

# WESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

On behalf of westhorpeparishclerk@gmail.com

## DR A FT - 27.01.24

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 23 January 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs David Barker (Chairman), Steve Caley Steve Christian, Ian Cotgrove, Diane Gladders, Robin Lambert, Richard Brown

IN ATTENDANCE: County and District Cllr Andy Mellen and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES and approval of absences. Mark Eggleton, Clerk to the Parish Council sent his apologies due to illness.
2. DECLARATIONS of interest and dispensation. Cllr Brown and the Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 10 as some of the flooding took place on their land.
3. MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 November 2023 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. MATTERS Arising from Council Meeting held on 28 November 2023.
  1. Update on the tree surgery contractor's progress. To date, the Chairman had not received any response from UK Power Networks.
5. SPEED Indicator Device (SID) update – Cllr Brown reported that locality monies had been received to buy the solar panel so he would place the order and then fit it when received.
6. COUNTY Councillor report – Cllr Mellen presented his report and said that the main item had been to set the year's budgets. The County Council needed to make the maximum rise allowed which amounted to 4.99%. Please find copy report attached.
7. DISTRICT Councillor report - Cllr Mellen presented his report. The council had some reserves and were therefore able to limit the council Tax rise to 2%. Please find copy report attached. Thanks was expressed to Andy Mellen for the Pride in Your Place grant which had so far been used to repaint the Village Sign, with other projects planned.
8. PLANNING UPDATE
  - 8.1 DC/23/00549 Shrubbery Farm, Walsham Road, Westhorpe, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SZ The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application. The application is currently awaiting a decision.
  - 8.2 DC/22/2190 HYB Shepherds Grove Bury Road Stanton Suffolk  
The Parish Council submitted their observations on 18 February 2023. The application is currently awaiting a decision from West Suffolk District Council.
  - 8.3 DC/23/05193 and DC/23/05077 Bacton Middle School. The developer wishes to vary their application. The Parish Council agreed to comment stating their concerns that the variation would lead to less space for sporting facilities and a new primary school.
9. PRECEPT DISCUSSION

It was agreed to accept the proposed budget and in doing so, agree the proposed increase to the Clerk's salary. Steve Caley proposed that to cover costs in the coming year the precept should be raised by 5%. This proposal was seconded by Steve Christian. All councillors were in favour.

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### 10. FLOODING WITHIN THE VILLAGE.

The chairman presented his report to the meeting (copy attached). He explained that he would be meeting with Andrew Moore of Suffolk County Council on Monday, 26 February 2024 to review the various flood issues in the village following the exceptional rainfall in September and October. It was agreed by councillors that the the Chairman's flood report should be placed on the Parish website. One of the councillors recalled that Mike Gosling, past Clerk to the Parish Council, had insisted that the ditch behind the telephone box should be kept clear. Unfortunately the ditch appeared to have become a dumping ground for branches etc. and was no longer operating as it had in the past. The Chairman commented that he would discuss the matter with Andrew Moore.

### 11. FINANCE UPDATE

11.1 The bank reconciliation as at 31 December 2023 was available to Councillors.

11.2 The following payments have been made since the 28 November 2023 meeting.

a) 26.11.23 Cheque number 100462 - £79.99 Mark Eggleton (reimbursement of MS365 subscription)

b) 26.11.23 Cheque number 100463 - £49.65 Steve Christian (reimbursement of sign painting expenses)

c) 30.11.23 Cheque Number 100464 - £16.00 Village Hall invoice 1719

d) 7.12.23 Cheque Number 100465 - £200.00 to Westhorpe Village Hall (contribution towards new website.

e) 24.12.23 Cheque Number 100466- £441.48 Mark Eggleton (clerk's salary)

11.3 The following amounts have been received since the 28 November 2023 meeting.

a) 4.12.23 £5.28 interest

### 12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND AOB. There were no questions to the Chairman.

### 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 7.30

### 14. PROPOSED DATES OF 2024 MEETINGS: 19 March, 21 May, 17 September and 21 January 2025

Diane Gladders  
Councillor Westhorpe Parish Council