rear of property, good clear plans. The Chairman proposed there be no objections, seconded by Cllr Hanger, All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.	FB
10.2	DC/24/1276/FUL – Land West of Guildhall Lane – An agricultural barn to store tractor and trailer - Plans were shared and discussed – Councillors are unclear as to whether the existing barn at this site had planning permission – there was concern re future potential application for change of use to residential. The Chairman proposed there be no objections, seconded by Cllr Buxton, All in favour. The Clerk will update ESC.	FB
10.3 10.3.1	Any further Planning Applications/Matters – DC/24/2525/TCA – No objections.	
11	FINANCE	
11.1	Balances at Bank – £91,564.66 Business Saver Account (WRAC) - £1.01 - Current Account - £41,142.15 - Business Saver Account (CIL) - £50,421.50. The Clerk confirmed SAGE balances with Bank Statements.	
11.2	Account received from Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00. The Clerk advised Mr Newson has asked that a new broom be purchased – it was agreed that an amount up to £20 be included on his next invoice. The Clerk will update.	FB
11.3	Clerk's salary & Expenses of £51.09	
11.4	Quarterly HMRC payment – £111.80	
11.5	Receipt from Mrs Drane for Jubilee Planters - £50.00	
11.6	Invoice from Elancity for VAS - £2807.99	
11.7	Invoice from WAVE – Allotment water - £56.66	
11.8 11.8.1 11.8.2	August Payments – raised for approval as no PC meeting in August Clerks Salary Bus Shelter Cleaner - £55.00	
11.9	Any other accounts received – Mrs Wynn – Jubilee Planter - £43.63	
	Above payments 11.2 to 11.9 were proposed by The Chairman & seconded by Cllr Forder, All in favour. Online payments have been raised and will be approved by The Chairman/Vice Chairman.	IW/LH
12	CORRESPONDENCE	
12.1	Email from Information Commissioners Office – confirmation of renewal.	

12.2	Email from Mrs Kelly re Footpath from The Lane to Chapel Road – covered during Open Forum.	FB
12.3	Any Further Correspondence –	
12.3.1	Anonymous email from residents of The Larches re bin collection from Palmers Lane – covered during Open Forum.	
13	ANY OTHER BUSINESS/MATTERS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA	
	None.	
14	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 16th September 2024 – 7:30pm	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

DRAFT