


WALSHAM le WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 commencing at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

[Informally approved. Formal approval, at the next meeting with any corrections]

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bartholomew, Belson, Brookes, Mecrow, Roberts, Tuck, Winch.

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor R Winch; County Councillor Jessica Fleming

1	OPENING - including Statement, if any	Action
2	APOLOGIES a) None received and no consents required.	
3	DECLARATIONS of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests a) Declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) incl. personal interests in items on the agenda including any gifts of hospitality – None received. b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – None received.	
4	MINUTES - To Receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings (as previously circulated) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the meeting of 13th December 2023 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record. 	
5	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS - to receive written reports & put questions: a) District Councillor Winch Cllr Belson proposed that the call for sites by Mid Suffolk District Council and the fact that no response was needed be minuted with congratulations on the published objective of building up the stock of council homes. Cllr Belson also asked for it to be minuted that MSDC is one of the district councils that will be increasing council tax on empty properties in Mid Suffolk. District Cllr R Winch confirmed that there are currently 680 empty properties in Mid Suffolk. Cllr J. Winch noted that the call of local land owners interested in assisting with increasing tree cover in Mid Suffolk (which is low compared to the national average) was commendable. Landowners should contact the Biodiversity Project Manager, richard.parmee@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk, 01449 724 762 07927 589 614. b) County Councillor Fleming Cllr Winch asked if applications to the locality budget could be made for pathway lighting to the closed churchyard and a speed indicator device for Wattisfield Road. Cllr Fleming advised there will be a new budget from May and applications to this year's budget needed to be made before end March. Cllr Bartholomew asked Cllr Fleming was able to confirm that the funding church premises (fabric) from her budget is not precluded, which she was able to confirm. Cllr Belson took the opportunity to remind that any road signage	

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 14th February 2024

	<p>noticed to be defective or missing should be reported as soon as possible. Cllr Mecrow mentioned the 'give way' signage at end of Summer Road on way out of village is missing. Clerk to report. Cllr Mecrow to send image.</p> <p>County Cllr Fleming advised that there was a working group at Stowlangtoft working on the upgrades that have been promised for the spring and suggested that Walsham be a part of it. Cllr Belson put himself forward and Cllr Fleming will make the request.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to report concerns with the bridge at the bottom of The Causeway and to request testing/examination in the light of the flood event which may have caused weakening. As well to request a weight restriction and signage be applied.</p> <p>Cllr Mecrow asked about the budget difficulties at SCC that have been reported and where cuts were likely to fall. Cllr Fleming responded that adult social care, social services generally and the residential care of some high needs children in the county is by far the biggest budget item. Cllr Fleming has advised that she is pushing for high needs children's services to be brought back 'in-County' by building facilities. The increase in the costs of the living wage has put further pressure on the budget. Cllr Fleming also said that she was arguing against cuts to funding for many smaller services that are not a large part of the budget, but which have positive impact for the communities they serve.</p>	<p>Clerk NM</p> <p>JF</p> <p>Clerk</p>
6	<p>PUBLIC FORUM - To receive questions and matters of concern from members of the public in attendance about items on the agenda and Walsham le Willows in general.</p> <p>No members of public were present.</p>	
7	<p>FLOOD RESPONSE</p> <p>a) Cllr Mecrow proposed the PC undertakes the actions stipulated in the Flood Group report presented by Cllr J. Winch, in preparation for potential "Priority 1" visit by qualified person. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr J.Winch noted repeat flooding of a property on Wattisfield Road with the most recent heavy rain. Clerk to contact adjacent landowners to let them know. • Clerk to send the property flood list to District Cllr Winch who will follow up on payments. <p>b) Cllr Winch proposed that a first cut of stream banks is done at end August just before gardens weekend in addition to the November cut when there would then hopefully be less vegetation to cut and clear away. There was a long discussion about the pros and cons and of the competing views of residents. It was resolved to see how the much growth arises this year, before coming to a decision. Cllr Winch proposed a working party to clear some of the lower branches of trees and brambles to allow better access for the contractors to maintain the verges. Date agreed was Saturday 24th February time to be agreed. Clerk to work with Cllr Winch to publicise for volunteers.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>JW Clerk</p>

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 14th February 2024

	<p>Clerk to contact local landowners re disposal of the arisings as previously agreed with them. Also, to contact Clarkes to thank them for the hedge maintenance and ask if they could provide some volunteers for the working party.</p> <p>c) Cllr Belson proposed that three people are nominated to go to the Public Flood Forum Debenham on 26th January 1-3pm or 5-7pm sessions. It was agreed that Cllrs Belson and Mecrow would attend the 1-3pm and Cllr Winch the 5-7pm.</p> <p>Cllr Belson also asked the Clerk to contact the landowner re the bridge on their land at the bottom of Badwell Road the flow of which is blocked with branches and debris.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>RB, NM, JW</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8	<p>PLANNING MATTERS</p> <p>a) ,b) & d) Matters relating to the development of the Shepherd's Grove site. It was noted that the Copart proposal had been withdrawn but Cllr Fleming advised keeping an eye on the West Suffolk planning portal for developments. Cllr Fleming also noted that Highways are concerned about the pollution levels at Great Barton and the negative impacts of potential further development that brings more traffic including HGVs where nitrous dioxide levels are already exceeding safe limits.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to contact Great Barton Parish Council as a Parish in the West Suffolk area which will be consulted, to make sure that this is on their radar and to convey the concerns of the Parish Council and in particular that the current proposal mentions ONLY cars and that they note this in any representation/objection and to make them aware that Walsham le Willows is not a statutory consultee for the development of this site.</p> <p>c) APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/05478 Proposal: Full Planning Application - Conversion of existing agricultural building into 4no. dwellinghouses. Location: Home Farm, West Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AP THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Access – Particularly safe pedestrian access is impossible on these two sharp and dangerous bends where the carriageway is regularly flooded even with periods of heavy rain, and black ice formation is also a regular occurrence which the wet road makes worse. The access would not be within the 30mph speed limit. The Parish Council flood report (circulated to the Communities Team following the flood on 20/10/2023, highlights the area as experiencing major flooding with the road being blocked for a considerable time. • WleW NP subsection WLW6 refers to issues such as lack of pavement safe walking/ cycling route to school village amenities. An area which does not favour connectivity especially for pedestrians, cyclists and those with disabilities and is not well integrated into the village. The amenity space for the properties is very limited and not appropriate to retaining rural feel of countryside at West Street hamlet. The large number of roof lights proposed, 	<p>Clerk</p>

