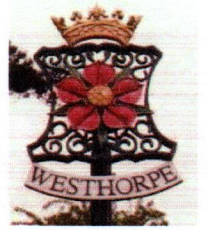


# WESTHORPE

## PARISH COUNCIL



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

Minutes of the meeting of Westhorpe Parish Council held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 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 3 members of the public present.

### 19.68 Apologies and approval of absences

There were none.

### 19.69 Declarations of interest

Cllr Barker declared an interest in respect of discussion around planning application DC/19/05975 relating to The Old Crown. It was agreed he would continue to chair the meeting at this point, but would not take part in the discussions.

### 19.70 To consider requests for dispensations

Dispensation was granted to Cllr Barker.

### 19.71 To approve as accurate, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 November 2019

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

### 19.72 To approve as accurate, the minutes of the Emergency Parish Council meeting held on 5 December 2019

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

### 19.73 Progress Reports

#### 19.73.1 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

The Clerk reported that despite repeated emails to County Cllr Jane Storey (copying in the Chair), requesting funding for SIDs from her Highways budget, she has yet to receive a response. It was agreed that she would try and call Cllr Storey.

#### 19.73.2 Potholes

Cllr Christian reported that the potholes near Wynwood and Old Cottage had been repaired. Those by the Shrubbery had not.

#### 19.74 County Councillor's report

A copy of this is attached.

#### 19.75 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. See section 19.76.2.

#### 19.76 Planning Matters

##### 19.76.1 New applications

DC/19/05975 | Application under Section 73(a) following grant of planning application DC/18/05600 dated 29/05/2019 - 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

The changes to the application concern the increased height of the proposed building to the level of the existing ridge of The Old Crown. This is due to alterations required to accommodate drainage and combat flooding.

Cllr Christian stated that whilst he would prefer the new roof to be lower than The Old Crown, it was an unfortunate alteration that couldn't be avoided and wasn't the applicant's fault. The two residents most closely affected were at the meeting and both voiced that they had no problem with the alteration.

Cllr Christian proposed approval of the application, Cllr Caley seconded and all were in favour.

It was noted that this should be a salutary lesson for future application discussions, highlighting how things can change.

##### 19.76.2 Decisions or other Planning Matters

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

Cllr Mellen confirmed that this application had been called before the Planning Committee (usually at Endeavour House), and date has not yet been set. He, as District Councillor, will be allowed to address the committee for as long as he wishes. The Parish Council will have 3 minutes to address the committee, and residents will also have 3 minutes, although he wasn't sure that each resident would get that long. He also confirmed that if any residents wishes to address, or even attend, the committee they would need to contact the Clerk.

Cllr Mellen said that the result of the planning committee would be either approve, decline or defer. The latter is usually for a matter of months, after more work has been done, and then it is put back in front of the same committee. It is possible that the application would be declined, but then approved with the adoption of the Joint Local Plan (JLP). One resident asked if the application would be approved because of the draft JLP, and Cllr Mellen stated that he couldn't say it wouldn't. Another resident asked if the application would be approved before the adoption of the JLP. Cllr Mellen confirmed it could, but that we could rebut the approval on the basis that we don't accept the allocation in the JLP, but he reiterated that reasons must be based on facts and evidence, and be objective.



Cllr Barker asked about the likelihood of a site meeting, and Cllr Mellen confirmed that this would be unlikely, as these are not easy to get.

Cllr Gladders confirmed that a clear plan would be needed for addressing the committee. Cllr Barker suggested that as there was limited time allotted to each speaker, the points to address should be divided between speakers to maximise the time. Cllr Christian suggested asking particular residents if they would be prepared to address the committee. Cllr Cotgrove suggested that the more people that requested to address the committee, the more likely they were to be given the time to address it. He has attended a planning committee meeting before, and confirmed that one case took all morning to be heard as there were so many representations.

The Clerk reported that she had received no response to the freedom of information request. The information had been due on 10 January 2020 and she would chase this.

