

WESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

On behalf of westhorpeparishclerk@gmail.com

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28 November 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County and District Cllr Andy Mellen, eleven members of the public and Mark Eggleton (clerk),

1. APOLOGIES and approval of absences. Cllr Caley sent his apologies.
2. DECLARATIONS of interest and dispensation. Cllr Brown declared an interest in agenda item 8.1 regarding planning applications. The Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 10 as some of the flooding took place on his land.
3. MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8 August 2023 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. MATTERS Arising from Council Meeting held on 8 August 2023.

4.1 Update on the tree surgery contractor's progress. The Chairman has chased UK Power Networks again, but no response has been received to date.

4.2 Update on Locality Awards Grant Application for replacement SID batteries. Cllr Brown contacted the supplier to obtain quotes for replacement batteries and a solar powered solution. The replacement batteries are £263 including VAT and the solar solution is £804 including VAT. The supplier expressed their surprise that the batteries had become ineffective so quickly and made some suggestions on how their life could be prolonged, but this has not worked. The council unanimously agreed to proceed with the solar option. Cllr Brown will complete the Locality Awards Grant application form.

5. SPEED Indicator Device (SID) update – Cllr Brown explained that the average speed at the eastern end of the village was 21 mph, with 37% exceeding the speed limit and 85% were tracked at speeds of 34mph or less. At the other end of the village 85% were tracked at 30mph or slower.

A member of the public suggested that a 20mph speed limit was applied as they felt the road through the village was dangerous at certain times.

The council believe that this matter should be tackled by the village in the first instance and agreed that a leaflet would be drafted, and hand delivered to all residents.

The member of the public that raised the issue stated that they would be happy to help with the leaflet drop.

The clerk will draft the proposed wording of the leaflet for the Chairman to review.

6. COUNTY Councillor report – Cllr Mellen presented his report. Please find a copy attached.
7. DISTRICT Councillor report - Cllr Mellen presented his report. Please find a copy attached.

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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. PRIDE IN YOUR PLACE GRANT. The Chairman commended Cllr Mellen for introducing the scheme and thanked Cllr Christian for painting the village signs. It was agreed that Cllr Christian would be reimbursed for the cost of materials which amounted to £49.65.

More work will take place and the village seats will be the next item to be restored.

10. FLOODING WITHIN THE VILLAGE. There are three main areas of concern.

10.1 Water flowing down the village from the west towards Vanessa Bilonick's property and the neighboring properties.

10.2 Flooding at the Village Green.

10.3 Flooding opposite the Old Crown and neighboring properties.

It was agreed that the Councillors would visit the site of the flooding described in 10.1 at 10.30am on Saturday 2 December 2023 to review the situation.

Cllr Mellen also agreed to arrange for Andy Moore from the Highways division to visit to discuss the flooding, and what can be done to prevent further occurrences with Councillors and residents.

11. FINANCE UPDATE

11.1 The bank reconciliation as at 31 October 2023 was presented by the Clerk.

11.2 The following payments have been made since the 8 August 2023 meeting.

a) 1.9.23 Cheque number 100457 - £10.00 to Westhorpe Village Hall for the hire of the hall.

b) 1.9.23 Cheque number 100458 - £129.01 to MSDC for election charges.

c) 15.9.23 Cheque Number 100459 - £407.16 to Mark Eggleton (clerk's salary).

d) 19.9.23 Cheque Number 100460 - £214.00 to Zurich Municipal (insurance premium)

e) 30.9.23 Cheque Number 100461 - £54.00 to SALC for payroll services

11.3 The following amounts have been received since the 8 August 2023 meeting.

a) 4.9.23 £250 Pride in Your Place Grant

b) 11.9.23 £1800 MSDC Precept (second half)

11.4 It was unanimously agreed to refund the Clerk £79.99 for the cost of the Microsoft 365 subscription.

12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND AOB. Steven Rooney addressed the council and advised that he had taken over the management of the village website. He advised there were 10 – 15 visitors to the site each day. He plans an upgrade which will cost £600. It was proposed that the Parish Council pay 50% and the Village Hall Committee pay 50%. The website is an asset to the village and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would fund 50% of the upgrade.

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13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 7.30pm

Mark Eggleton
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council