

# WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7pm on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in Westleton Village Hall

There were present

Cllr A Smith (*in the Chair*), Cllrs; J Alexander, R Swindell, A Paige, A. Alexander, A Clough, C Freeman, P Holmes, R Jones, P Hecker and H Williams.

In Attendance: -

Cllr R Catchpole (Suffolk Coastal District Council), Cllr M Gower (Suffolk County Council) and Phillippa Welby (Clerk)

## AGENDA

### 16/88 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence

Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. She read a notice that there would be a meeting in St Edmunds Hall, Southwold on the 9<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm as to how the Southwold Hospital building can be utilized. It will be covered by the press.

### 16/89 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015 are a true record.

### 16/90 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

### 16/91 Annual Report from Police Community Support Officer

PCSOs no longer attend or give meeting reports for Parish Councils. Cllr Smith instead reported on the recent burglaries in the village and asked people to be vigilant for a white flatbed style van with a cage on the back that is a possible link to them.

### 16/92 Annual Report from SCDC District Councillor

Cllr Catchpole read from a written report that he had submitted to the Clerk earlier. Available on request.

### 16/93 Annual Report from SCC County Councillor

Cllr Gower reported on the decision to raise Council Tax this year for the first time in five years to fund the Adult Social Care levy. The Council's children's services have been rated 'good' by Ofsted. The standard of education is improving, there is now only a 3% gap on the national average. Sizewell is still an on-going process, with the local authority's views needing to be aligned with local people's. Cllr Holmes asked about the future of Middleton primary school. Cllr Gower said there was a meeting next week regarding this. There was a possibility that the County Council could become a sponsor for small schools for academy status.

### 16/94 Annual Report from the Chair

Cllr Smith did not give one as the meeting was running over time.

### 16/95 Any other items raised by members of the public

A member of the public raised a request for more support with Westleton's Neighbourhood Watch scheme. All Councilors were keen to keep the Neighbourhood Watch group. Cllr Holmes added that

with less support from the police, residents may feel inclined to support the group. People should contact Vic Stephens on 01728 649088 or vic.stephens1@googlemail.com if they wish to find out more. If anyone is witness to or a victim of a crime they should contact the police in the first instance on 999 or 121 for less urgent matters.

Another member of the public raised the issue of Westleton's only scheduled bus service being cancelled. Cllr Smith reported that the Clerk had written to Suffolk County Council but with no success. Rerouting the 521 service was also not an option.

Westleton Vicarage Lands Group gave a presentation introducing the group and setting out their aims. They would very much like to see the Vicarage site and Glebe Land developed into a mix of sheltered housing and possible car park to benefit residents. There is a public meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the Village Hall for anyone to come and give their views and ideas. Cllr Smith thanked the group for their work, urged people to attend the meeting and added that the Council supports the group.

### **16/96 Date of next Annual Parish Meeting**

To be confirmed.