An initial course of action was proposed at the end of the meeting (see questions to the Chairman at section 19.81).

#### 19.77 Parish Precept 2020/21

The Clerk confirmed that the precept had not been increased for three years. She provided a budget that showed that the collection of 3 dog waste bins was approximately £150 (including VAT) annually. She confirmed that these maintenance costs could not be covered by District Council Locality Money. She also reported that in 2018/19 expenditure exceeded income by £30.83 and that a similar sum would be applicable for the year 2019/20.

Cllr Cotgrove proposed a 2% increase of £32 to the precept. Cllr Wilkinson seconded the proposal and all were in favour.

Further discussions were undertaken, and as a result Cllr Gladders proposed a 2.5% increase of £40 to the precept. Cllr Caley seconded the proposal. Cllrs Barker, Wilkinson, Lambert and Christian were in favour, Cllr Cotgrove against. Accordingly, the first resolution was overturned by this amendment and Cllrs Barker, Lambert and Gladders signed the precept form requesting £1640 (one thousand six hundred and forty pounds) from MDSC. The Clerk will send this by email and hardcopy to MSDC by the 31 January 2020 deadline.

#### 19.78 Clerk's Report, account balances and requests for Payment

As at 3 January 2020 the current account balance was £2,891.18 and the savings account balance £1,503.82.

The Clerk presented a cheque for signature in the sum of: £360 payable to the Clerk for her salary to January 2020. All were in favour and Cllrs Barker and Lambert signed the cheque.

The Clerk reported that on 27 December 2019 the accountant had requested a payment for £40 payable to HRCM to cover the PAYE due on the Clerk's salary for the third quarter. The payment was due by 10 January 2020, and thus before the date of this meeting. The Clerk reported that the cheque had been raised on 4 January 2020 and signed by Cllrs Barker and Lambert on the email authorisation of the other councillors.

**19.79 Correspondence for information**

The Clerk reported that there were Town and Parish Council Liaison meetings organised by MSDC on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Stowmarket and Ipswich.

MSDC had written to the Clerk regarding the 2020 "spring clean Suffolk". It was suggested to make this more of a community event, and to hold it on a Saturday morning, with teas and coffees in the village hall afterwards. It was agreed that the Clerk would send an email to the village, and have the information put on the website. Cllr Christian said he would approach Westhorpe Trust to see if they would donate £50 to cover the costs of the hall and the heating. The chair of the village hall committee, who was in attendance, will book the hall.

Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association wrote requesting a donation. Given the talk around the precept, all were in favour of not donating.

Affinity Trust, a charity supporting people with learning disabilities approached the council to place leaflets on the noticeboard. All were in favour and the Clerk will confirm this with them.

**19.80 Clerk's report on urgent decisions since the last meeting**

None

**19.81 Questions to the Chairman**

Cllr Caley suggested the Clerk approach SALC for their advice regarding attendance at, and preparation for, the planning committee. It was agreed that she would do this. It was also suggested that outside, professional, advice be sought. Whilst this was considered to be likely to be prohibitively expensive, it was agreed that residents with skills and expertise relevant to addressing the proceedings (architects, chartered geologists, good orators) should be approached and asked if they would be prepared to assist. The Clerk will try and obtain a likely lead time on proceedings from MSDC and, once received, will draft an email for sending to the village list asking residents for their assistance.

One resident wished it noted, on behalf of the residents, that the Clerk's work is appreciated. She was grateful for the acknowledgement.

**19.82 Date of the next meeting**

Tuesday 3 March 2020.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:38

Camilla Kennedy  
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council.

*D. E. Baker*  
3/3/2020



# December 2019

## Thedwastre North Newsletter



### **Wear your White Ribbon with pride to stamp out domestic abuse**

On 25 November, the annual White Ribbon Campaign to stop domestic violence launched. The campaign runs until 10 December 2019.

By wearing a white ribbon, supporters can make it clear that domestic violence and abuse against women should never be condoned. The campaign also encourages men to take a share of the responsibility in putting an end to abuse.

