



Minutes of the meeting of Westhorpe Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.

In attendance:

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

Present:

C Kennedy (Clerk)

Andrew Mellen (District Councillor)

Jane Storey (County Councillor)

Public participation

There were 4 members of the public present.

The meeting opened with the Chair requesting we take a moments silence to remember Heather Wilkinson, who had served on the Council for many years, had been an integral part of village life, and would be greatly missed.

19.83 Apologies and approval of absences

There were none.

19.84 Declarations of interest

None.

19.85 To consider requests for dispensations

Not applicable.

19.86 To approve as accurate, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 January 2020

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

19.87 Progress Reports

19.87.1 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Cllr Storey confirmed that £2,000 was available from her locality money for an SID. The Clerk will email to formally request the funds.

19.87.2 Potholes

Cllr Christian reported that had had made new submissions to SCC via their online Highways Reporting Tool, as some of the previously reported holes had dropped of the website.

19.87.3 Spring Clean

Cllr Christian reported he had applied to Westhorpe Trust for £50 to cover the costs of heating and lighting, it had been approved and would be going directly to the Village Hall on 28 March 2020.

19.88 County Councillor's report

A copy of this is attached.

Cllr Barker noted that under-threat Bus Service 387 was now funded until August 2020, but he requested that Cllr Storey do what she can to ensure the service is retained after that date, as it is vitally important.

19.89 District Councillor's report

A copy of this is attached.

Questions to the District Councillor were all in relation to planning application DC/19/05318. These discussions are noted at point 19.90.2.

19.90 Planning Matters

19.90.1 New applications

There were none.

19.90.2 Decisions or other Planning Matters

DC/19/05318 – land to the south side of Church Road, Westhorpe, Suffolk.

Cllr Mellen reported that a date had still not been set for the application to be brought before the Planning Committee, but that he suspected it would be the middle of April 2020.

Cllr Mellen had obtained a copy of the pre-application document from the Planning Officer. Notable points were that the initial advice was issued on the basis of 9 dwellings, the 3 affordable dwellings were removed from the application as filed. Cllr Mellen considered this loses significant weight given the pre-application advice was given on this basis. Impact on listed buildings was noted, as was the reliance of motor vehicle access to services in Bacton.

The Council had received MSDC's notes of the same meeting following the Freedom of Information request. The notable comment was that the planner "agrees that the village is not expansive and does not have many existing services".

Cllr Mellen outlined the procedure for the planning committee. The applicant/agent would have three minutes, the Parish Council would get the same, and then a further three minutes would be afforded to both an objector and a supporter.

It was agreed that a very clear strategy would be required, and that the speakers should have the opportunity to practice. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft an email for the Chair to send to residents asking if any individuals would be prepared to speak as an objector, or if they would be prepared to attend as members of the audience. Cllr Storey warned that if many people did wish to attend, then the Council should ensure that the attitude and behaviours of members of the public would not be counterproductive.

Cllr Caley mooted the use of a planning advisor, although the cost may be prohibitive. The Clerk confirmed that she was waiting to receive further advice from SALC.

It was agreed that the Council would meet to prepare a strategy on 16 March 2020.

DC/19/05975 – to vary condition 2 (approved plans and documents) to enable alterations to ridge and eaves levels of house and garage | The Old Crown, Finningham Road, Westhorpe.
This application has been granted.

19.91 Data Protection

Following village wide email correspondence regarding the sparking powerlines, it was agreed that the circumstances for use of residents' email addresses were exceptional, and it was an unfortunate oversight that addresses were shared publicly. The ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) confirmed that it may be prudent to send a further email to residents reminding them to delete addresses.

Cllr Barker confirmed that he would contact UK Power Networks for swiftly repairing the lines.

19.92 Council Vacancy

The Clerk sought advice from SALC regarding the vacancy on the Council.

Notification of the vacancy must be reported to MSDC Electoral Services "as soon as is practicable". A notice will be issued, that will need to be put up. This gives electors a right to request a by-election. Ten requests will need to be received for a by-election to take place. In the absence of ten requests, then the Council will be informed they can co-opt to fill the vacancy.

The Clerk will notify electoral services by Friday 13 March 2020.

19.93 Clerk's Report, account balances and requests for Payment

As at 4 February 2020 the current account balance was £2,851.18 and the savings account balance £1,503.82.

The Clerk presented cheques for signature in the sum of: £40 payable to HMRC to cover the PAYE due on the Clerk's salary for the final quarter, and £20 payable to Ladywell Accountancy Services. All were in favour and Cllrs Barker and Lambert signed the cheques.

19.94 Correspondence for information

The Clerk reported that MSDC will be increasing the cost of emptying the dog waste bins by £1.23 + VAT per annum to £42.23 + VAT from 1 April 2020.

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

None

19.96 Questions to the Chairman


Cllr Lambert reported that both the "unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles" sign and its pole, that have been in the village for twenty years, have disappeared. This has been reported to Suffolk Highways.

19.97 Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 12 May 2020.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:55

Camilla Kennedy
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council.


3/11/2020