



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

In attendance:

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

Present:

C Kennedy (Outgoing Clerk)
Mrs J Dunncliffe (Incoming Clerk)
Jane Storey (County Councillor)
Andrew Mellen (District Councillor)

Public participation

There were 7 members of the public present.

20.29 Co-opting a Councillor

Cllr Barker proposed Richard Brown, seconded by Cllr Caley.
Cllr Gladders proposed Vanessa Bilonick, seconded by Cllr Lambert.

Both candidates took a few minutes to address the Council. A secret ballot was then held, the result of which was 3 votes to each candidate. The Chair had the casting vote and Richard Brown was co-opted onto the Council. He signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

0.30 Appointment of Clerk

Cllr Barker thanked the outgoing Clerk for her service and proposed Mrs Julia Dunncliffe as the new Clerk. Cllr Caley seconded, and all were in favour. Handover will be completed on 4 November 2020.

Cllr Barker took the opportunity to thank Cllr Storey for the locality money that funded the cost of a laptop and printer to enable the incoming Clerk to undertake the role.

20.31 Apologies and approval of absences

There were none.

20.32 Declarations of interest

None.

20.33 To consider requests for dispensations

Not applicable.

20.34 To approve as accurate, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 March 2020, the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 27 August 2020, the Parish Council Meeting held of 27 August, and the Parish

Council Meeting held on 8 September 2020.

All were in favour of approval of all four sets of minutes and they were all signed and dated by the Chair.

20.35 Progress Reports

There were no progress reports.

20.36 Planning Matters

20.36.1 New applications

Planning application DC/20/04335 – Hills View Church Road – Erection of a single storey rear extension.

The Clerk reported that notification of this application was received on 6 October 2020 (after the previous meeting) and that consultation ended on 27 October 2020. As a result the Council conducted discussions via email prior to the meeting. Cllr Caley led the discussions, as Cllr Barker declared an interest. Cllr Caley obtained confirmation that the direct neighbours did not object to the application. The Council agreed they had no objections to the application either, and the Clerk reported the Council's position to BMSDC on 22 October 2020.

20.36.2 Decisions or other Planning Matters

There were none.

20.37 Electric Charging Point

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee reported that she had registered a no obligation expression of interest in SCC funding for a fast (2hr charge) electric vehicle charging unit, and that the grant panel are interested in surveying a potential site. The initial suggestion was for it to be situated in the village hall car park, but the Village Hall Committee have reservations, mostly due to the limited amount of parking, but additional factors included: who would judge who had priority to use the space; who would manage the unit; any effect it may have on the insurance (although this had not been investigated at this point); the possibility of the chain not being replaced and the car park being damaged (as it was with the bottle bank lorry); and that generally it would prove an unnecessary responsibility and hassle.

The Council were generally in favour of the village having an electric car charging point, but the lack of public land in the village is a problem. By the church was suggested, but it was noted that the unit is required to be close to a power source, which is what makes the village hall the most logical site.

Cllr Barker approached Cllr Mellen, prior to the meeting, regarding the plot of land adjacent to the village hall, asking him to gauge the likelihood of BMSDC allowing the use of it for a parking spot, the power coming from the village hall. Cllr Mellen noted that it would mean severing a bit of the garden for the residence associated with the plot. He confirmed that he has raised the matter with, and is awaiting a response from, Tenancy Services, but he feels it is unlikely they will agree. Cllr Gladders raised the question of who would be responsible for resurfacing the plot, and it was felt those costs would fall to BMSDC.

20.38 Suffolk County Councillor's Report

The Clerk apologised for omitting this item (and the District Councillor's report) from the agenda.

Cllr Storey wished to say well done and thank you to the Clerk for her work, and wished her well.

A copy of the Councillor's report is attached, and she made special mention of Adopt East, a regional adoption agency in the East of England.

She reported that there are grants available for local organisations or individual that need a helping hand, either from SCC, or Suffolk Community Foundation. The latter can help with any worries regarding winter fuel allowance or similar problems.

In addition she wished to add that funding the laptop and printer for the Council was exactly what the locality money is for.

20.39 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Mellen's said that he was grateful to the Clerk for her assistance since his election, and wished her well.

A copy of the Councillor's report is attached.