Reporting domestic violence and abuse incidents to Suffolk police has increased over several years with more than 10,000 reports of domestic abuse over the past 12 months.

Two women in England and Wales are killed by a partner or ex-partner every week and 70% of domestic abuse incidents result in injury. Nationally, every minute police in the UK receive a domestic assistance call – yet only 35% of domestic violence incidents are reported to the police.

On average, a woman is assaulted 35 times before her first call to the police.

People can join the national social media campaign **#makethepromise** throughout the 16 days of action.

Victims of domestic violence and abuse can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline **0808 2000 247**

### **App for asthmatic youngsters backed by county health service**

An app that teaches asthmatic children to use their inhalers properly is being promoted across the county after being developed by a Suffolk company.



MySpira, by Orbital Media of Stowmarket, teaches youngsters techniques in a fun way and is now being promoted in hospitals, GP surgeries, pharmacies and primary schools across the county by Public Health Suffolk.

The app uses characters and interactions, to engage children with asthma with games they can play with parents, siblings or friends.

Throughout the 20-minute experience the youngster is taught about asthma keywords, triggers, different types of inhalers, how to prepare the inhaler and spacer, and how to inhale the medicine correctly.

Research has found that as many as 97% of asthmatic children misuse their inhalers, with potentially serious consequences.

The app was developed by Orbital with the University of Suffolk, supported by Dr Simon Rudland from StowHealth surgery in Stowmarket and asthma nurse Karyn McBride. The app is available from the App Store and Google Play.

## **Fines for poor parking in Suffolk to be consistent across the county from 2020**

Parking fines will be the same across the whole of Suffolk from early next year, when stronger enforcement is set to take place.

The long-delayed transfer of civil parking enforcement from police to local authorities is expected to take place from the end of January in Suffolk.

This means each council will be responsible for issuing parking fines, warnings and notices in their area, although a deal has been struck by Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils to have their parking enforced by Ipswich and West Suffolk officers.

With police unable to dedicate resources currently, it is expected that once the powers transfer councils will be able to crackdown on poor parking more than police. A consistent approach is being planned across the whole county, meaning fines will be the same, regardless of which authority manages parking in that area.

## **D-Day heroes and brave ex-serviceman inspire at Stars of Suffolk awards**

Four heroes of D-Day were among the inspirational winners at this year's Stars of Suffolk Awards held on 7 November 2019.

The ceremony, which was launched 12 years ago, honours the county's bravest, dedicated and caring individuals - from firefighters, to charity workers and life-saving teenagers. Hundreds of nominations were put forward, before the final 46 men, women, organisations - and even a heroic Labrador - were selected as finalists in the 13 categories.

Among them were James Perry, Tony Pyatt, Francis Grant and Douglas Smith - four heroes from the county who played vital roles in the D-Day landings in 1944. Marking



the 75th anniversary this year, organisers were honoured to hand them the Judges Special Award.

Ex-RAF serviceman David Norris' story of bravery, compassion and selflessness earned him the overall Star of Suffolk award. The Stowmarket man broke up an attack on a 15-year-old boy in a park. A build-up of blood was stopping the victim from breathing. After putting the boy in the recovery position, David protected him from further attack until paramedics arrived.

### **Search and Rescue Award: Jamie and Diesel Ketteridge**

Jamie and Diesel Ketteridge

Jamie and Diesel have attended many searches since joining the Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue. Diesel, a black Labrador, has been responsible for assisting the team in finding four missing people and giving a direction of travel for many others. Diesel is one of only two or three dogs of his type in this country. The training and dedication of Jamie is amazing, always willing to break new boundaries - such as following a 12hr old trail through West Suffolk Hospital to locate a missing person whilst in training.

Their nomination, from fellow team members, is a reflection of their extraordinary dedication.

Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue (SULSAR) have their base at a site just off the A14, between Elmswell and Woolpit, officially in Woolpit.



