



Minutes of the meeting of Westhorpe Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.

In attendance:

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

Present:

C Kennedy (Clerk)
Andrew Mellen (District Councillor)

Public participation

There were 4 members of the public present.

The Chair welcomed everyone and confirmed that the discussion around the Joint Local Plan would be moved down the agenda to accommodate District Cllr Mellen's schedule.

19.54 Apologies and approval of absences

There were none.

19.55 Declarations of interest

Cllr Barker declared an interest in respect of discussion around the joint local plan. It was agreed Cllr Caley would chair the meeting at that point.

19.56 To consider requests for dispensations

No dispensations granted.

19.57 To approve as accurate, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 September 2019

All were in favour of approval of the minutes and they were signed and dated by the Chairman.

19.58 Progress Reports

19.58.1 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

The Clerk reported that despite repeated emails County Cllr Jane Storey, requesting funding for SIDs from her Highways budget, she has yet to receive a response, but will continue to email her requests.

19.58.2 Potholes

Cllr Christian apologised for not reporting the pothole on the side of the road Wynwood, and would do so in the coming week.

19.58.3 Litter Picking Equipment

Cllr Barker reiterated that the litter picking kits supplied by Suffolk County Council were at Lodge Farm and are available for all walkers wishing to make use of them.

19.58.4 Speed Limit Signs

The Clerk confirmed that the knocked down national speed limit sign on the Finningham Road had been replaced, as had the faded signs on Wyverstone Road. She confirmed that the sign full of shot on the Finningham Road, whilst reported, had not been deemed damaged enough by SCC for it to be replaced.

Cllr Barker raised that a "not suitable for heavy goods vehicles" sign had been found on the side of the road by a resident, and had been reported to SCC.

19.59 **Planning Matters**

19.59.1 New applications

DC/19/04745 – Discharge of conditions application for DC/18/05600 – refuse bins and collection area and materials – The Old Crown, Finningham Road. The Clerk reported this application to discharge the conditions attached to the granted application.

19.59.2 Decisions or other Planning Matters

DC/19/03660 – Land adjacent to Kells House, Church Road – Demolition of existing farm buildings and erection of two dwellings with new access drive and vehicle hardstanding. The Clerk confirmed that this has been granted.

19.60 **Parish Precept 2020/21**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Precept would need to be filed in January 2020. For the previous four years it has remained at £1600, but with the collection of dog waste bins now an extra expense, it was decided that this should be reviewed. The Clerk did not have an up to date budget, but would circulate it for the next meeting so that this could be properly discussed at that time.

19.61 **Clerk's Report, account balances and requests for Payment**

As at 4 October 2019 the current account balance was £3,186.14 and the savings account balance £1,503.07. This included the second installment of the precept, £800, received on 2 September 2019.

The Clerk presented cheques for signature in the sum of: £21.60 payable to Mid Suffolk District Council for collection of the dog waste bins as their recent invoice (paid at the last meeting) had not taken into account the rise in the cost of collection at the beginning of the year; and £176.36 payable to Community Action Suffolk for the insurance premium. All were in favour and Cllrs Caley and Lambert signed the former and Cllrs Barker and Lambert signed the latter.

The Clerk reported that the Information Commissioner's Office direct debit for £40 would be debited from the account on 8 November 2019. The Clerk is required to complete a self assessment questionnaire to confirm that the Parish Council are still a small entity entitled to this reduced fee.

The Clerk reported that the deadline for placing an advertisement for a new clerk in the Hexagon magazine was 7 November 2019, and there would be no charge for placing the advertisement. All were in favour of the use of the advert placed on the parish noticeboard. The Clerk confirmed she will arrange placement of the advertisement.

19.62 **Correspondence for information**

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from the residents of Town Yard requesting that dog walkers keep their dogs on leads, and do not let their dogs defecate in their gardens. They had requested that this communication be circulated via the village email list, but it was agreed that this was not the platform for opinions. It was suggested by a resident that the website be used for this, and a blog element

be set up to allow residents to post this sort of thing. This was generally agreed by the Parish Council, and that Cllr Barker would direct these types of communication to the website, on the basis that the Council would not be monitoring content.

The County Councillor's report had been circulated by email and is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk reported that a supplier of trees had been in touch if either the Parish Council or Tree Warden wished to purchase trees for planting. Cllr Barker, as the village's Tree Warden, has these details if required.

