



WALSHAM le WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> September 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, , Tuck, Winch.

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor Richard Winch

1. OPENING - including Statement, if any	
2. APOLOGIES a. Cllr Roberts had given apologies to the Clerk. b. Apologies were accepted.	
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 – Cllr Tuck sat with other members of the public and declared an interest in agenda he wished to raise under agenda item 6 re parking in/around closed churchyard . b. To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – none received c. To receive requests for dispensation – approved for Cllr Tuck on agenda item 6	
4. MINUTES - To Receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings (as previously circulated) a. The minutes of 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 were approved as true and accurate record of the meeting with correction to minute references 4 a. and 4 b. which referred to correction and approval of minutes for 10 June, which should have read 10 <sup>th</sup> <u>July</u> . To be signed at next meeting. b. Actions from last meeting were not reviewed due to time constraints but the Clerk was able to confirm that all were complete or in hand.	
5 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS - to receive written reports & put questions: a. County Councillor Fleming – not able to be present b. District Councillor Winch i. Consider representation to be made to SCC with regard to changes to bus services. (see public open forum agenda item 6)	
6. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (POF) - To receive questions and matters of concern from members of the public in attendance with regard to items on the agenda and any other matters. Fifteen members of the public were present and POF was taken on the agenda before agenda item 5. • <b>Withdrawn Bus Services</b> Many points were made by the residents who attended focused on the temporary timetable not meeting school , college or work needs, significantly late running times and departure times are not always	

So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024

as published. There are also grave concerns about the service after December. Comments included:

- Simmonds are giving no clear statements about what can be done and by when and residents report rude and unhelpful responses when they call to report the problems and ask what is being done to resolve.
- Users are often experiencing much worse overcrowding with the new timetable so find it hard to believe that a properly implemented timetable is unviable.
- School children being left stranded and unable to get home; a governor of Thurston school reports that this is raising safeguarding issues but that the school does not have the resources to manage these.
- Residents identify the problem as the longer route with more stops which means the buses are approaching the busiest part of Bury St Edmunds at the busiest times of day.
- Elderly, and potentially vulnerable, residents also being stranded in town.
- Passengers being told buses have arrived/departed when they haven't.

Overall feeling is that the route has been agreed between Simmonds and SCC and the on the ground practicalities, if considered, have not been properly thought through and that the bottom line is that Simmond's don't really want the route because they claim it is unviable. The clear view was that either a new timetable, new route or more buses are needed to meet the needs of residents.

Ixworth, as the closest school, is the only one for which SCC are required to fund a bus service. The Mulley's bus was mooted as an alternative for Walsham albeit with additional costs but we have no clear evidence of additional availability from Walsham as there has been no formal communication with Mulley's as yet.

The data from the survey was presented by District Councillor Winch for comment. Notwithstanding that it clearly does not include everyone who is using the service, the clear conclusion that a 07:30 departure is needed from Walsham. A 16:30 departure for college and 17:30 departure for work is required from Bury St Edmunds.

District Councillor Winch reported that Adrian Ramsey our Green MP, is meeting Simmonds and has a readout of all the comments that have been appearing on social media. Cllr R Winch also said that he had established that the funding recently received by local authorities can be used to fund existing services Cllr Winch also intends to take his current list of bus users to the bus stops to check that everybody using the service is on our list of users.

Cllr Winch will ask for Adrian Ramsey to push for a conclusion to the short term issues and to find out if in the longer term Simmonds are willing to run the route, as it was, with subsidy. He will also contact Mulley's to ask if they can extend the

DCW

164 to start at Barningham before 07:42 for Thurston only. This service currently departs from Thurston at 15:25.

**Parking issues** on The Street along the bends near the new Premier shop were raised as these are causing issues for adjacent residents. It is thought a lot of the parking is by traffic from outside the village which is regularly causing obstruction of driveways and resulting in departing vehicles pulling out into oncoming traffic in either direction, and 3 point turns being carried out on a narrow road where bends cause sightline obstructions. The problems are causing public displays of impatience by the drivers involved. Although each individual vehicle is usually only present for a few minutes, the total additional traffic results in obstructions for residents throughout the day, particularly between 4 and 6pm. Adjacent private driveways of residents are also used as parking for the shop. Residents felt that the obvious dangers will increase as the nights draw in. Residents raised the idea of parking restrictions. Cllr Belson asked if this was something that had formed part of the work of the traffic group. Cllr Winch advised that the main focus of the group on changes to speed limits was formulated before the shop opened and these problems arose. Whilst acknowledging the problems, Cllr Winch made the point that restrictions in one location could just shift the issue to another but suggested we would get advice. A scheduled upcoming meeting with our County Councillor and a representative from SCC highways would be a good opportunity to ask for advice on this issue as well.

TWG

**Closed Churchyard Hedge replanting** was considered and the length to be measured and advised to Cllr Belson who will arrange for a suitable number of whips to be obtained.

