

WESTHORPE

PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Clerk
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Minutes of the virtual Zoom meeting of Westhorpe Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllrs David Barker (Chairman); Steve Caley (Vice Chairman); Robin Lambert; Ian Cotgrove; Steve Christian; Richard Brown; Cllr Mrs Diane Gladders

In Attendance: MSDC Cllr Andrew Mellen; 10 members of public; Mrs Julia Dunncliffe (Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all attending.

1. **APOLOGIES** for Absence: None.
- 1.(a) **Don Marper** – the Chairman advised that sadly Don had died very recently. He had lived in the village for about fifty-three years and had been a real stalwart of village life, including as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council wished to pay tribute to him for all that he had done. He would be missed a great deal.
2. **DECLARATIONS** of Interest and Dispensation considerations:
 - 2.1 Cllr Barker Interest - Agenda items 7.2 – DC/21/00816 and 7.3 (ii) NALC/SALC Consultation - Planning model design code.
 - 2.2 Cllr Cotgrove Interest – Agenda DC/21/00816 – next door neighbour.
3. **MINUTES** of previous meeting held on 12 January 2021 (previously circulated and taken as read). Unanimously approved – proposed Cllr Caley; seconded Cllr Diane Gladders.
4. **MATTERS ARISING** arising from 2 March 2021 Meeting:-
 - 4.a Memorial tree planting: As the Parish Council did not own any land, Patrick Barker had kindly offered to provide space adjacent to footpath near Westhorpe Hall and concrete road leading from the village green for “one-off” planting of native trees with appropriate plaque of memorial. Any planting to be done in liaison with Patrick. Cllr Diane Gladders thanked Patrick for his offer. Unanimously agreed.
5. **SUFFOLK** County Councillor (SCC) written reports (see attached)
 - 5.1 February 2021
 - 5.2 March 2021Cllr Barker wished to thank Jane Storey for all her support in the past. The next local elections were in May.
6. **MID** Suffolk District Council (MSDC) Report – Cllr Andrew Mellen (AM) – see attached. An extract from this report included:-
 - 6.1 Finningham flooding next to the building site on Westhorpe road had lessened with the better weather, but was still not resolved. SCC Highways reported that maintenance to the gullies was not completed correctly in 2020 and further action was being taken.



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- 6.2 Census 2021 – to be completed on 21 March.
- 6.3 Covid support – MSDC to extend support for struggling households for another year through the Local Council Tax Support. Range of grants available to support businesses affected by the lockdown.
- 6.4 Budget 2021/22 – approved at full Council meeting in February. A small Council Tax had been approved.

7. PLANNING

7.1 **BMSDC Joint Local Plan (JLP) Update** – David Hemy (DH) asked Cllr Andrew Mellen (AM):-

7.1.(i) What actions had been taken in response to the representations submitted?

7.1.(ii) When would the representations made be available to view?

7.1.(iii) What considerations had been made to the objections or had they just been filed and passed on to the examiner?

7.1.(iv) Had this just been a “mere exercise” so that it could be said that a consultation had been carried out with the objections just ‘put to one side’ with no proper scrutiny?

7.1.(v) What consideration had been given to the merits/de-merits of the representations?

7.1.(vi) Did the representations affect the JLP in any shape or form?

7.1.(vii) When it came to the Examination, the key issue would be the question of whether or not the tests for a sustainable development had been met? Was it right that this was what the Examiner would look at?

AM replied that in his understanding of the NPPF – the key issue was sustainability involving economic; social and environmental issues. He would seek replies to all the questions and get back to the Chairman.

7.1.(viii) DH to AM - Did anything change as a result of the representations?

AM advised that he understood it was a “Technical” Consultation and all about the accuracy of the document. He was not sure if consideration was to be made prior to the Examination or during the Examination. Agreed the answer would be very useful for any sort of preparation for the Examination.

AM agreed he would seek the answers from Robert Hobbs, BMSDC Corporate Manager, Strategic Planning to all the questions raised by DH and report back to the Council.

7.2 **New Application** – DC/21/00816 – unanimously agreed - no objections.

7.3(i) **Other** – Finningham (as adjacent Parish) New application – DC/21/00366 – Unanimously agreed to object because site outside the JLP; serious flooding; sloping site towards road; poor access; on dangerous bend; fails sustainability requirements including drainage - to be prepared by Chairman and submitted by Clerk.

Additional Agenda item:-

7.3(ii) **NALC/SALC** – Consultation model design code – (see attached) Cllr Caley – re the

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National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) proposed changes to sustainability requirements – agreed all Councillors to consider the substantially lengthy documents and submit their comments to the Clerk for submission by 12 March.
Copies to website; David Hemy; Paul Weston and Cllr Mellen.

8. **SPEED** Indicator Device:- Chairman reported that application had been made as agreed for the SIDGen5Pro model. £2850 had been received from SCC and BMSDC locality budgets. Outstanding approximately £382 required to be paid for from Parish Council reserves. Awaiting SCC Highways permission (as they are providing initial funding) on the two locations for posts – ideally one outside Crown Cottage, Finningham Road and the other outside The Old Cottage, The Green. Once permission received, device can be purchased.
AM advised that if in the future, the PC required any more posts (for the same device to be moved elsewhere in the village) BMSDC may be able to help with finance.
9. **LITTER** PICK:- Chairman reported normally the annual litter pick took place in March and suggested that within coronavirus distancing restrictions this year individuals or those in a “social bubble” who would like to take part on their selected areas/roads within the village could collect their litter picks and gloves from the village hall and leave the rubbish there afterwards. The Chairman would then collect it all and dispose of rubbish. Agreed volunteers to liaise with Chairman over the patches they would clear. Noted that Wyverstone Road was a particular problem with the many discarded beer cans.
10. **FINANCE**
 - 10.1 Unanimously approved and confirmed the following cheque payment:-
Camilla Kennedy (100408) previous clerk outstanding net wages from 1.7.2020 to 30.9.2020 - £160.00.
 - 10.2 Clerk reported bank balances as at 2.3.2021 were:-
Current account - £5421.68; Deposit account - £1505.00.
 - 10.3 Clerk advised that
 - (i) Ladywell Accountancy Services invoice dated 23.2.2021 had been received for £20.00 for services 2020-21;
 - (ii) Clerk wages on 31.3.2021 due £274.64
 - (iii) clerk expenses for printer cartridges 25.2.2021 - £26.00 refund due.Unanimously agreed these be approved.
11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

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11.1 – BMSDC – Leisure Sport and Physical Activity Strategy survey request received 2.3.2021. Alison Weston reported that having received the same survey 1.3.2021, she had responded on behalf of Westhorpe.

11.2 Email from Tom Barker to Chairman dated 23.2.2021 re the amount of litter along the Wyverstone road due to the large number of discarded gold Carlsberg Export cans approximately every 25-50 meters in the ditch and on the verge to the South (Bacton side) of the road. He requested fellow residents to be vigilant.

Agreed Chairman to liaise with police over possible drink/drive situation.

12. **QUESTIONS** to Chairman – None. Chairman reported that The Woodland Trust had donated two packs of native trees and having advised the village, within twenty-four hours fifty-four trees plus their stakes and guards had been received by residents for planting. Chairman had written to thank the Woodland Trust for their generosity.

11. **DATE NEXT MEETING:-** Tuesday 11 May 2021 via Zoom at 7.00 pm (waiting room open from 6.45 pm). This to be the Annual Parish Meeting and immediately followed by the ordinary Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed 8.15 pm.

Julia Dunicliffe
Westhorpe Parish Clerk