Correspondence had been received from the Local Government Boundary Commission regarding the consultation regarding the Suffolk council ward boundaries. This consultation will close on 2 January 2019. This was discussed with Cllr Mellen later in the meeting.

19.63 Clerk's report on urgent decisions since the last meeting

None

19.64 Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Gladders noted that for some residents their postcode had changed from IP14 4SU to IP14 4ST.

Residents expressed their concern that despite it being mooted at the September that agendas for meetings should be circulated via the village email list, this had not been minuted and the agenda for the November meeting had not been circulated in this manner. One resident wished an explanatory note to be added to the agenda "to bring to bear the importance of ... what is on the agenda". Cllr Caley expressed concern as to who decides what is important to whom. The resident wished it minuted that he was in disagreement with this, and that he felt it obvious that particular items on the agenda (in this instance the joint local plan) were of importance to the whole parish, not just to individuals. Cllr Christian stated that the Parish Council were not arbiters of what is important. The resident said that items that affect the whole parish were not the subject of discretion, opinion or arbitration. Cllrs Caley and Christian were in disagreement with this. The resident stated that the Parish Council were meant to reflect residents view. To resolve the matter, Cllr Barker confirmed that future agendas would be circulated via the village list. They would also contain a statement telling residents that if they had any questions regarding items on the agenda to contact the Clerk. The resident agreed that this would be an acceptable compromise, but only if any questions received a response. He also questioned whether the Clerk was comfortable answering any questions raised. The Clerk confirmed that she would not be answering such queries, but would pass them to the Council and obtain their instruction for response.

It was ascertained from this discussion that approximately 20% of village the residents are not on the email circulation list.

19.65 District Councillor's Report

A full copy of the written report is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Mellen confirmed that the changes to the ward boundaries were to ensure they fitted with the county boundaries by 2021. There were no proposals for changes to district ward boundaries.

Cllr Mellen reported that due to the forthcoming election, and the "purdah" period, no decisions were being made in respect of Council Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money.

Cllr Mellen said there was no news regarding Bacton Middle School.

It was reported that there had been changes to what can be put in the green bins. Tetrapaks, pots and pans are no longer accepted. There will be further changes once the refurbishment of the recycling centre at Great Blakenham has been completed. Items that are no longer accepted in the green bins can still be taken to the HWRC in Stowmarket, although Cllrs Mellen requested that these were taken when travelling to Stowmarket for something else, rather than making a special trip. He did confirm that central government were talking about a central standardisation for recycling. He also explained that glass was not accepted so that local collection points could be set up to create revenue for local communities. He confirmed that there was no value in textiles recycling.

19.66 Joint Local Plan (JLP)

Cllr Mellen was asked of the timescale of the outcome of the joint local plan consultation, and what consideration was given to the comments made. He confirmed that weight was given to comments posted, and that he would come back with the information regarding timescales.

One resident reported that despite receiving an email confirming that her comments had been posted, this was not the case. This was not an isolated incident, one other resident had a similar experience, although their comments appeared for 30 minutes only and then disappeared again.

Residents asked why Westhorpe did not have a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Mellen confirmed that they are a lengthy process, requiring a lot of work from volunteers, and are only really beneficial for places under severe planning pressure. He did not feel that Westhorpe needed one as it is not a core village.

Cllr Mellen confirmed that hamlets (the category into which Westhorpe falls) are not expected to take significant amounts of development. He confirmed that any weight attached to a Neighbourhood plan would be superseded by the JLP. He also confirmed that plots outside the local plan would not be looked on with any favour once the JLP is implemented.


Cllr Mellen reminded residents that planning is complex and multi-layered, and as it is still early days for him as District Councillor, he requested not to take his word as gospel.

19.67 Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 14 January 2020.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:26

Camilla Kennedy
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council.


14/1/2020



Thedwastre North October 2019 Newsletter

Fourth care home in Suffolk receives Outstanding rating

On 30 September, it was reported that Care UK's Mills Meadow care home in Framlingham has been officially rated as 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission. This is the fourth Care UK home in Suffolk to be awarded the Outstanding rating, following in the footsteps of Asterbury Place in Ipswich, Cleves Place, Haverhill, and Mildenhall Lodge, Mildenhall.