RB

**Closed Churchyard parking by neighbour** The Parish Council were asked to support a position that parking by a resident on an area which may be within the boundaries of the closed churchyard is not allowed. Cllr Belson gave his opinion which was that the Parish Council does not have the necessary expertise and information to determine boundaries and access issues between the landowner and the two residents involved in addition to which the land is not owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council advised the resident to approach the Parochial Church Council which is the landowner (or representative of). Cllr Tuck left the meeting and requested that his departure was minuted.

Cllr Mecrow asked about **changes to housebuilding requirements by the new government** and what if any impact can be discerned at this stage. Cllr Winch felt that in the short term the land supply appears to be enough that any changes would not impact. Over the longer term the land supply needs to be maintained. When the Local Plan is finalised and published, it will define the sites currently allocated but these could require amendment if the rules change.

<p>Cllr Belson asked about the <b>inconsistency between planning enforcement decisions around non-designated heritage assets</b> of which we have two as an example. Cllr Winch advised that this had not yet been explained to him.</p>	
<p>7. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS (Flood, Community Emergency Plan, Traffic) &amp; ACTION LOG REVIEWS</p> <p>a. <b>Traffic Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Reply from MSDC on West Street limit locations and decide on response to questions and action were noted. Clerk to reply with info supplied by Cllr Winch for the group.</li> <li>ii. Proposal that Locality funding application is made in sum of £635 for MSDC traffic survey at appropriate time was agreed. Clerk to progress.</li> <li>iii. It was noted that the group are compiling an anecdotal record of accidents for West Street with as much supporting evidence as possible.</li> <li>iv. Response from Thurston PC giving information on how they tackled the moving of speed limit locations was noted.</li> <li>v. Cllr Winch reported that the County Cllr Fleming attended a traffic group meeting and was very supportive of the outline plans and is going to obtain historic data on traffic incidents in vicinity of the village from the police. Cllr Winch reported that there is a lot of community support for this project from residents in affected areas. Also that Cllr Fleming has agreed to pay for another Speed Indicator device for the village which Council agreed should be placed on an available post on Wattisfield Road in the first instance pending any changes to speed limit locations that may be achieved. Clerk to follow up.</li> </ul> <p>b. <b>Flood Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Clerk noted the recent comms from Richard Parmee at MSDC with an updated call for land and that some of the actions he mentions might be relevant to the S19 flood investigation outcomes/recommendations. It was decided that this should be kept in mind in case it becomes relevant at a later stage in the process. The Clerk was asked to enquire as to commencement of our S19 investigation now that autumn is upon us but is it anticipated that a report will not be available before the spring of 2025.</li> </ul> <p>c. <b>CEP Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Cllr Brookes still waiting to hear if the CEP in its current form suffices as a flood plan for the purposes of Environmental Health funding.</li> <li>ii. It was noted that the group are hoping to compile the list of 'at risk' properties along with contact details for early alerts. The Clerk will check with those identified in October if they consent to having their details retained for this purpose. It was decided that it would also be useful to compile same for those properties that came close to flooding.</li> <li>iii. It was noted that emergency rest centre equipment and resources have now been purchased and stored in Memorial Hall.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>iv. It was proposed that a monthly newsletter would be prepared for the Observer to raise awareness and levels of preparedness. This was agreed.</p>	
<p>8. PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES 2024/25 (not covered under working groups - Footpaths, Shepherd's Grove, Bus Routes, Local Plan)</p> <p>a. Footpaths – Councillor Belson had checked on the tarmac and concrete deposited on Fishponds Lane and felt that this had now flattened enough to make the path passable. No action to be taken.</p>	
<p>9. PLANNING, LICENCING &amp; RELATED MATTERS</p> <p>a. Planning webinars attended by Councillors were reported by Cllrs Mecrow, Winch to have been useful if very detailed. The information is such that it would be useful to revisit it as and when necessary. The Clerk to check on the links to the information which now seem to be broken.</p> <p>b. Council considered correspondence from local arborist with advice from planning department on removal of Cotoneaster with large trunk. The Parish Council did not wish to make any formal comment.</p> <p>c. DC/24/1073/FUL WEST SUFFOLK Proposal Planning application - a. Demolition of existing buildings, b. temporary change of use to open storage (Class B8) for a period of five years including car parking, ancillary welfare facilities, perimeter fencing and associated works Location Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate East Sumner Road Hepworth Suffolk Applicant c/o Agent, Shepherds Grove Investment LLP The Council approved the following comments by way of OBJECTION for submission to West Suffolk:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. B8 - storage and distribution a. Exact materials to be stored are not specified.</li> <li>2. A total area of 8.94 acres of open storage will generate considerable on and off-site traffic – a travel plan should be a condition of planning to limit the use of Summer Road South of the site entrance maintaining traffic on the A143 and Northern section of Summer Road.</li> <li>3. A liaison group between the developer and local Parishes should be established.</li> <li>4. The maximum height of stored materials is excessive at 15m. Minimising any visual impact of the site could be achieved by reducing this height to 10 meters, especially area 2.</li> <li>5. Biodiversity net gain should be applied to the site as an offset.</li> <li>6. Document "Application for Planning Permission" states       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Are there trees or hedges on land adjacent to the proposed development site that could influence the development or might be important as part of the local landscape character? Answer is No.</i></li> </ol> <p>There is hedging adjacent to but not exclusively Area 2 which will screen the site. All adjacent hedges and trees should remain in place.</p> </li> </ol>	<p>Clerk</p>

