



Minutes of the Westhorpe Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 in the Village Hall.

In attendance:

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

Present:

Camilla Kennedy (Clerk)

Andrew Mellen, District Councillor

Public participation

There were 3 members of the public present.

19.1 Apologies for Absence

These were received from Cllr. Caley.

19.2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 May 2018

These were approved at the 10 July 2018 Parish Council meeting.

19.3 Annual report of the Parish Council

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

The Chairman wished to minute the Parish's appreciation of Roy Barker, the outgoing District Councillor, and wish success to Andrew Mellen, the new District Councillor.

19.4 Annual Reviews/Reports

a) Suffolk County Councillor was not in attendance, a copy of her report is attached herewith.

b) Mid Suffolk District Councillor was in attendance. He confirmed that Westhorpe was now in a ward with Wyverstone, Bacton, Finningham and Cotton. He feels this to be a more coherent group of villages and believes it may help co-ordination and interaction. His first few weeks are an induction and training period, then the local plan will be covered. It will be a guiding document for planning in our area. The new council is a balanced council, and Cllr Mellen highlighted that the Council are going to have to work together. Potholes were mentioned and it was suggested that despite SCC's reluctance to fill them in back in March, they should be reported again.

c) Westhorpe Trust report was read by the Chairman, a copy is attached herewith.

d) The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee gave her report, a copy is attached herewith.



19.5 Open Forum

a) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

The Clerk was able to confirm that Finningham were not in a position to share their SID with Westhorpe as they already share one. Wyverstone indicated that they have had problems in the past with sharing equipment and do not wish to do so again. The clerk agreed to approach SCC for funding options and a community fundraiser was mooted.

b) Defibrillator

The Village Hall Committee (VHC) Chairman informed the Council that the defibrillator pads (two pairs) are due to expire in June/July 2019. The costs to replacement them will be approximately £33 per pair. The cost of this should be not be the responsibility of the Village Hall and it was suggested that the Parish Council should bear the cost of replacing them. All were in favour.

Pediatric defibrillator pads are available at a cost of approximately £63 per pair. Cllr Barker will speak with his daughter in law regarding the efficacy of purchasing some.

The defibrillator's battery is due to expire in 2020 and the Council requested that the VHC Chairman obtain likely costs to replace this in order that it may be budgeted for.

c) Council Infrastructure Levy

One village resident wished to highlight the rather large sums of money paid to the CIL in the event of new builds, and that the Parish Council should be see the benefits of some of this money. The Clerk is to approach SALC to see if there is any training available to Councillors to ensure the Parish can maximise its access to this.

d) Rural Coffee Caravan

The residents of Westhorpe Hall require volunteers to push their chairs up the road when the Rural Coffee Caravan visits. Anyone may assist, but will need to have a DBS check.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:15.

Camilla Kennedy
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council.

D.C. Barker 2/7/2019

Parish Council Chairman Annual Report.

Thank Camilla for all her work and the Parish Councillors for their time and efforts

Make appreciation to Roy Barber 16 Years on District Council present him with a Bottle of Whisky in March talk on history of Westhaze -

Wish Andy Hellen every success give him our support and help - challenging time local Government. In particular huge demands for housing - lack of sustainability in design large developments Thunhill/Elmswell. Thank Sara Storey not been well again undergoing surgery.

May AGM Sally Connick 'Good Neighbours Scheme' big commitment felt we can help Westhaze on a more individual basis.

Reports HSDC / SCC

June 2018 I was asked to meet the agent for David Black with regard to potential development land in the village. Reported discussions to councillors. - nothing further has come forward.

GDPR Policy village list asked all to apply as a result those who did not were removed. = 10 July approve minutes of AGM.

Dog waste bin opposite church.

Broadband

Land South of Finningham planning application.

Stable Block Kells. granted.

SALC membership

September Improved broadband - feeds pillar opposite Fox Giff.

Footpath signs erected Kells Lane

November Discussion on footpaths. result I met

with S.C.C. agreed purchase of new signs to go with 40 already in place. Particulars

1) Six Hundred Lane 2 West Farm Permissive access

Tennis court entrance to Kells Field.

Pot Holes 9 reported by Steve Christman.