I visited this care home when I was Chairman of the County Council along with several others run by Care UK. They have a standard format which includes a teashop/cafeteria, tv/cinema room, dining-room and hairdresser. All the ones I visited felt more like a hotel than a care home and I am not surprised that they receive Outstanding ratings. The staff who work there are obviously proud to be part of delivering such excellent care.

Congratulations to Woolpit

In September, at the Suffolk Community Awards Presentation at Abbots Hall Stowmarket, Woolpit was announced as Large Suffolk Village of the Year 2019. Congratulations to everyone associated with a Woolpit organisation – of which there are too many to list individually. I was told when I moved to Woolpit that there was something going on every day and every evening and a look at the village diary just proves the point. Well done to all the volunteers who give up their free time to make these groups, clubs and organisations so successful.

The Hold - preserving Suffolk's history for many years to come

Last month I reported that building work on The Hold, the new home of the Suffolk record office, was well underway. I can now report that construction of 'The Hold' archives and heritage centre has reached its highest point.

On 25 September, contractors R G Carter, along with senior officers from Suffolk County Council, the University of Suffolk, Ipswich Vision and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, celebrated the official 'Topping Out' of the new building.

I had been asked where it was located and while I was able to say roughly where it is I was not 100% so I have attached a link for the travel map.

<https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/SF1351-The-Hold-Travel-Map-V4-LR.pdf>

The link also reflects the work that has been undertaken to ensure that this is a state-of-the-art building that is supported by a number of organisations and groups.

The map shows that the building will be located between the University of Suffolk campus and the Suffolk College. It will be run by the county and the University together.

Bravery, fundraising and commitment recognised at fire awards in Ipswich.

On 18 September, firefighters, non-operational staff and volunteers from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service were recognised for their bravery and commitment.

A special award was also presented to 15-year old, Harry Hall. He came to the aid of a friend who had lost control of their bike and fallen over the sea wall in Lowestoft. In spite of the immediate dangers, Harry jumped down to his friend and kept their head above the rising sea water until the emergency services arrived. Harry was presented with a Certificate of Merit for his actions.

Over 40 awards were given to the Service's firefighters and staff, including those for good conduct and long service, charity fundraising, teamwork, and actions at 999 emergencies.

Congratulations to Elmswell on-call firefighters - Steve Reid and Mark Proctor - who were presented with the Miles Hammond Trophy by the Chief Fire Officer, Mark Hardingham.

Away from that awards evening Elmswell Fire Station crew had their own get-together on 21st September to celebrate Brian Hawes and his amazing 39 years with Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. Their Facebook page is well worth looking up – and 'following'. Congratulations Brian – a man who epitomises dedication, commitment and achievement.

Suffolk, How Are You?

On 17 September, Public Health Suffolk and Ipswich and East Clinical Commissioning Group launched a campaign focused on wellbeing and healthy weight.

Suffolk How Are You? looks at improving wellbeing and maintaining a healthy weight through eating well, moving more and sleeping well. Residents are encouraged to complete the How Are You? quiz, linked to the national 'One You' campaign, which assesses different aspects of a person's lifestyle and helps to identify ways to improve emotional and physical wellbeing.

For those who complete the How Are You? quiz, there is a prize draw to win 1 year's subscription to Spotify. The prize draw is open until 10 March 2020.

Throughout the campaign there will be lots of exciting opportunities to take part in various activities linked to moving more, eating well and sleeping better.

Those who take part in Active Suffolk's This Girl Can, Health Walks, or RED January could be in with a chance of winning a Fitbit. People can also send in their #5adaysuffolk photos via Twitter and Instagram. Be sure to tag @SCCPublicHealth or @OneLifeSuffolk in your posts to be in with a chance of winning a cookbook. There is also a place up for grabs on a 1-hour workshop on sleeping well with Suffolk MIND. Visit www.suffolhowareyou.co.uk for further details of the competitions.

Window now open to apply for primary and secondary school places

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2020.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Thursday 31 October 2019 and for a primary school it is Wednesday 15 January 2020. Secondary schools include high and upper schools and primary schools include infant, junior and middle schools.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received nearly 16,000 applications. 92% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and nearly 98% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

Parents and carers need to be aware that some schools have their own admissions policy which sets out how places will be prioritised, so it is important to check each school's admissions policy before applying.

