

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of **Westleton Parish Council** at the meeting held at **7.30pm**
on **Monday 23rd May 2016** in the Westleton Village Hall.

(Signed)
Phillippa Welby
Parish Clerk

There were present

Cllr A. Smith (*in the Chair*), Cllrs R. Swindell, A. Alexander, A. Paige, A. Clough, P. Hecker, J. Alexander and R. Jones.

In Attendance: -

Cllr Michael Gower (SCC), Cllr R Catchpole (SCDC) and Phillippa Welby (Clerk).

PRE AGENDA MATTERS

Contributions from members of the public

There were none.

AGENDA

16/111 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence

Cllr Holmes, Cllr Freeman and Cllr Williams.

16/112 Declaration of interests

Cllrs Swindell, J. Alexander, Jones and A. Alexander all declared interests in payments received.

16/113 Pre Meeting Report from SCC Councillor

Cllr Gower asked the Council their opinion on the proposal that roadside verges are not cut until September to allow the wildflowers to set seeds. The Cllrs put forward a number of views including; it would allow more invasive plants such as Alexanders to spread, that the roadside grips would fill, it would make the road narrower due to overhanging vegetation, road users wouldn't be able to see the potholes and open ditches as clearly if they are forced to pull on to the verge. Cllr Gower said he would relay all those comments back. He reported that there was no decision on devolution of powers from central government to a local authority. County Councillors would have their vote at the end of June. He felt there had been no strategic case for why the Council should vote yes for devolution.

16/114 Pre Meeting Report from SCDC Councillor

Cllr Catchpole also discussed devolution. There is a possibility that it will now just be Norfolk and Suffolk in the new combined authority. It now appears that having a Mayor to run the combined authority is unavoidable rather than optional. SCDC are having a meeting at the end of June to agree or not the initial plans. The District Council can opt out but run the risk of less money coming from central government if this happens. The final vote will be in October. The Sizewell C forum has been put on hold and the Sizewell C task group will have no meetings with EDF energy for the foreseeable future. Cllr Catchpole informed the Council that his locality budget was open to applications again.

16/115 Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th April 2016 be accepted as a true record.

16/116 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- **Any other matters** – There were none.

16/117 Community Field

The work on the concrete block and brickwork for the shed foundations have not yet started due to Ridgeons not being able to deliver the materials. They will be hopefully be started next week. There are two spare gate posts from the second set of gates that were fitted on the field. They cost the Council £32. Cllrs A. Alexander and Swindell would like to buy them from the Council. A price of £20 each was agreed. Now that the ground has dried out, Cllr Swindell will arrange the delivery of the safety bark in areas identified by the safety report. Cllr Swindell asked the Council to consider increasing the amount put aside in the ring fenced fund each year for replacement play equipment. It is currently £1000 a year. Cllr Paige proposed increasing it to £2000 a year. This was seconded by Cllr Hecker. All agreed.

16/118 Common

Cllr Jones began his report by circulating a photo of the re-generated area near the Bakers Lane/Mill Street car park. The Councillors all agreed that it was a significant improvement on what was there. The new posts at the layby by Holly Tree Cottage are still there. The invasive Alexanders or Horse Parsley has been dealt with in the Reckford Rd layby. Cllr Jones met with Mr. and Mrs. Adams whose contractors had been using the Bakers Lane site and exacerbating the problems in that area. Mrs Adams has agreed to research regulations for creating car parking on Common land and will pass this brief on to her contractor who has agreed to then give his advice. She has taken a copy of the plan so she is able to see what the Commons group require. The railings at the zigzag path require replacing. The advisory group have the details of suppliers that sell the plastic wood effect railings and are hoping to get prices and possibly see some examples in situ. The annual Common report compiled by Juliet Bulimore is complete and will be available next week. The next meeting of the Commons advisory group will be in September.

16/119 Council Finances and Accounts

- **To approve the annual return** – this was agreed and signed by the Chair.

Invoices and Payments The following invoices were agreed for payment.

From	Item	Amount
Paul Holmes	Posts & concrete for Common	£81.36
Came & Co.	Insurance	£803.36 *
SALC	Membership fee	£236.10
Roy Jones	Keys for padlock on container on Common	£9.50
Ridgeons	Concrete blocks and bricks for shed foundations	£84
Julian Alexander	Labour on shed footings	£315
Roy Swindell	Lock on box at boules court & grass cut CF	£51.99 (£11.99 +£40)
Westleton Village Hall	Archives management	£200
Julian Alexander	Keys for lock on container door on Common	£9
Phillippa Welby	Clerk's fees and expenses	£446.14

*It was decided to go with the three year offer from Came &Co for £763.19. This means the Council is tied into insuring with Came & Co for three years but at a reduced premium.

