



WALSHAM le WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th September 2022 commencing at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

[Pending formal approval, these minutes have been informally approved. Any further corrections will be proposed & minuted at the next meeting]

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bartholomew, Belson, Mecrow and Winch.

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor Rick Meyer and 7 members of the public

1 **OPENING** – The meeting commenced at 19:00

2 APOLOGIES

- a) Apologies had been received by Cllr Kinnair and Cllr Roberts.
- b) Council gave consent to apologies as received.

3 DECLARATIONS of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests

- a) To receive declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) incl. personal interests in items on the agenda and to include declarations of any gifts of hospitality - None were declared.
- b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda - none were declared.
- c) To receive requests for dispensations – None required.

4 MINUTES

- a) Minutes for meeting of 10th August 2022, as previously circulated, were approved along with consent for the Chair to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record

5 PUBLIC FORUM - Seven members of the public were present.

- a) The chair asked if there were any public comments regarding the planning application for the smaller barn at Church Farm Barn DC/22/03886 creating 2 office units with WC and kitchen facilities with limited alterations to the appearance of the existing barn and including 6 vehicle parking places. There were none. Cllr Mecrow commented on the fenestration style as they were more in keeping with a residential building than a barn and had been mentioned in the heritage report on the planning application.

The chair asked if there were any comments with regard to the planning application for the larger wooden barn at Church Farm Barn DC/22/03886. This would create 10 domestic storage units 2.4 m x 3.1 m within the existing barn with no external alterations to the barn and with limited opening hours from 8 am to 6 pm on weekdays only. The public questioned the B8 classification and possible changes once permission was granted. The ability of Mid Suffolk to impose conditions to this planning permission if granted was discussed. Cllr Belson explained that any change of use would then be subject to a separate planning application. Cllr Belson said that in our response we would ask that if any change in the nature of the storage was to take place a new planning application would be required. There were no further comments.

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 12th October 2022

Planning application DC/22/03961, which refers to the old grain store at Four Ashes, for a change of use from redundant agricultural barn to B8 commercial storage was then discussed. Public comments were made regarding the type and level of vehicle movement to and from the site. Attention was drawn to the sharp bend at Four Ashes and limited visibility for vehicles joining the highway in this area of the village. Cllr Meyer drew attention to SCC Highways submission in regard to the planning application wherein they foresaw no particular problems with the highway itself.

The planning application assumes similar movements on and off the site to recent levels. The public stated that this already causes concern but will only increase if a change of use is allowed.

Comment was also made by local residents about the noise and vibration associated with the access track on the site itself as this is an unpaved road. The residents of a listed property close to the unpaved track were particularly concerned.

A member of the public queried the use of the highway by large HGV vehicles but Cllr Mecrow confirmed that this route through the village had been designated a lorry route for a number of years but noted traffic through the village is a concern for many residents of the village as noted in the recent Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

The public also drew attention to the fact that there is no pedestrian path in the immediate area of Four Ashes and in sections of Palmer Street making this a hazardous area for non-motorists.

A member of the public commented that the application was for essentially a new business rather than a development of the existing farm.

The public commented on the hours of operation and potential noise pollution caused by the projected 2 employees on site moving items using forklift trucks or similar. It was also noted that hours of operation for commercial storage would usually be longer than 8am to 6pm thus increasing the possible noise pollution.

Cllr Meyer stated that noise and light pollution assessments were required as part of the planning process. He also advised that the noise and light pollution and their impact on the domestic environment and on neighbouring listed buildings were the most significant issues relating to the planning application.

6 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION - to receive written reports for information only:

Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Cllr Fleming not in attendance. District Councillor Rick Meyer took questions on his report.

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 12th October 2022

- Cllr Winch asked how actively the support for buying and installing solar panels on domestic properties in the area through Solar Together was publicised. Cllr Meyer agreed to take this back to council.
- Cllr Bartholomew asked when the next window for funding would be open. Cllr Meyer said that he did not know if there would be funds for further rounds of support.
- Cllr Bartholomew also informed the meeting that the Memorial Hall had undertaken an energy audit and made initial enquiries through Community Action Suffolk but was still seeking potential suppliers to work with.
- Cllr Meyer informed council that the Sports Club have a quote for solar panels and that possibly the Memorial Hall and Sports Club could work together to achieve a better deal for village organisations.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) SHEPHERD'S GROVE (WEST SUFFOLK) – no developments were noted. Cllr Winch requested that the Clerk respond to the parish councils in the area who had made requests to work as a group of parishes
- b) APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION DC/22/03961 Proposal: Planning Application. Change of use of redundant grain barn to B8 storage Location: Four Ashes Farm, Badwell Road, Walsham le Willows IP31 3BT
- The Parish Council wished to object to this application as the hours and scope of operation of B8 storage are not appropriate in a residential area and would detrimentally impact local residents and the domestic environment.
- The noise and vibration on the unpaved road would negatively impact a listed building. The impact of lighting and noise pollution are yet to be carried out.
- The proposal is essentially for the creation of a new business not an extension of the existing farm
- Lack of pedestrian pavements in the vicinity of Badwell Road and Palmer Street is a safety issue which would be compounded by a B8 storage development at Four Ashes Farm
- c) APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION DC/22/03886 (and associated listed building consent Application DC/22/03887) Proposal: Full Planning Application. Change of use of agricultural barns- 1no B8 (domestic storage) and 2no for B1a (Office units) Location: Church Farm, The Causeway, Walsham le Willows IP31 3AB
- The Parish Council did not wish to make any objection to the current proposal but if consent is given the operations stipulated in this amended application should be protected by applying Conditions so that if there were to be any subsequent change of use a separate planning application would be required. The Parish Council notes that the heritage report on fenestration should be upheld.

