

WESTHORPE

PARISH COUNCIL



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

Minutes of the meeting of Westhorpe Parish Council held on Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.

In attendance:

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

Present:

C Kennedy (Clerk)

Public participation

There was one member of the public present: Mr John Gladders.

17.61 Apologies and approval of absences.

No apologies were received.

17.62 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

17.63 To consider requests for dispensations

No dispensations were required to be granted.

17.64 To approve as accurate, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held of 7 November 2017

The minutes were unanimously declared accurate and approved by all and signed and dated by Cllr Barker.

17.65 Progress reports arising from the meeting of 7 November 2017

17.65.1 Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk confirmed that the bins had been ordered and delivery was imminent. Once the bins have been received, Cllr. Barker will arrange a meeting one Saturday with the available Councillors, Marcus Gosling and the residents of Town Yard about locating one of the bins on the bank on the south side of Church Road between the footpath and the phone box.

17.65.2 Street signage

No progress has been made. The Council agreed that the Clerk could chase the Building Control Department of Babergh & MSDC and copy in District Councillor Barker.

17.65.3 Village sign

Paul Smith has asked to hold work on this until Spring 2018. This will be raised again at the next meeting.

17.65.4 Risk Assessment Review

The Clerk had produced a draft Financial Risk Assessment for the Council. The Councillors unanimously agreed that item 7 could be deleted and that once that amendment had been made the document would be acceptable.

17.66 Considered planning matters:

17.66.1 New applications

None.

17.66.2 Decisions or other planning matters

None.

17.67 2018/19 Precept and Taxbase

Cllr. Caley proposed that the precept remained the same as 2016 and 2018. Cllr. Wilkinson seconded the motion and all were in favour. The Clerk completed the precept form to the amount of £1600, to be paid in two installments of £800 to be paid no later than 30 April and 30 September 2018. The Clerk will post this to Babergh & MSDC in good time for the 31 January 2018 deadline.

17.68 New Single Council to cover the heart of Suffolk

The request from Babergh and MSDC for comments on the single council is to be passed on to residents. Cllr Barker is to circulate and the Clerk will post it on the website. Cllr Barker proposed that the Parish Council were in support of the principle of a single council, Cllr. Caley seconded the motion and all were in favour.

17.69 Heavy lorries and speeding

Cllr. Wilkinson has been approached by some residents regarding the large lorries that drive through the village to deliver to Lodge Farm. It had been suggested to her that they might use the other entrance to the farm that would not require passing through the village. Cllr. Barker said that this was impossible as that entrance was too tight for big lorries. Cllr Wilkinson is to report back to residents accordingly.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with both Wyverstone and Finningham Community Speedwatch coordinators. Finningham is not able to share their equipment with Westhorpe as they loan it from Gislingham. Wyverstone said they would raise the request at their Parish Council meeting, also held on Tuesday 9 January. The Clerk also reported that an officer from Suffolk Police was prepared to attend the March Parish Council meeting to give a presentation, if the Councillors were amenable. Cllrs Cotgrove, Barker and Caley do not feel a Community Speedwatch programme would be viable in Westhorpe. The Clerk will inform the officer accordingly. Cllrs Barker and Caley wish to handle individual cases as they arise. Cllr Barker said incidents of speeding should not be ignored and Cllr. Wilkinson highlighted the need for vigilance.

17.70 Broadband

Cllr. Barker reported that work had started on the village green. Access into Westhorpe from the Wyverstone Road/Finningham Road t-junction will be blocked from 9am on Thursday 11 January and is likely to stay closed until late afternoon/evening on Friday 12 January 2018. Cllr Barker will report this to residents.

17.71 District Councillor's Report

No report was given.

17.72 County Councillor's Report

Both December and January written reports were noted by Councillors.

17.73 Clerk's Report, account balances and requests for payment

17.73.1 The Clerk reported balances as of 4 December 2017 of £2852.87 in the current account and £1343.12 in the savings account. The Clerk confirmed payment of Westhorpe Trust's cheque of £250 into the current account on 3 January 2018.

17.73.2 The Clerk requested approval of payment of £320 Clerk's salary for the period July 2017 to December 2017. Payment was proposed by Cllr. Christian, seconded by Cllr. Caley and approved by all. Cllrs. Barker and Lambert duly signed the cheque.

17.73.3 The Clerk is to facilitate the addition of Cllrs. Caley and Wilkinson as additional signatories to the bank account.

17.74 Correspondence for information

In future, the Clerk will email all correspondence to Councillors at the time of receipt, should they wish an item of correspondence to be included on the agenda they will inform the Clerk accordingly.

17.74.1 UK Power Networks' Local Government Forum – 11 January 2018

Not considered relevant to the Parish Council.

17.74.2 Community Housing Trust Workshops

Not considered relevant to the Parish Council.

17.74.3 Thedwastre North – December Report

Covered under section 17.71 of this meeting.

17.74.4 Appointment of new Auditor

The Clerk confirmed that the new Auditor was PKF Littlejohn LLP of Canary Wharf. The Clerk is to contact them to clarify whether the £30 fee would still be payable, given that the Council are now exempt from filing an audit as its income/expenditure is less than £25,000.

17.74.5 Headway Suffolk's request for a donation

Cllr. Barker is reluctant for the Parish Council to support an individual charity and spend the precept money on charity. All Councillors agreed.

17.74.6 Thanks from the Village Hall Committee for the lectern

Noted and minuted.

17.74.7 SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service) Report

The Clerk is authorised to respond to SARS to inform them that if they were to have a fundraiser in the Village Hall, there are individuals (Cllr Barker among them) who would be prepared to meet the costs of hiring the Village Hall.

17.75 Clerk's report on urgent decisions since the last meeting.

None.

17.76 Questions to the Chairman

None.


17.77 Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 19.30 in the Village Hall. The dates for the subsequent meetings for 2018 were agreed as follows:

Tuesday 8 May 2018, Tuesday 3 July 2018, Tuesday 4 September 2018 and Tuesday 6 November 2018

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:30.

Camilla Kennedy, Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council.



6/3/2018