*Jamie Ketteridge and Diesel of Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue - Search and Rescue category winners Picture: JAMIE KETTERIDGE*



## Wellbeing support for Suffolk veterans

During the November Remembrance period, the Suffolk Armed Forces Community Wellbeing Group raised awareness of veterans' wellbeing.

There are an estimated 34,000 veterans living in Suffolk, some will be 100 years of age, others could be as young as 24.

As a rural county, finding and reaching veterans and their families can be a challenge. Most veterans leave the armed forces and transition to civilian life without issue. They live fulfilling lives and contribute to society. However, a sizeable minority may struggle to adjust, struggle to find purposeful employment, and have the challenge of developing new connections or friendships. This can lead to a range of wellbeing issues.

The **Veterans Gateway** ([www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)) is a national resource supported by all the major military charities. It is a web portal that helps veterans to find the right support. Additionally, Suffolk has one of the few dedicated local covenant websites which promote activities and services that support our local armed forces community. The website includes Veterans Wellbeing and Welfare Support Groups alongside the five Veterans Breakfast Clubs in Suffolk. A full list of Armed Forces community engagement and support groups in Suffolk can be found at [suffolkmilitarycovenant.org.uk](http://suffolkmilitarycovenant.org.uk)

## School travel policy implementation review outlined

On 4 November, the group looking into the implementation of the new school travel policy outlined the scope of their review.

The review, which is being headed up by Chief Fire Officer Mark Hardingham, will be delivered in two phases. In phase one the group will analyse a wide range of evidence from stakeholders about the implementation of the policy to determine the lessons to be learned.

Evidence will be gathered using various approaches including data analysis, document research, appeals evidence and outcomes, stakeholder group discussions, written statements and one-to-one interviews. The findings will then be put together in a report, which will draw conclusions and make recommendations.

In the second phase, the report will be reviewed. This may well lead to further work on changes to the implementation of the current School Travel Policy, or to elements of the Policy itself to ensure it operates more efficiently.



# January 2020

## Thedwastre North Newsletter



### **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service rated “Good” in Government inspection**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has undergone its most comprehensive, independent inspection in many years and has been rated as “Good” for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff.

The findings come from a report published on Tuesday 17 December 2019 by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), who inspected Suffolk’s service earlier this year. Inspectors reviewed every aspect of the service, from how we respond to 999 emergencies, to looking at policies and interviewing a wide range of firefighters and staff.

The report praised many aspects of the service, particularly how well it collaborates with other emergency services and agencies, how it responds to fires and other emergencies, how it ensures fairness and promotes diversity, and the financially sound way the service is run.

### **New bridleway opens up traffic free link**

I reported in November that a new Public Right of Way was being created. It was officially opened on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 and links the south east side of the town with Suffolk Business Park.

The new path will provide an off road route for walkers and cyclists avoiding the busy A14 junction 44. Work started on reconstructing the bridleway on Monday 21 October 2019 and lasted for 7 weeks. The project cost approximately £150k to construct and has been surfaced using recycled materials from roadworks. The bridleway will also link through to Sustrans National Cycle Route 13, and provide 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 running parallel to the A14.



Suffolk Highways worked closely with West Suffolk Council, which identified the route as a possible new sustainable connection in the town, and the landowner.

As part of the improvement works, Suffolk Highways will also 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.

## **Scrutiny previews the Budget figures for 2020/21**

The General Election on December 12<sup>th</sup> had delayed the publication of the papers for the Scrutiny committee meeting and the meeting was delayed and will now complete its pre-Budget scrutiny on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The first draft of Suffolk County Council's budget was published on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, and revealed a 1.99% increase on the county council's share of the council tax.

On top of that, a 2% increase will be from the social care precept element of the council tax, making an overall increase of 3.99% from the county council.

It means from the county's portion of council tax alone, a Band B property will pay £40 a year more.

Among the other key areas will be a £500,000 increase going forward for the fire service, and partway re-instating the Citizens Advice Bureaux grant of £120,000 a year for the next three years.