8 PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning Authority) for noting only

- a) APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION DC/22/03015 Proposal: Planning Application- Erection of modular building to form a gymnasium Location: Walsham le Willows Sports Club, Summer Road Walsham le Willows IP31 3AH **MSDC COUNCIL GRANTED THIS APPLICATION**

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 12th October 2022

- b) APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION DC/22/03463 Proposal: Householder Application- Erection of single storey front and rear extensions (following the demolition of conservatory) Location: Meadow View, Wattisfield Road, Walsham le Willows IP31 3BD
MSDC COUNCIL GRANTED THIS APPLICATION

9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Mecrow reported that at the final stages the NP group had decided to create a section of the final report as a roadmap for community projects and future developments within the village informed by the process and the public feedback. Cllr Mecrow had been tasked with drawing together this section. A draft was shown to Councillors. Cllr Meyer proposed setting an ambitious vision with overarching aims. Cllr Mecrow agreed to adapt his draft accordingly.

Cllr Bartholomew queried whether this process would impact the timescales for review and referendum. Cllr Belson said that this was not the case.

10 PLAY AREA DEVELOPMENT

- a) Nothing to report

11 FINANCE

- a) Council approved the bank reconciliation for period ending 31st August 2022 which was signed by Cllr Bartholomew.
- b) Accounts awaiting payment summary and invoices were signed and payments approved by Cllrs Bartholomew and Winch (Appendix 1).
- c) Solar panel for speed indicator (€689) approved and bank overseas transfer form signed by Cllrs. Bartholomew and Belson for submission to Unity Trust Bank.
- d) Council approved CIL funding of 75% of invoices for Priory Room refurbishments as stated on application. This building is part of community infrastructure and advice had been sought. Also Cllr Meyer informed us that MSDC had also made a grant to the same project. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to CIL and inform them of our intentions.
- e) The Parish Council considered the insurance quote proposed by Clerk and agreed that the Clerk should proceed on this basis

12 STATUTORY BUSINESS

- a) To consider and receive the new code of conduct for approval and adoption - adopted
Cllr Mecrow proposed follow up to audit is added as an agenda item for October meeting

13 CLERK & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- a) To consider and receive the updated action log for any matters of concern/note- no action required
- b) Cllr. Cllr Belson requested that footpaths and pedestrian crossings in the village be added to the October agenda and that the council consider the options for churchyard trees at the next meeting
- c) Next Monthly Meeting – 12th October 2022, 7pm in Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 20:44

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 12th October 2022

APPENDIX 1

Payments for Authorisation September 2022

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	M&TJ's	£144.00	Cutting Play Area hedge
2	CGM Group	£132.00	CGM grass cutting of stream verges and play area
3	Little Willows Pre-School	£5,419.55	Grant award for flooring renovations
4	Jenoptik	€689.00	Payment against PO for second solar panel for Summer Road speed indicator device. Paid by Overseas Funds Transfer direct by Unity Trust Bank. (£614.03 plus £24 transfer fee)
5	Memorial Hall	£25.00	Hall hire for Parish Council Meeting
6	Parish Council Employee	£286.28	Wages incl WFH allowance
7	Kevin Boardley	£74.27	Reimbursement for play area signage invoiced by Multisigns Ltd
8	GB Pollard	£38.65	2 nd Cut Footpaths – grant disbursement
9	P Dryden	£40.00	2 nd Cut Footpaths – grant disbursement
10	M Hawes	£62.25	2 nd Cut Footpaths – grant disbursement
11	Martineau Farms LLP	£153.95	2 nd Cut Footpaths – grant disbursement
12	H Reeve	£24.22	2 nd Cut Footpaths – grant disbursement
13	H Reeve	£147.15	2 nd Cut Footpaths – grant disbursement
14	K Boardley	£293.98	Reimbursement Namesco 2 years website hosting and cPanel backup (correct renewal)
15	Kevin Boardley	£177.76	Reimbursement for play area decking & delivery invoiced by EcoDek
#	Payments IN & Other Payments	Amount	Description
1	Namesco Hosting Received 12/09/2022	£299.99	Refund of incorrect renewal of old hosting package to Clerk, and transferred to PC account.
2	MSDC Received 17/08/2022	£466.22	Grant for footpaths 2 nd cut

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