

# WESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

westhorpeparishclerk@gmail.com

Tel: 07980 476 140

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs David Barker (Chairman); Steve Caley (Vice Chairman); Robin Lambert; Ian Cotgrove; Steve Christian; Richard Brown

IN ATTENDANCE: SCC and MSDC Cllr Andrew Mellen; 4 members of public; Mrs Julia Dunncliffe (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES and approval of absences – Cllr Mrs Diane Gladders.
2. DECLARATIONS of interest and Dispensation considerations – None.
3. MINUTES of Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by Chairman.
4. MATTERS Arising from Annual Parish Meeting – None.
5. MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by Chairman.
6. MATTERS Arising from Council Meeting – 4 May 2021:-
  - 6.1 DOG Fouling notices – Clerk had received 3 x MSDC self-adhesive stickers: one given to Cllr Barker for bin at Westhorpe Hall; one given to Jeff Moore for opposite Blacks; and agreed the third be given to Cllr Gladders for use as needed. Agreed Clerk to request cost of metal signs x 3 from MSDC.
  - 6.2 BUS shelter/benches – Chairman reported on the three benches and bus shelter.
  - 6.3 ANNUAL Governance Accounting Statements – reference SF0402: Receipt of documents – notification of exempt status, 2021 dated 3.7.21 had been received by Clerk.
7. SPEED Indicator Device – Chairman reported the Parish Council was waiting for Suffolk County Council (SCC) to erect the two posts so he could advise Traffic Technology to put the devices up and provide training for the system to be used.
8. PROPOSED Parliamentary boundary changes – Chairman reported the Bury St Edmunds constituency would be carved up into a figure of 8 with no sensible boundaries, but the map showed Westhorpe could end up in a constituency which started with Great Livermere in the west and follow the Norfolk boundary all the way to Bungay, where it would take in Halesworth to which Westhorpe had no historical links. In the 1960's Westhorpe was part of the Eye constituency with Eye, Debenham and Framlingham, but the real links were with Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. Suffolk would go from 7 to 8 parliamentary constituencies due to the population growth. He gathered there would be a counter proposal from Dan Poulter MP, but which he had not yet seen. Views to be submitted to The Local Government Boundary Commission for England by 2 August 2021. Unanimously agreed Chairman to email all Parish Councillors for their comments and then submit opposition to the proposals on behalf of the Parish Council.
9. SUSTAINABLE Travel – Bus Service – Chairman reported that as part of the SCC upcoming Bus Service Improvement Plan he was endeavouring to ensure Westhorpe maintained its existing minimal bus service. It was vital for people who worked in Stowmarket and who lived in this and surrounding parishes that there was an early morning bus service to Stowmarket that could also bring people back home at the end of the working day. The Chairman had advised Katherine Davies, Sustainable Travel Officer, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (BMSDC) that this was the minimum service acceptable. There had been threats to remove even this once-a-day service which was vital for those who did not drive a car.
10. PAPER Bank – Cllr Andy Mellen reported the BMSDC was trying to find another contractor to undertake the paper bank collections.
11. HGV weight restriction sign – Cllr Brown reported he had been approached by a resident regarding the blue advisory “not suitable for HGV's” sign which had historically been at the

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- Eastern end of the village. Chairman advised that this had been needed when very large cranes had travelled through the village. As the crane business had moved premises, this was no longer a problem. There were no restrictions for farm grain lorries travelling through the village.
12. FESTIVAL of Suffolk 2022 – Chairman reported HM Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston had invited villages to take part in celebrating The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Any participating villages could contact [www.festivalofsuffolk.org](http://www.festivalofsuffolk.org) for additional support.
  13. COUNTY Councillor report – see attached.
    - 13.1 As overgrown footpaths were a problem, Cllr Mellen suggesting reporting to:- <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk> or contact him direct.  
Chairman advised that many field edge paths were cut twice a year by local farmers under contract.
  14. DISTRICT Councillor report – see attached.
    - 14.1 Cllrs Christian/Lambert queried about rubbish/recycling collection days as they were not consistent and kept slipping. Cllr Mellen advised there had been a breakdown the previous week, but the service was trying to catch up.
  15. PLANNING - To consider:-
    - 15.1 Planning Decision -DC/21/02383 – EJ Barker & Sons – change of use – GRANTED.
    - 15.2 Other Planning Matters – DC/21/00366 – Application for Outline Planning Permission – Finningham – Cllr Mellen reported the application had been refused (see MSDC report for details).
    - 15.3 Joint Local Plan update – Cllr Mellen confirmed that the public hearings had been postponed until September because there had been technological problems at Copdock when the first hybrid hearings were supposed to take place at the end of June (see MSDC report for details).  
Cllr Caley reported that he and resident, Mr David Hemy were working jointly on the Westhorpe representation which was progressing slowly. The proposed representation would be circulated to all Cllrs for comment before submission.
  16. FINANCE:-
    - 16.1 (i) chq 100414 – MSDC litter & dog bin emptying - £156.56 – unanimously confirmed for payment.
    - 16.2 Proposed by Cllr Caley and seconded by Cllr Cotgrove that the following payments be approved and confirmed – Unanimously agreed:-
      - (i) chq 100415 - HM Revenue & Customs – re clerk wages – 1.4.2021 to 30.6.2021 - £22.00.
      - (ii) chq 100416 – J Dunicliffe – clerk expenses refund – £47.31 (postage £1.32 and cartridge refund £45.99).
      - (iii) chq 100417 - J Dunicliffe – clerk net wages – 1.4.2021 to 30.6.2021 - £225.44.
    - 16.3 Bank statement and cash book reconciliation (previously circulated) as at 4.6.2021 – Noted.
    - 16.4 Current cash book (as at 29.6.2021) Current - £5685.21; Savings - £1505.04 - Noted.
  17. QUESTIONS to the Chairman – None.
  18. DATE of next meeting Tuesday 7 September at 7.30 pm, Westhorpe Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Julia Dunicliffe  
Westhorpe Parish Clerk