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 14th February 2024

	is not in accordance with WIW Design Statement relating to limiting light pollution.	Clerk
9	<p>PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning Authority) for noting only</p> <p>a) Application DC/23/05794 NON MATERIAL AMENDMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Proposal: Application for a Non-Material Amendment relating to DC/21/00694 - Add Bifold doors to rear (North) wall, Add Skylight to Bedroom 4, Change Exterior finish to Brick instead of Weatherboarding Location: 4 Grove Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3AF APPROVED BY MSDC</p> <p>b) APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/23/05502 Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 6 No. Leylandii (G01), Fell 30 No. Leylandii (G02) and Fell 20 No. Leylandii (G03) Location: The Woodlands, Finningham Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3BQ MSDC RAISED NO OBJECTION</p>	
10	<p>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – to receive any comments from Parish Council representatives (Cllrs. Belson & Mecrow) and consider any matters arising</p> <p>a) Cllr Mecrow proposed that following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, the number of houses built since The Acorns development be determined to provide a baseline for regular review against housing requirement in local plan. Clerk to use the tabulated data in the adopted Neighbourhood plan as a baseline for additional units since and to keep this as a record that is updated as planning applications are granted.</p> <p>b) Clerk proposed that Neighbourhood Plan is removed as a regular agenda item and regular review is managed via action log. This was agreed.</p>	Clerk
11	<p>PLAY AREA – consider any matters arising.</p> <p>a) Cllr Belson reported back on his investigations of options with regard to the Swing Rope repair/replacement. Found only three suppliers of this type of equipment costs between £6,350 and £9,400. Only one supplied this as currently installed in wood. The others were steel legs with wood frames. The working group would assess again on 13th January and that the Clerk would circulate again the quote from Premier Play Solutions for repair.</p>	PAWG Clerk
12	<p>FINANCE & AUDIT</p> <p>a) The bank reconciliation for period ending 31st December 2023 was approved and signed.</p> <p>b) The accounts awaiting payment were approved for signature and payment. (Appendix 1).</p> <p>c) Cllr Mecrow proposed an assessment of the village assets on the Asset Register to assess condition and map locations as this has previously been a desktop exercise by the Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the asset register, allocating grouped assets to each councillor who will carry out physical inspections and report back.</p>	Clerk

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 14th February 2024

	d) Clerk reminded Parish Councillors again of the deadline for internal control checks which should be completed before end March for reporting in the meeting held the following month. This was noted.	
13	<p>CLERK & COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>a) To consider and receive the updated action log for any matters of concern/note. None other than the review of contracts. Councillors considered the current three contracts including that of the Clerk and resolved that these were satisfactory and needed no amendment.</p> <p>b) Council considered Parish Council Objectives 2023/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Winch noted the 20's Plenty group are due to meet again to discuss the suggestions arising from consultation and subsequent research. Cllr Winch asked if there were any other issues that Cllrs felt needed to be considered by the group. No additional suggestions were forthcoming. <p>c) Cllr Mecrow proposed period for the spring litter pick as 16th – 21st March with Cllrs Mecrow and Roberts to hand out equipment as needed on Saturday 16th at the Memorial Hall. Clerk to advertise for volunteers in February Observer and by the usual channels, including direct mail to previous volunteers. Cllr Roberts will pass road/streets/areas to Clerk so these can be advised as well.</p> <p>d) To consider and receive any other matters of concern/note for next agenda.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr Tuck noted the post on facebook re a new village shop has been taken down. The Parish Council will watch for any reappearance or any relevant planning applications that are submitted. ii. Cllrs Brookes and Bartholomew updated on progress with the CEP. They have drafted sections whilst still waiting for the new template from MSDC which is probably delayed due to workload from impacts of the flood. <p>e) Next Meeting – 14th February 2024 7pm - Memorial Hall. Meeting closed at 21:28</p>	TR, Clerk

APPENDIX 1

Payments for Authorisation January 2024

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	Memorial Village Hall	27.00	Hall hire two PC meetings in December
2	HMRC Cumbernauld	868.11	PAYE
3	Parish Council Employee	725.78	Wages
#	Payments IN & Other Payments/Transfers	Amount	Description
1	ICO	35.00	DDR should have been reported at December meeting; certificate has been downloaded
2	Bank Service Charge	18.00	Quarter ending 31 st December
3	Deposit Interest	324.41	Quarter ending 31 st December

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 14th February 2024