January adopted model standing orders thanks to Ian Cotgrave for going through this.

Planning Old Crown approval Great Crested Newts.

March Speed Indicators.

Pot holes.

Lure Gardens visit.

Litter Pick

Park Elections

SALC membership



Suffolk County Council Thedwastre North

2018/19 News Highlights

Here is a selection of news items from Suffolk County Council that featured over the last 12 months. For further details on any of these stories, and more, visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/>.

Suffolk launches innovative new fire engine

On 24 April 2018, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service celebrated the launch of the new Light Rescue Pump (LRP) at Wrentham Fire Station. The LRP is a new-look fire and rescue vehicle and was developed following feedback from local residents and staff through the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015-2018 consultation.

The LRP is unique to Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and the firefighters were an integral part of the group who designed it. It includes the latest firefighting and rescue equipment and has been specifically designed to provide flexible crewing in rural areas of between two and five firefighters (a standard fire appliance usually has four to six firefighters).

Council to deliver 51 new affordable homes for low income families in rural community

On 22 May 2018, it was announced that Suffolk County Council is looking to develop a 4.5-acre site which is owned as part of its County Farms estate in Cockfield village near Lavenham. The plan is for 51 affordable homes to be built to offer local people on low incomes the opportunity to get on the housing ladder. The development is expected to take around two years to complete.

By taking the lead on this project, the council can ensure the development delivers the proposed benefits for the local community in a timely fashion. This includes provision for community space, powers to adapt local speed limits as required and improvements to local footpaths.

Councillor Matthew Hicks takes the helm at Suffolk County Council

On 24 May 2018, Councillor Mathew Hicks was elected as the new leader of Suffolk County Council. Councillor Hicks has promised a new era of working in partnership and listening.

In a speech following his election, he pledged to work with district and borough councils, other public sector partners, businesses and residents to find the best ways of delivering services to the people that need them most.

Plan for £6million upgrades to Suffolk recycling centres

On 24 July 2018, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved a plan to invest £6million into upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres.

The plan has earmarked £3m for the Foxhall Recycling Centre – Suffolk's busiest with 20% of all recycling waste in the county – and £1m for Haverhill for "urgent improvements". The plans will see improvements to traffic access at Foxhall and measures to prevent people from having to climb steps to dispose of their waste in the containers. Existing planning permission for work expires in March 2021.

Elsewhere, £1m has been earmarked for a site to replace the Portman's Walk Recycling Centre in Ipswich town centre, and a further million for the same in Stowmarket. Construction for improvements is expected to get underway in 2019/20.

Suffolk's tourist trade booming

Suffolk's tourism trade has seen its biggest boom for a decade, with the visitor economy reaching the £2 billion mark for the first time.

Interim figures released on 8 August 2018 by Visit Suffolk showed that tourism grew by at least five per cent in 2017, more than double the year before.

Overnight visits and lengths of stay for tourists were also up by more than 4 per cent. Figures show visitors now spend more money on each trip to the county than ever before, with the value of the day market up more than seven per cent.

The number of jobs in the county's tourism sector rose by 6 per cent to 42,428. This means 13.6 per cent of all employment in Suffolk is in the tourism sector.

A report published on 18 December 2018 revealed the importance of the Sport and Physical Activity sector to the Suffolk economy. The report shows that the sector contributes £270m a year to the Suffolk economy. This accounts for over 10,000 jobs or 3% of all employment in Suffolk and is almost double the proportion seen at national levels.

The report shows that employment in the sector has grown at a faster rate than all other sectors in Suffolk - up 60% in the last 5 years. By contrast, employment in financial and professional services has grown by 10% over the same period.

Carers celebrate top accolade with 'Outstanding' rating from the Care Quality Commission

On 19 October 2018, it was announced that the standard of care provided by Mid Suffolk Home First has been rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

Mid Suffolk Home First, which is provided by Suffolk County Council, provides a short-term reablement service and a longer-term care service. Inspectors, who visited in July 2018, said the quality of care was 'exceptional'. Under CQC's programme of inspections, the service was rated according to whether it is safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led. Mid Suffolk Home First is rated Outstanding for being responsive and well-led, and Good for being safe, caring and effective.