When applying for their preferred school parents and carers also need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Footpaths

Last month I attended a meeting in Badwell Ash where our local SCC footpaths officer came to talk to the Parish Council and residents. While there was a particular issue of concern in Badwell Ash it was a very informative and successful meeting. That section of the meeting lasted about half an hour but a number of issues were discussed. If other parishes have similar concerns then it is an option open to any parish council to invite the footpaths officer along.

Jane Storey
1st October 2019



The dwastre North November 2019 Newsletter

New and improved recycling centre to open next month

A new and improved recycling centre will open in Bury St Edmunds at the end of November.

The flagship site in Fornham Road will replace the current recycling centre at Rougham Hill, Bury St Edmunds, which will close its doors permanently.

Opening soon, this will be the first open air site in Suffolk where all containers can be accessed by the public from ground level, removing the need for steps. Visitors will be able to recycle the same wide range of materials currently available at the Rougham Hill Recycling Centre.

A charity Reuse shop, which will take materials suitable for reuse from our recycling centres, will also be opening on site towards the end of the year.

It is purpose-built to enable residents to recycle and reuse their rubbish safely and efficiently and as all the containers are now on one level, there are no steps to contend with. It is also a safer site with lorries emptying containers in a totally separate area. Suffolk's Recycling Centres are operated by FCC Environment on behalf of Suffolk County Council. All the staff from Rougham Hill will be transferred to the new site.

Once the Rougham Hill recycling site is closed, all site users should take their waste to the new Fornham Road site. No waste or recycling can be left by the gates or in the vicinity of the old site. This will be classed as fly-tipping, which is a criminal offence and is liable to prosecution.

For more information on the new Recycling Centre at Fornham Road and on fly-tipping please visit www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

New and improved Public Right of Way set for reconstruction

On 16 October it was announced that Suffolk Highways will begin work on reconstructing the bridleway at Rougham Road in Bury St Edmunds, utilising recycled materials in the construction.

The improvement works will continue for seven weeks. During this time, access through the Public Right of Way bridleway will be maintained by the Suffolk

Highways workforce. However, from 25 November, for two weeks, a full closure will be required.

The project will cost approximately £150k to construct and will provide a traffic-free route between south east Bury St Edmunds and Suffolk Park avoiding junction 44. The new bridleway will also link through to Sustrans National Cycle Route 13, providing access into the Moreton Hall estate, Suffolk business parks and the new Rougham Tower Avenue and Sybil Andrews Academy.

The route is a continuation of Rougham Road, providing a route beyond the lorry park on the old road surface running parallel to the A14.

As part of the improvement works, Suffolk Highways will be trialling solar powered lighting. Much like road studs, these units will provide a delineation of the route to assist users along the bridleway.

The lighting provides low level illumination to guide users, it is not designed to replace street lighting.

Suffolk County Council leader announces Cabinet reshuffle

On 15 October, Councillor Matthew Hicks, the Leader of Suffolk County Council, announced changes to the councillors in his Cabinet. The reshuffle creates closer links between key policy areas such as the environment and Sizewell C and brings new ideas into the Council's Cabinet.

In the reshuffle:

- Councillor Mary Evans remains as Deputy Leader and moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills.
- Councillor Gordon Jones moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.
- Councillor Andrew Reid joins the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs.
- Councillor Richard Smith leaves the Cabinet after four and half years in the role.
- Councillor Nick Gowrley takes on additional responsibility for the County Council's property portfolio and assets, in addition to his responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Housing and Enterprise.
- Councillor Richard Rout takes on responsibility for the council's policy on Sizewell C, in addition and linked to his role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection.

Suffolk County Council meeting 17th October

The meeting on 17th October included a number of questions from residents and also a motion put to the Council about Home-To-School transport. Elmswell and Woolpit are what is known as 'split villages' and I have always been very supportive of exercising common sense when planning transport provision for the children in such villages. In particular –

where there are siblings already at the upper school and where all the children in the primary school 'expect' to attend the same upper school.

As I have made my views known in the past it should not have been a great surprise to my colleagues that I voted with the opposition on this occasion. There will be a cross-party review – and I hope that it will cover all the issues highlighted by parents and councillors.

Suffolk's gritting fleet gets personal

On 14 October, SprEd Sheeran, Benjamin Gritten and Grit Rhys Jones joined the ranks of Suffolk's gritting service as Suffolk Highways announced its newly named gritting fleet.

During the summer, Suffolk Highways asked attendees at the Suffolk Show to suggest names for its 41 gritting lorries as part of its first ever Gritter Naming Competition. The service received over 500 suggestions, the names were then judged by a panel including Councillor Mary Evans and BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy.