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<p>10 PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning Authority) for noting only</p> <p>a. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/24/02527 Proposal: Full Planning Application - Conversion of barn to form 1No dwelling (amended scheme to approved Class Q consent under DC/24/00473), including change of use of land to form residential garden. Location: Cobbold, West Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AP MSDC GRANTED PERMISSION</p>	
<p>11 FINANCE &amp; AUDIT</p> <p>a. Bank reconciliation for period ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 was approved and signed.</p> <p>b. Accounts awaiting payment summary and invoices for payment were approved for submission. (Appendix 1).</p> <p>c. Clerk's report against insurance renewal advice notes, and quote (£868.49 reduced to £841.96) with Ansvar through Community Action Suffolk. Was approved – to be paid in October.</p>	
<p>12. CLERK ACTION LOG, COUNCILLOR REPORTS &amp; CORRESPONDENCE (if not dealt with elsewhere)</p> <p>a. To consider clerk's action log and any other matters of concern/note. Due to time constraints the clerk's action log was not reviewed.</p> <p>i. Cllr Bartholomew to assess, for the Community Council, the extent of treeline to be cut back at Memorial Hall site boundary with The Beeches where it overhangs the shed base and beyond so that Clerk can obtain quotes. Add to next agenda.</p> <p>ii. Detailed specification for Closed Churchyard Maintenance was deferred until the next meeting. Add to next agenda.</p> <p>iii. Consideration was given to a proposal from Cllr Tuck for replanting of the closed churchyard hedge where there a clear gaps. This was decided under agenda item 6.</p> <p>iv. Consideration was given to correspondence from resident about parked cars on bends in The Street following Cllr Belson's informal chat with correspondent. This will be addressed similarly to the issue reported in Public Open Forum (agenda item 6)</p> <p>v. Duplicated agenda item (see 12 b i)</p> <p>vi. Clerk had reported back outcome of conversation with residents of Upper Meadow with regard to overhanging treeline at the Play Area. It was decided to ask contractor for a revised quote as follows: To quote a day rate for work on play area side of ditch where trees are overhanging ditch and neighbours boundary; to cut back and tidy any other growth arising from the boundary on the eastern side of the play area, clearing any other debris in the ditch; to cut back on the play area side (eastern boundary) and</p>	<p>IB, Clerk Clerk</p>

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<p>branches protruding at eye level including the wooded area; to chip arisings and scatter in wooded area.</p>	Clerk
<p>vii. Consideration of the wording and job description for advertisement for paid employee role for the maintenance, litter picking and transfer of recycling at the Play Area (see email circulated 08/08/2024) was deferred until next meeting. Cllr Winch and Clerk to work on this.</p>	Clerk/JW
<p>viii. It was decided that the donated notice board for bus shelter(s) was not practical for the bus shelters.</p>	
<p>ix. The issue of giving more publicity to the recent vandalism of play area equipment was considered and it was decided not to do this. A working party to be arranged should do some tidying maintenance after the treeline and hedge have been cut. Add to next agenda. To that end the Clerk was reminded that the annual cut of the Play Area Hedge on western boundary has not been done.</p>	Clerk
<p>b. To consider and receive any other matters of concern/note for next agenda.</p>	
<p>i. In light of government proposals on smoking, no smoking signage for the Play Area was discussed. Councillor Belson to find examples for next meeting.</p>	RB
<p>ii. Removal of the hedge by the landowner to the boundary of the Jubilee Wood was discussed. It is understood this was done as part of the need for drainage improvements and also in light of the project to create a footpath to and from the Wattisfield Road area of the village and the Sports Club. Clerk to enquire as to what the end result will be.</p>	Clerk
<p>c. Next Parish Council Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 7pm – Memorial Hall.</p>	

## APPENDIX 1

### Payments for Authorisation SEPTEMBER 2024

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	Ann Brookes	125.00	Reimbursement CEP expenses authorised at last meeting min ref 7dii
2	Nurture Landscapes	132.00	Grasscutting play area and stream verges
3	SALC	168.00	Planning Training Webinars x4
4	Ian Bartholomew	118.37	Reimbursement CEP expenses authorised at last meeting min ref 7dii
5	Kevin Boardley	27.59	Reimbursement of renewed domain for website
6	Just A Gardener	47.00	Chemical weedkilling – closed churchyard
7	Nurture Landscapes	42.00	Stream verges grass cutting
8	Memorial Village Hall	27.00	Hire for PC meeting

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9	Kevin Boardley	80.53	Upgrade to paid version of website plugin
10	Parish Council Employee	875.92	Salary
#	Payments IN & Other Payments/Transfers	Amount	Description

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