

WESTHORPE

PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council
Street Farm, Westhorpe
Tel: 07926 223042

Minutes of the Westhorpe Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 2 May 2017 in the Village Hall.

In attendance:

Mr D Barker (Chairman), Mrs D. Gladders, Mrs H. Wilkinson, Mr I. Cotgrove, Mr. R. Lambert, Mr S. Christian

Present:

G. Horn (Clerk).

Public participation

There were 5 members of the public present.

Visiting speakers.

The District Councillor's report was presented within the Annual Parish Meeting.

17.1 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 May 2016

These were not supplied and it was agreed to approve them at the next Parish Council meeting.

17.2 Annual report of the Parish Council

Report was given by the Chairman, a copy is attached herewith.

17.3 Annual Reviews/Reports

- a) County Councillor was not in attendance. District Cllr. Barker gave his report, a copy is attached herewith.
- b) Suffolk Constabulary was not in attendance.
- c) Westhorpe Charity report was read by the Chairman, a copy is attached herewith.
- d) Village Hall Committee report was read by the Chairman, a copy is attached herewith.

17.4 Open Forum

- a) Dog waste bins
Potential locations were discussed, but they will need to be approved by Mid Suffolk District Council.
There followed a discussion about self-policing of foulers and confirming that information on being a responsible dog owner can be found on the village website.
- b) Road signs
These must be reported to Suffolk County Council, using their website.
- c) Village sign on green
This is being painted by Mr Paul Smith, using scaffolding.
- d) Westhorpe wooden signs
These will be maintained by volunteers. It was reminded that all volunteers must wear hi-vis.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:25.

Glen Horn, Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council.

Mid Suffolk District Council continue to work well in some very difficult and challenging financial times. Some bullet points. (No particular order)

- : Green Energy income up. £460K of income generated this year from solar panels installed on our properties.
- : 20 tonnes of glass being collected a month ,extra on top of the bring sites 2000 tonnes plus, by our business waste team.
- : New Council Houses, we are building 65 new council houses across the district, 14 already occupied.
- : Devolution has come and gone with no positive support from other council outside of Suffolk.
- : Moving the HQ for the council to Endeavour House in Ipswich, and call in centres for face to face contact has been agreed.
- : The Council provided over £725K in grants to community groups for improvements to village halls etc.
- : Number of empty homes Down, 97 brought back into use generating extra £130K income.
- : The Planning Dept. is being inundated with many large applications specially in the villages along the A14. Woolpit, Elmswell and Thurston in particular.
- : Funding for community led Housing Up £430K secured DCLG grants secured for affordable homes.
- : New Chief Executive has been just appointed.
- : Still collecting over 100 tonnes of litter off the A14, (A Forth Bridge issue)

But I am always available for any residents problems and try to get to as many parish councils as possible.

Roy Barker.

THE WESTHORPE TRUST

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MAY 2017

Most of the Trust's income derives from its investments. Following the advice of its independent financial adviser and the objectives laid down in the Investment Policy Statement the Trust has had a satisfactory year.

During the past twelve months over £6,500 has been distributed to residents covering personal grants, assistance with heating costs, academic and education, family and transport grants.

A further substantial grant was made towards the Village Hall Re-building Fund.

There is now information about the history of the Trust and how it works on the Westhorpe website. There is also information about how to apply for grants, a downloadable application form and information about how to contact Trustees. The same information will be available inside the new Village Hall.

The Westhorpe Trust is registered with the Charity Commission, charity number: 263332, and may be viewed on its website on the Register of Charities: www.charitycommission.gov.uk

All requests are treated with the utmost confidence and may be addressed to any of the Trustees:

Mrs Audrey Thomas
Mrs Pippa Beak
Mrs Rosemary Mees
Mrs Gilly Christian
Mr Ian Jackson

Claire Barker
Secretary

Westhorpe Village Hall Committee

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting May 2nd 2017

This time last year the old Village Hall was still standing. It was not generally being used as we were expecting the demolition and rebuilding to start imminently. Nevertheless, the last Annual Parish meeting was held in the old hall and the Village Hall Committee's report expressed the wish that the next meeting would be in the new hall. We are delighted that this is the case.

The start of work on the new Village Hall was delayed by the need for an additional deeper borehole investigation on the site and also by the difficulties associated with the contractors electricity supply.

Eventually, work commenced on site in the middle of July, officially on July 14th. The contractors, Mixbrow Construction of Needham Market could not have been more amenable. Many village residents regularly chatted with the site manager, Mick Cates, and his team.

We were extremely fortunate not to have any severe weather or major difficulties to delay work during the construction period. There were, of course, numerous tedious problems which were overcome by the tireless efforts of the contractors, the consultants and members of the village hall committee, particularly our architect and project manager, Paul Weston.

The new building was finished within budget three weeks ahead of schedule and officially handed over to us on January 27th 2017.

Between the handover and the opening there was a great deal of activity in cleaning, planting, ordering and placing of equipment, training on the various aspects of building use and administration.

We had a very enjoyable and successful opening day on March 25th. Residents of the village and representatives of all the organisations who had helped and supported us were invited to the official opening at lunchtime. In the evening we had a village celebration with music provided by our local group Nutz and Boltz. Heather Wilkinson and her team provided excellent catering at both events.

A representative from the Big Lottery, Chiv Matoo, made a completion visit to the hall at the beginning of April and was delighted with everything he saw. Monitoring against our project outcomes related to providing more social activities, access to support services and information and strengthening the community will continue for a number of years.

Since opening the hall has been well used and the number of bookings is increasing. The Village website has been an invaluable asset in this, thanks to the work of two of the committee.

Once again I would like to record my admiration and gratitude to the members of the Village Hall Committee and all the other village residents who have helped to make this project a success. It is incredible that there is so much skill in a small community. The project is an exceptional example of what can be achieved when members of a local community work together. It will be vital for the continued success of the hall for people to continue to do so.

Sue Hull
Chairman, Westhorpe Village Hall Committee