The reablement and care services offered by Mid Suffolk Home First support people following a period of ill health or a significant loss in their ability to manage their day to day care needs. The service aims to help the person reach their optimum level of

Suffolk's roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology

January 2019 saw Suffolk Highways celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology.

The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county's Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk's road surface.

Over the month of January, Suffolk Highways deployed three thermal road repair machines which repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide. Some repairs have been completed in Church Road Tostock, using this new technology.

The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service's much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure.

The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration.

Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March 2019.

Department for Education recognises outstanding performance by Suffolk students

On 24 January 2019, the Department for Education published revised GCSE and A Level results.

GCSE

Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in the county achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths.

64% of students in Suffolk are now achieving the expected standard in English and Maths, putting Suffolk in the top half of authorities achieving this standard.

GCSE progress remains above average and Suffolk students have seen a steep increase this year with a Progress 8 score of +0.08, compared with -0.02 nationally.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths is in line with national figures. The Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged pupils is also above the national level and is in the top half of authorities, ranked 42nd out of 151 (up from 67th in 2016).

A Level

The validated A Level figures confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*- E grades remaining above the national average figures.

The figures show that 98.1% of A Levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*-E grade, compared to 97.6% nationally.

Suffolk wins £4.4 million for “smart” streetlighting

A highlight of January was the announcement that Suffolk has won a grant of £4.4 million from the Government for a pioneering project to develop “smart” streetlighting. The project will see streetlights adapted in a range of innovative ways, including being equipped with wind vanes and solar panels to generate rather than consume energy. Highways’ electricity bill is currently £2.3 million a year and set to rise, so anything that reduces the bill is very welcome.

The street lights will be equipped with sensors to undertake a range of tasks such as measuring traffic speed and volume; measuring road temperatures – so gritting runs can be better targeted; and indicating whether nearby grit bins need filling or gullies need emptying. The street lights can also be adapted to act as Wi-Fi and 5G transmitters.

Plug In Suffolk – the UK’s First ‘Fully Open’ Electric Vehicle Charging Network

On 6 February, EO Charging, one of the UK’s leading electric vehicle (EV) charging manufacturers, launched ‘Plug In Suffolk’ in partnership with Suffolk County Council and renewable energy provider Bulb.

This is the country’s first ‘fully open’ public fast charging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, meaning EV drivers simply pay by contactless payment with no need to register with networks or become members of organisations.

The first ‘Plug in Suffolk’ charging location was unveiled at Urban Jungle Plant Nursery and Cafe in Beccles. The company offer two 7kW EO chargers alongside the EO Pay kiosk, allowing members of the public and employees to charge their electric vehicles.

‘Plug In Suffolk’ will see the installation of electric vehicle charging stations (up to 400 individual sockets) across the county at 100 key locations and business addresses. Once

completed the charging network will be available for all plug-in vehicle drivers with each charging location listed on www.pluginsuffolk.org or searchable via Zap Map and Google Maps.

The 'Plug In Suffolk' charging network forms part of Suffolk County Council's ambition of Creating the Greenest County in the UK.

Suffolk to host opening stage of 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour

In February 2019, it was confirmed that Suffolk will host the opening stage of the 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour on Monday 10 June 2019. This is the fifth time that the race has visited our county.

Locality Awards

Each County Councillor has an award of £8,000 for the year. I had £5,600 carried forward from 2017/18 so had a balance of £13,600 available for the year 2018/19. Locality awards have been made for the following:-

- £2884 – Woolpit Cricket Club – broadband installation (committed in 2017/18)
- £1994 – Stowmarket Short Mat Bowls Club – shed for equipment
- £415 – Norton Village Hall – WiFi
- £385 – Elmswell Parish Council – bowls gatherers
- £190 – Elmswell Parish Council – projector for small meeting room
- £3700 – Elmswell Parish Council – committed for QS services for Chapel conversion
- £1196 – Norton Parish Council – grit bins and installation
- £300 – Great Ashfield Parish Council – WW1 celebrations and booklet
- £1000 – Hunston PCC – new gate
- £600 – Elmswell Scouts - £600 – new fridges
- £2500 – Great Ashfield Parish Council – new toilet at Lord Thurlow Hall

Many thanks for the work of Parish Council members and the Parish Clerks

It can often be a thankless task – to be a parish councillor – so I wish to record my thanks to all those people who have taken on this role over the last year and have devoted many hours to reading through agenda's, minutes, planning documents, other letters and correspondence in order to make a difference to their communities. My thanks also to the parish clerks who have kept me informed when I have not been able to be at the meetings in person.

