

WESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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Tel: 07980 476 140

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11 January 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of public; Mrs Julia Dunncliffe (Clerk)

Register of attendance completed by all attendees according to current Covid-19 regulations.

Before the meeting began the Chairman advised that Brenda Taylor a village resident since 1959 had recently died. He had written a letter to Keith Aldous on behalf of the Parish Council to thank him for his unceasing care for Brenda in her later years, although he was not a family member.

1. APOLOGIES – None.
2. DECLARATIONS of interest and Dispensation considerations – None.
3. MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2 November 2021 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by Chairman.
4. MATTERS Arising:-
 - 4.1 – Item 9.1 (JLP) Steve Caley advised that subsequent to the 2.11.2021 meeting he had read that no further comments would be taken into consideration and he had not, therefore, written to Tom Barker, Assistant Director Sustainable Communities, BMSDC *“to express concerns on behalf of the Parish Council and request that any planning applications submitted in the interim that are outside of the proposed JLP and would not have been agreed under the present policy should be refused until they can be considered under the new arrangements”* as previously agreed.
 - 4.2 – Item 11 – Chairman confirmed 50 trees had been obtained from the Woodland Trust – some of which had been gifted to villagers and the rest were being planted.
 - 4.3 – Item 12 – Steve Christian reported no further complaints had been received about the barking dogs at Rookery Farm. The dogs still barked, but not as badly as previously. Chairman confirmed he had written to Mr and Mrs Freeman, owners of Rookery Farm about the matter, but no reply had been received.
5. SUFFOLK County Councillor report (Cllr Mellen) – see attached.
6. BMSD Councillor report (Cllr Mellen) – see attached.
7. PLANNING
 - 7.1 Joint Local Plan (JLP) including preparation of Neighbourhood Plans – Agreed Clerk to request update from BMSDC regarding the splitting of the JLP into two parts and its effect on Westhorpe. Was Westhorpe in Part 1 covering social environmental and economic policies or in Part 2 covering housing numbers, distribution etc? When and how would feedback be given regarding the outcome of objections made to the proposed JLP? Westhorpe was keen that its views and input were not overlooked.
 - 7.2 DC/21/00366 Planning Appeal lodged 9.12.21 – erection of up to 8 dwellings with garages; land south of Westhorpe Road, Finningham – agreed the Clerk should write to MSDC regarding Appeal APP/W3520/W/21/3279217 – “Details of the representations/submissions pertaining to the Appeal were stated to be made available on the MSDC website. Please confirm how access could be gained and when this would be available. As of 11 January 2022 the Parish Council understood no further information had been added to the Planning portal. The Council was not sure of the process here, but could not believe that any comments were deliberately withheld pending the Appeal. Again, just an accurate update was the request of the Parish Council. This Appeal had an impact on elsewhere; maybe set a precedent and in view of the District Council’s comments that no further comments would be accepted on developments outside the proposed Local plan the

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Parish Council believed this Appeal should be refused until the outcome of the Joint Local Plan (JLP) review was known.

The Parish Council would appreciate the comments of MSDC as soon as possible”.

8. SPEED Indicator Device (SID) – Richard Brown’s reported on the SID sited at the west (Walsham le Willows) end of the village from 7.11.2021 to 9.1.2022. Maximum speed had been 52 mph in and 54 mph out (same vehicle). 85% of vehicles passed at 32 mph or lower; 28% of vehicles had been exceeding the 30 mph speed limit. Very few people had exceeded 35 mph. Data revealed that people were respecting the SID and decreasing their speed. Appeared that speeding from the western approach to the village was not much of a problem. Chairman and Richard to move SID back to eastern approach to the village very soon.

Agreed Richard Brown to obtain quote for a solar power adaptor to support the existing batteries which frequently ran down. Chairman confirmed £90 was available for funding the extended report facility for the SID to provide an enhanced report.

Agreed that from evidence to date, the major problem of speeding into the village was from the eastern end.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Parish Precept 2022/2023 – considered and unanimously approved at £3525.

9.2 The following cheque payments were unanimously confirmed:-

- (i) Sue Hull ((100424) refund defibrillator pads - £86.40
- (ii) Robin Lambert (100425) refund clerk printer cartridges - £14.99
- (iii) Julia Dunncliffe (100426) clerk net wages (1.10.21 to 31.12.21) - £299.06
- (iv) HMRC PAYE clerk (100427) 1.10.21 to 31.12.21) - £53.20

9.3 The following cheque payments were unanimously approved and confirmed:-

- (i) David Barker (100428) refund Zoom subscription - £143.88
- (ii) Julia Dunncliffe (100429) – clerk refund expenses postage - £2.64

9.4 SALC clerk payroll services as from 6.4.2022 - £38.00 + VAT annually (discussed at 2.11.2021 meeting) – unanimously confirmed.

9.5 Bank statement and cash book reconciliation as at 3.12.21 (attached) – confirmed (previously circulated to all Cllrs).

9.6 Cash book as at 11.1.22 – Current - £2521.72; Savings - £1505.12 (attached) – confirmed (previously circulated to all Cllrs).

10. Questions to the Chairman – David Hemy asked if Westhorpe Parish Council could endorse its support of the Westhorpe Bell Restoration Project to promote and safeguard the heritage of this historic hamlet of Westhorpe. Agreed as an agenda item for next meeting.

11. Date of next meeting:- Tuesday 1 March 2022, Westhorpe Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Julia Dunncliffe
Westhorpe Parish Clerk