16/120 Planning applications

DC/16/2017/TCA – Greenways, Mill Street. To fell 14 trees of varying species. Cllr Clough reported that he had discussed the removal of the trees with the property owner and agreed to them. The Council had no objections.

DC16/2046/FUL – RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve. Retain temporary building for an additional year, retain the reed screens on the scrape indefinitely and retain hard-standing indefinitely. This application was for BBC Springwatch. The Council had no objections.

16/121 Housing Needs Update

Cllr A. Alexander reported that Hastoe had added Westleton to their list of potential bids but this did not necessarily mean the scheme would start in this financial year. Hastoe are having a scheme drawn up for the Council to comment on. Cllr A. Alexander asked Cllr Catchpole about the £155000 section 106 money that was earmarked for Westleton. Cllr Catchpole will confirm this.

16/122 Tree Warden Report

SCC have agreed to replace both the broken stiles on the footpath from the Church. They will also clear the Heath View footpath and site a new footpath sign. Cllr J Alexander asked about the tree on the Village Green. Cllr Clough reported that it had a Tree Protection Order and would need the arborist from SCDC to remove any branches. However he was satisfied that there were no dangerous branches.

16/123 Road works, Hedges and Flooding

The Clerk had written to Mr. Clench at Highways who had confirmed that a concealed entrance sign was not the responsibility of the Highways dept. The Clerk had relayed the information to Mr. Newnham. Cllr Hecker reported that one of the litter bins in the Reckford Road layby was full to overflowing. Cllr Swindell will call Waveney Norse to ask them to empty it. It was decided to leave cutting back the triangle in the Reckford Road layby until June. Cllr Swindell will contact the Community Rehabilitation Company to arrange.

16/124 SALC

Cllr Paige reported that the next meeting is on the 20th June.

16/125 Sizewell

There is a meeting of Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group this week but Cllr Smith said that until the Hinkley Point final investment decision is made it is unlikely that anything will move forward with Sizewell C.

16/126 Phone box restoration

The sign has been made and is ready to fit. Cllr J. Alexander will forward the invoice to the Clerk when he receives it.

Cllr Hecker was concerned that the instructions were not clear enough regarding the operating of the defibrillator. Cllr Smith reminded the Council that once you dial 999 the operator then gives you directions on how to use it.

16/127 Asset Register

The only outstanding asset not with a value was the directional signpost which Cllr J. Alexander gave as £350. The asset register is now complete. Cllr J. Alexander also said that he will renovate the directional signpost that points to Darsham outside the village hall.

16/128 Vehicle activated sign

Cllr Swindell reported an increase in traffic volume. This was possibly due to the outage at Sizewell B. However there appears to be no pattern to the speeding on a monthly basis. Cllr Swindell also attended the Speedwatch AGM. There is a new Speedwatch enforcer for Suffolk. Cllr Swindell is going to breakdown the data from the VAS to pin down the locations and times of persistent violators to pass to the Speedwatch group. Cllr J. Alexander reported that he thought the worst time for speeding was between 5 and 6am. Cllr Swindell said that the VAS figures are from 8am – 8pm but he would look at the data from earlier in the day. Cllr Smith finished with a thank-you to Maurice Bennell and his volunteers for the operating the speed gun and that new volunteers were always needed.

16/129 No vehicle sign, Bakers Lane

The sign is now ready for siting.

16/130 Bench Cleaning

The WI are no longer able to take on the task of cleaning and oiling the benches around the village. Cllr J. Alexander volunteered to look after 2 benches on the green and Cllr Clough volunteered to continue maintaining the one by the pond. Cllr Smith will put a notice in the Fisherman and on the noticeboard asking for volunteers.

16/131 Duck pond money.

To note - £100 has been donated in the collection box and has been donated to EACH.

16/162 Vicarage meeting

Cllr Smith reported that the recent meeting about the proposal to put sheltered housing on the Vicarage site was well attended and more information will be available once a financial plan is put in place.

16/132 Correspondence

Mr. Adams – invitation to site meeting at Bakers Lane proposed carpark (Cllr Jones)
SALC first aid at work course (round robin)

16/133 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30 pm on Monday 27th June 2016