Suffolk's gritters now have their names proudly displayed on the front and side of their cabs and are ready to grit the roads when the weather gets colder.

SprEd Sheeran will patrol around Framlingham, the town where singer Ed Sheeran is from. Grit Rhys Jones will be designated to the Shotley patch, on the peninsula where comedian and actor Griff Rhys Jones has a home. One called Benjamin Gritten will circulate around the Leiston area in honour of the Lowestoft-born composer Benjamin Britten, who lived in nearby Aldeburgh.



Image copyright Suffolk Highways Image caption The names will be displayed on the front and sides the cab of each gritter

Other names include Gritney Spears, Father Gritmas and David Plowie.

Residents will be able to follow the gritting activity on Twitter t [@Suff_Highways](#) during the season and if they spot one of the newly named gritters in action they can send a picture to us on Twitter at [@Suff_Highways](#) [#WinterReady](#)

Braking Point returns to help young adults stay safe on Suffolk's roads

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is working with 16 and 17-year-old students to encourage young people to stay safe on Suffolk's roads.

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is a partnership between Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary, Highways England, and the East of England Ambulance Service.

The Road Safety Team's Braking Point project relaunched in the week of 7 October and will be visiting 20 schools across Suffolk to deliver the Braking Point play. The play, delivered by Performance in Education, is designed to encourage the safe behaviours of both drivers and passengers.

Once the theatre tour ends, just before the autumn half-term, the Road Safety team will provide classroom-based follow-up sessions in schools, which will continue to run into 2020. These sessions are designed to change student behaviour by normalising sensible decision making on the highway. These interactive sessions have been shown to shift students' attitudes to road safety and to provide them with more knowledge which they can take forwards as they become responsible drivers on Suffolk's roads.

Find out more information about Braking Point on the [Suffolk Roadsafe website](#).

As a matter of interest, there are also courses for other drivers – and a visit to the website shows the breadth of the courses available – from business drivers through to older drivers.

Jane Storey
1st November 2019

District Councillor Report to Westhorpe Parish Council - November 2019

New Corporate Plan	The Joint Strategic Plan (2016 – 2020) has been refreshed by the Cabinet members of both Councils. The new corporate plan includes both a vision and a mission statement and is summarised with a graphic representation. This was discussed at the October Council meeting, where the Green Group proposed an amendment to include an all-encompassing theme of environmental sustainability which should underpin all activity within the Council. This was rejected by the administration.
Environment Task Group	A cross party group of councillors from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has now formed and agreed a programme of meetings to address the Climate Emergency and hopefully come up with some strategies for the Councils to adopt in due course. (I am a member of this group)
Housing	Mid Suffolk are planning to deliver two completely affordable housing developments on the middle school sites in Needham Market and Stowmarket. Both developments will include homes for affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership. Over the last 4 years Mid Suffolk have built and acquired enough homes to just about keep pace with the loss of properties to the Right to Buy Scheme.
Neighbourhood Plans	Both Thurston and Haughley Neighbourhood Plans have now been adopted by Mid Suffolk and form part of the District’s planning policy.
General Election – December 12	As you will be aware, a General Election has been called for Thursday 12 December. MSDC will be sending out the Notice of Parliamentary Election on Friday 8 November, with a request that copies be displayed on parish noticeboards. The issue of the Notice of Election signals a pre-election “purdah” period which restricts some activities. All MSDC Council and Cabinet meetings will be cancelled, as will Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Next meetings will be in January.
More free swimming for youngsters	MSDC will be running free swims over the Christmas holidays, from 20 December to 5 January inclusive, at Stowmarket and Stradbroke to help promote healthier and active lifestyles in the district.
Fly-tipper guilty of dumping waste in Stowupland	Mr Andrew Wall, who was living in Needham Market at the time of his offence, dumped 12 sacks of household waste in November 2018 in Stonebridge Lane, Stowupland. Following a guilty plea, the court fined Mr Wall £1,000, along with costs of £477.41 and a victim surcharge of £100.
Free recycling talks for residents	Suffolk's Recycling Centres offer free ‘Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - not a Waste of time!’ sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and recycling. If the Parish Council would like to arrange a session, please let me know. Further information is available on the Suffolk Recycling website

Councillor Andy Mellen

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