It also plans to increase its unallocated reserves by £10m over five years, up to £59.9m.

The budget proposals are to go before the council's scrutiny committee on January 7, and must then get the go-ahead of the cabinet on January 28 and full council on February 13.

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(19-12-2019\),%20Scrutiny%20Committee](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(19-12-2019),%20Scrutiny%20Committee)

## **Scrutiny looking at SCC relationship with Kier - Highways**

On 13<sup>th</sup> January there will be another Scrutiny meeting and this will examine the relationship between Kier and SCC Highways. The link to the agenda is here-

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(13-01-2020\),%20Scrutiny%20Committee](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(13-01-2020),%20Scrutiny%20Committee)

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and a stable 2020!



Jane Storey

03.01.2020

## **District Councillor Report: Westhorpe January 2020**

### **Planning application DC/19/05318**

Since the last meeting in December I have called this application in to be decided by a Development Control committee rather than let it be decided by a planning officer under delegated authority. This gives the community a chance to make its case in front of the committee of elected councillors (date tbc). The officer presenting the case is likely to recommend approval, this from an e-mail from the responsible planning team manager: *"This proposal is for 6 dwellings (not the 9 discussed at pre app). This is interesting as currently this village is a Countryside village and the site is outside of that boundary (be it out of date policy). But under the emerging Joint Local Plan (JLP) it is proposed to have a settlement boundary returned and the settlement expanded to include this site. To fight the principle with our JLP direction that accepts this site in principle would be a conflict. The site is within a larger settlement of far more than ten units and appears to represent a clear infill development given the built form of the village, without harm to the wider landscape. It will affect the views of existing property (not a material consideration), but otherwise I cannot see the significant argument against it."*

Arguments will be most effective when focussed on genuine "material considerations" rather than other factors which can be easily addressed.

### **Winter Flooding**

Residents are reminded that any instances of flooding caused by blocked drains/culverts etc should be reported on the SCC online reporting tool <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> – response times are fairly good. Other problems can also be reported here. Across the ward I have recently reported blocked drains, a road surface breaking up and overgrown hedges and all have provoked a swift response.

### **District Council Budget and Council Tax**

Councillors received a briefing last week on the draft budget for 2020/21. This was considered by Cabinet on 13 January and will be examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 January; it is expected to be approved at full Council meeting on 27 February. Government have agreed that Shire Districts may increase council tax by £5 or 2% whichever is the greater. There are no new proposals for Central Government grants to District Councils. Government propose to phase out or replace New Homes Bonus. Any new grant is likely to be based upon achieving higher house building targets.

Factors taken into account in preparing the draft budget include:

A recent increase in the Public Works Loans Board interest rate; There is £5.8M in Suffolk Pooled Business Rates Fund; £280k remains unallocated from the Mid Suffolk Business Rates pilot; MSDC is holding CIL of £8.5M; Mid Suffolk Growth and Efficiency Fund has £3m unallocated; The effect of the Provisional Settlement from Government is £213k better than previously assumed. £500,000 is being allocated for measures to mitigate climate change.

It is proposed that there will be a Council Tax increase of **1.66%**, this equates for a Band D property to £2.76 pa, 5p per week.

### **Stowupland High School CIL Bid**

MSDC Cabinet on 6 January approved CIL Funding for the new Sixth Form Centre at Stowupland High School. The bid is for £2.45M (total project cost £2.98) and is subject to the completion of a Community User Agreement. The concerns of Stowupland Parish Council, in respect of traffic, safety, parking etc, are included in the report to Cabinet.

### **Council Tax Payments**

MSDC Cabinet on 6 Jan discussed an initiative to introduce new fines for Council Tax fraud.

Cabinet also considered adoption of a new protocol produced by Citizens Advice and Local Government Association for the collection of council tax arrears. This seeks to assist those falling behind with their payments in a less confrontational way.

### **Locality Funding**

I have to finalise the allocation of this funding pot by the end of January, so any potential applicants should contact me as soon as possible.

Councillor Andy Mellen

[Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

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