



## WALSHAM le WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 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. Arbon, Bartholomew, Belson, Kinnair, Mecrow and Winch.

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Councillor Jessica Fleming

1 OPENING – The meeting commenced at 19:00

2 APOLOGIES

- a) Apologies had been received from Cllr Roberts due to work commitments.
- 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 – Cllrs Belson and Winch re Wild Wood grant.
- b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda - none were requested.
- c) To receive requests for dispensations – None requested.

4 MINUTES

- a) Minutes for meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, as previously circulated, were approved along with consent for the Chair to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record

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

Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Cllr Meyer not in attendance.

- County Councillor Jessica Fleming invited questions on her report as previously circulated (14/12/2022) and noted the addition of two more bird flu outbreaks in Hinderclay.
- Cllrs Belson & Winch asked about the proposed changes to status of SCC as a devolved authority with regard to impact on local government and whether this is part of a strategy. Cllr Fleming confirmed that SCC have not yet taken a position on the proposals and that the previous attempt under the devolution deal including regional mayors, failed. Her feeling was that local government structures should not need to be changed for access to the required funding. Cllr Fleming also confirmed that the decision to accept or reject will be in the hands of elected county councillors. She also confirmed that she will seek to ensure that a straightforward explanation of the proposed changes is circulated.
- Cllr Belson raised the issue of pavement upgrades noting that of the two areas of concern, the path from Sports Club to the Six Bells and across the road between the sports club sites was in hand as part of the proposals being pursued by the sports club with the help of Cllr Meyer. The other area of concern being Palmer Street which forms part of the circular route around the village that is taken by walkers, joggers and cyclists. Most of that route is safe but one

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

short section on blind bends is the cause for concern. Cllr Belson explained that attempts have been made to address this longstanding issue with the adjacent landowners who can only be contacted through an agent and neither of whom seem very interested in helping out by making some of their land available. Cllr Belson proposed that filling in the shallow ditch (which never has running water in it) and flattening the banks would give enough space for a pavement which would connect areas of housing and areas of the village. Cllr Fleming suggested that she try to get this added to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The Clerk was asked to draft a note and send to Cllr Fleming with photographs.

- Cllr Fleming mentioned the hiccup with play area funding that she had offered. The Clerk confirmed that the required information had not been sent through.
- Cllr Mecrow asked about the development of the Stanton co-part site. Cllr Fleming confirmed that a scoping exercise will be undertaken to determine what will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment. Cllr Fleming was of the view that it is important for impact on surrounding villages to be considered and that the entire A143 needs to be considered as part of the 'transport corridor'.

6 PUBLIC FORUM - no members of the public were present.

## 7 PLANNING MATTERS

- SHEPHERD'S GROVE (WEST SUFFOLK) – no developments were noted other than that highlighted by Cllr Mecrow to Cllr Fleming (agenda item 5)
- APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/22/06058 Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of a single storey extension to side and rear (following demolition of flat roof side element). Replace windows and doors and alterations to fenestration and all associated works. Location: The Bungalow, West Street Farm, West Street, Walsham Le Willows Bury St Edmunds Suffolk THE PARISH COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT

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

- Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/21/3288571 - Land to the rear of Holmwood, The Street, Walsham Le Willows - The development proposed is the construction of a single two-storey 4 bedroom dwelling including parking areas and landscaping. INSPECTOR (APPOINTED BY SECRETARY OF STATE) HAS REFUSED THE APPEAL

## 9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Council asked for it to be minuted that the consultation had closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and had received 51 written responses from residents. MSDC, SCC and others have responded to the consultation, but these responses have not been published yet. The Steering Group Chair will call a meeting or meetings in January to review the responses.

## 10 PLAY AREA DEVELOPMENT

- Cllr Kinnair confirmed the contactors had attended to address the issue with the height of the basket swing.
- The Clerk was asked to insert the notice for volunteers every month through until the spring. So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

- Clerk advised that action plan on RoSPA report would be circulated before Christmas.
- Agenda item for February re arrangements for maintenance on older equipment and opening.

