

WESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

On behalf of westhorpeparishclerk@gmail.com

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs David Barker (Chairman), Steve Christian, Ian Cotgrove, Diane Gladders, Robin Lambert, Richard Brown

IN ATTENDANCE: County and District Cllr Andy Mellen, two members of the public and Mark Eggleton (clerk),

1. APOLOGIES and approval of absences. Cllr Caley sent his apologies.
2. DECLARATIONS of interest and dispensation. The Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 9 as some of the flooding took place on his land.
3. MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23 January 2024 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. MATTERS Arising from Council Meeting held on 23 January 2024.
 - 4.1 Update on the tree surgery contractor's progress. The Chairman has chased UK Power Networks again, but no response has been received to date.
5. SPEED Indicator Device (SID) update – Cllr Brown has obtained a quotation of £900 from Traffic Technology Ltd for a solar panel to power the SID. Cllr Brown kindly agreed to fit the solar panel himself to reduce costs. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the purchase which will be funded by the Locality Award.
6. COUNTY Councillor report – Cllr Mellen presented his report. Please find a copy attached.
7. DISTRICT Councillor report - Cllr Mellen presented his report. Please find a copy attached.
8. PLANNING UPDATE
 - 8.1 DC/23/00549 Shrubbery Farm, Walsham Road, Westhorpe, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SZ The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application. The application is currently awaiting a decision.
 - 8.2 DC/22/2190 HYB Shepherds Grove Bury Road Stanton Suffolk
The Parish Council submitted their observations on 18 February 2023. The application is currently awaiting a decision from West Suffolk District Council.
 - 8.3 DC/23/05193 and DC/23/05077 Bacton Middle School. The developer wishes to vary their application. The Parish Council agreed to comment stating their concerns that the variation would lead to less space for sporting facilities and a new primary school. The Parish Council's objections to the variation were submitted on 7 December 2023. The application is currently awaiting a decision.
9. FLOODING UPDATE. The Chairman met Andrew Moore from Suffolk County Council's Highway Division on 26 February 2024. They visited all the flooding hotspots within the village. It was noted that the work carried out by the village work party had eased but not resolved the issues. Some photographs of the most recent flooding have been sent to Andrew and he will revert back with his recommendations.

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10. FINANCE UPDATE

10.1 The bank reconciliation as at 29 February 2024 was presented by the Clerk.

10.2 The following payments have been made since the 23 January 2024 meeting.

a) 31.1.24 Cheque number 100467 - £16.00 Westhorpe Village Hall for the hire of the hall.

10.3 The following amounts have been received since the 29 February 2024 meeting.

a) 29.1.24 £900.00 from Mid Suffolk District Council. Locality award for SID solar panels.

10.4 The Chairman purchased some materials from Clarkes of Walsham to treat the village benches and the notice board. The cost of the materials was £121.69. It was unanimously agreed that he would be fully reimbursed and a cheque was raised.

10.5 Cllr Brown volunteered for the role of internal auditor for this year's audit.

11. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND AOB.

11.1 A member of the public suggested that future agendas were sent via the village email distribution list. The Chairman said that whilst the agendas were published on the website and village notice board, in future he would also email them to the village.

11.2 A member of the public stated that the Mary Tudor appeal was a fantastic achievement for the village. The Chairman agreed with this sentiment.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 7.30pm at the village hall.

Mark Eggleton
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council