Discussion was had regarding the exclusion of land to the south side of Church Road (opposite the village hall) from the settlement boundary in the Joint Local Plan (JLP). One resident asked what the grounds for removing the site from the JLP were, and Cllr Mellen confirmed it was because of the recent refused application. Cllr Mellen confirmed that the site near The Hall was still within the settlement boundary. The resident asked if the views of resident had been taken into account. Cllr Mellen said he had been told they were, but that the overarching message from the Government was that a particular number of homes are required. The resident asked if it was still possible to object, and Cllr Mellen confirmed that early next year the JLP would be submitted to Government inspectors and consultation would follow. He was uncertain of the process, but would keep the Council and residents informed.

Cllr Mellen reported that he had locality money available.

20.40 Speed Indicator Device

Cllr Storey has allocated £2,000 of her locality money for a speed indicator device (SID) for the village. There are many different devices in the region of approximately £2,500. She confirmed that police advice needed to be sought and SCC would need to site the device as it needs "a clear line of sight". She also highlighted that volunteers would be required, as the most effective devices are ones that can be moved between two sites.

She suggested Westcotec as a provider, and stated that they will come and do a presentation to the village. The outgoing Clerk confirmed she had been to one of their presentations in 2017 and would resend the Councillors the notes she had made, along with the previous quotes she had obtained.

Cllr Barker asked the Council if they supported the village having a SID, and all were in favour.

Cllr Mellen confirmed that he would allocate £850 from his locality money, and would forward the locality award form for completion and submission.

The incoming Clerk will email Westcotec. Cllr Storey also suggested that the incoming Clerk contact Mike Mottram at SCC "speed and safety".

Cllr Barker is to write an email for circulation to the village requesting volunteers for the project.

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

As at 4 October 2020 the current account balance was £3,229.12 and the savings account balance £1,504.96.

The Clerk presented a cheque for signature in the sum of £685 payable to Oliver Smith for the purchase and installation of the new laptop and printer. All were in favour and Cllrs Barker and Lambert signed the cheque.

The Clerk reported that on 8 October 2020 a cheque was raised for £40 payable to HMRC for Clerk's PAYE for quarter two of 2020/1. All had been in favour via email, and cheque was signed by Cllr Barker and Cllr Lambert.

The Information Commissioner's Office was paid £35 by direct debit on 8 October 2020.

The precept of £820 was received from BMSDC on 9 September 2020.

The insurance premium has been paid to September 2021 and confirmation of cover received.

The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement (audit) was filed on 31 August 2020 and confirmation of Westhorpe Parish Council's exempt status has been received.

Cllrs Barker and Lambert signed a letter to Barclays Bank changing the Council's address to that of the incoming Clerk.

Signed Register of Interest forms were received from Cllrs Barker, Lambert, Christian, Caley, Gladders and Cotgrove. Cllr Brown will return a scanned copy to the new Clerk with his signed GDPR consent form and signed consent to receiving electronic summons form, with originals to follow. The new Clerk will forward these to BMSDC and upload them to the village website.

20.42 Correspondence for information

The Council discussed the siting of a memorial tree for Heather Wilkinson. Cllr Barker confirmed that the village green was a green for the village and not somewhere trees could be planted. The resident asked if it could be planted in a hedgerow, or by the footpath behind the church where a tree has come down.

The Council discussed the difficulty of limited public space in the village, which would ultimately mean the tree would have to be planted on someone's land. There were also concerns regarding any precedent it might set for future memorials. The Council's reticence did not reflect on the contribution Heather made to the village for thirty years. Cllr Caley suggested something on the confines of the village hall, and the Chair of the Village Hall Committee pointed out that it would have to be small scale, like a planter, rather than a tree.

Cllr Barker asked the resident to email him directly, and he would take the proposition to the family farm, although he did point out that as a family business it was not his decision to make.

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

None

20.44 Questions to the Chair

Cllr Gladders raised the condition of the footpath to the village green opposite the entrance to the hall, and enquired whether locality money could be requested to obtain some bark to counter the mud. The Council noted that this is a bridleway, and as such any bark would not be effective for long. Cllr Storey suggested

reporting to SCC Highways via the online reporting tool, to see if SCC have any suggestions. The new Clerk will arrange for the bridleway to be reported.

20.45 Dates of 2021 meetings

Tuesday 12 January 2021

Tuesday 2 March 2021

* Tuesday 11 May 2021

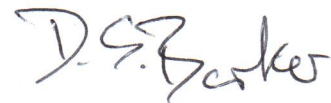
Tuesday 6 July 2021

Tuesday 7 September 2021

Tuesday 2 November 2021

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 20:57

Camilla Kennedy
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council.



12.01.2021.