## 11 FINANCE & AUDIT

- a) The bank reconciliation for period ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 was approved and signed.
- b) Accounts awaiting payment (Appendix 1) were approved and signed.
- c) It was proposed to set the budget for 2023/24 as follows: Income £27,143.44, Expenditure £39,117.44, producing a deficit of £11,974.00. This deficit spend is due to CIL monies having been received in the previous year when a surplus was posted, but due to be spent in 2023/24. This was unanimously approved.
- d) It was proposed to set the precept at £24,596 which represents a 0.00% (zero) increase on council tax bills for 2023/24. This was unanimously approved and the precept claim was completed and signed.
- e) The Clerk had previously circulated proposals (04/12/2022) for adjusting earmarked amounts against budget items to bring these up to date with recent large expenditures. The changes were unanimously approved as per Appendix 2.
- f) Council considered again the report from the diocesan tree officer (circulated 23/11/2022) alongside quotes for works to closed churchyard trees. The tree officer had provided a number of options for ongoing management but no specific proposal for work that needed to be carried out immediately. It was decided not to carry out any work immediately but to keep this under review.

## 12 CLERK & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- a) The updated action log was reviewed for any matters of concern/note. Clerk noted the internal control checks for December need to be completed. It is hoped that Cllr Roberts will be able to sign off on these at the January meeting.
- b) The issue of barriers on Fishponds Lane was reviewed. Cllr Arbon has not been able to get quotes for alternatives. It was decided to wait for these costings from Cllr Arbon before any further action is taken.
- c) Council considered Cllr Fleming's response to concerns about road safety under agenda item 5. Clerk to draft proposal for approval and send with photos to Cllr Fleming for action. The Clerk was asked to continue submitting the notice for reports of 'near misses'.
- d) Council considered proposals from Cllr Nick Mecrow on the continued ownership of marquees and speed gun. Cllr Mecrow proposed that the speed gun is located, before seeking an interested group of people in the village who wish to use it, and if interest is forthcoming, to have the speed gun serviced and calibrated, otherwise to dispose of it; secondly given that the marquees have been loaned out on only one or two occasions in the last two years that these are offered to a village organisation that may derive greater use/value from them. Both proposals were approved unanimously, and the Clerk was asked to offer the marquees to the main user of the marquees, namely, the Gardens Weekend Committee. Cllr Mecrow will locate the speed gun.

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- e) Cllr Belson advised that he had observed that the closed churchyard flint wall had been patched. The Clerk had previously advised that this was completed free of charge by the contractor who completed the last major works.
- f) The Clerk noted that no response had yet been received to the request for clarification from BMSDC re Community Governance Review concerning the request by Botesdale and Rickinghall Parish Councils that three properties be moved into Rickinghall Inferior from Walsham (email circulated 01/11/2022). Council decided to make no comment until clarification is received.
- g) To consider and receive any other matters of concern/note. Any requiring a decision to be added agenda for next meeting.
  - Correspondence about tree damage to a parked car was discussed. It was felt that in the absence of the alleged cause of the damage having been witnessed and reported to the police, this was a matter for private insurers. The Clerk was asked to respond.
- h) Monthly Meetings – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7pm in Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 20:25

## APPENDIX 1

## Payments for Authorisation December 2022

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	Kevin Boardley	£326.76	Reimbursement for printer (Printerland)
2	Memorial Village Hall	£50.00	2 x November PC meetings
4	Walsham le Willows Open Gardens Trust	166.60	2 invoices – closed churchyard sundries
5	Geosphere	£54.00	Parish Online subscription
6	Wild Wood Donation	£500.00	For 2022/23 – the 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 3 payments before review.
7	Parish Council Employee	£325.76	Wages
	Turner Tool Hire	£443.52	Billy Goat Hire for leaf collecting
8	Walsham le Willows Community Council	£35.00	Observer Colour Cover for NP consultation
#	Payments IN & Other Payments/Transfers	Amount	Description
1	Mid Suffolk	£15,000	Capital grant for Play Area

## APPENDIX 2

## Revised reserves

Budget Item	Earmarked	Ringfenced	Restricted CIL
Closed Churchyard, Wall and Trees	5000.00		
CIL Grant Disbursement			23,456.25
Election Expenses	1000.00		
Maintenance of Village Assets	1500.00		
Neighbourhood Plan Other Costs	2000.00		
Play Area	6000.00		
Streetlighting Repairs and Maintenance	4000.00		

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