Jane Storey

Thedwastre North 2019

Report for Westhorpe Parish Council, Tuesday 14th May 2019

At the local elections held on May 2nd I was elected to represent Bacton ward on Mid-Suffolk District Council. As you are probably aware, the changed ward boundaries mean that Bacton is now together with Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone.

The overall result in the elections has resulted in a Council with no overall control: There are 16 Conservative councillors, 12 Green, 4 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent. This means that who runs the Council and holds the Council leader and cabinet positions will not become clear until the first full Council meeting on the 20th May. Rest assured, however, that all the services that the Council provides will continue to function as normal.

I have so far attended an induction day at Endeavour House, and will have various training sessions over the next few weeks. Please bear with me as I learn the ropes and get a feel for the role, however please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can help. I can be contacted in the following ways:

Phone 01449 782971 or mobile 07790 992619

Email: Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Andy Mellen

District Councillor

THE WESTHORPE TRUST

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MAY 2019

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 £7,500 has been distributed to residents covering personal grants, assistance with heating costs, academic and education, family and transport grants.

There is information about the history of the Trust and how it works on the Westhorpe Village 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 is available inside the Village Hall and in the Parish magazine.

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

All requests for assistance from the Trust are treated with the utmost confidence and may be addressed to me – details below – or any of the Trustees:

Revd Philip Merry [Chairman]
Mrs Rosemary Mees
Mrs Gilly Christian
Mr Steve Christian
Mrs Amanda Rudd

Claire Barker
Secretary

Westhorpe Village Hall Committee

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting May 14th 2019

This year has been one of consolidation and steady progress.

Most of the activities reported at the last Annual Parish meeting are still running. Some have a high number of attendees such as the Art Club and Line Dancing. Others have fewer regular participants but are nevertheless a very valuable part of life in the community.

The Little Owls group for mothers and toddlers, the Friday Keep Fit sessions and the IT workshops came to a natural end during the year. However, Freestyle Fitness Yoga classes started almost a year ago and take place weekly, Games night has been happening every two weeks since September and Tai Chi classes twice weekly are just beginning.

Suffolk Artlink in connection with the Rural Coffee Caravan ran four very popular half day Art and Craft sessions in the Autumn and a spin off from these has been several Singing for Fun sessions which we hope will continue.

One off events have included a Big Lunch in July 2018, a First World War talk in November, a joint Art and Craft club exhibition in November, Music gigs by Nutz and Boltz and also by Bits and Pieces (a joint event with Finningham), and a fascinating illustrated talk on the history of Westhorpe from 1950 to 1980. There have also been several celebration parties, Friends and Neighbours get-togethers, a session from NatWest bank on scams, a concert by Phoenix music group, a Lent lunch and a number of private events.

In November we were asked to speak about the development and running of the hall at a Community Action Suffolk conference on Village halls held in the Stratford St Andrew. We were then invited to host and speak at a similar event in our hall in January in connection with Village Hall week. Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council asked us to speak at two conferences they held in the spring. These events have resulted a number of visits from and conversations with other village hall groups seeking advice.

Our financial year ends on March 31st. At the end of the first year our net income for the year was £156. Anticipating higher expenditure in future years with maintenance and servicing issues we established a village lottery in September which is working well and will hopefully provide enough to cover at least our insurance costs. We also received a very welcome donation from Westhorpe Charities which they promised to consider annually. Early indications for the financial year ending March 31st 2019 are that income will exceed expenditure by a greater margin.

The village website keeps everyone informed about village events and happenings at the hall. An events board has been installed outside the hall. We have very efficient electronic hall booking and maintenance calendars. The hall provides a delightful, warm, comfortable and clean environment for all the activities which take place. It is admired by all who use it. Enormous thanks for all of their hard work are due to the Management Committee members and the team of volunteer cleaners.

Sue Hull. Chairman.