

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

BULLETIN

JUNE 2020

In the absence of being able to formally convene a public meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the following information has been collated as a current summary/update:-

1. Fly Tipping

The main concern this month has been a serious fly tip of material which took place on the edge of The Common off Mill Road. This is the first time that Westleton has experienced this growing blight on the countryside and residents are rightly appalled at such an act taking place and the total disregard by the perpetrators.

We have put out notices asking parishioners to be vigilant and note any further suspicious activity so that, if necessary, we can alert the authorities.

2. Council Finances and Accounts

There are several outstanding invoices which require authorisation/payment and the Clerk has circulated a separate note on this seeking approval. Details of all transactions (expenditure & income) will be published in the next Parish Council agenda – hopefully this will be at the 27 July meeting when we anticipate we will be able to meet as ‘normal’.

The only other thing to highlight is that at the start of March I made an application for backdated VAT owing to the Parish Council covering the previous 12 month period. In the past, payments are normally made/processed within a 3 week period but [as of 22/6] nothing has come through. I have already written to HMRC at the beginning of June to chase this up. I suspect the cause of the delay has probably been as a result of staff shortages or being diverted/transferred in different directions but obviously, for us, this remains a priority as over £1k involved so I will need to follow up again and find out what is happening.

3. Planning applications

In the last month there have been three planning applications come through as follows:-

From	Item	Details
High Oaks, Bakers Lane, Westleton	DC/20/1921/FUL	Dormers removed, new dormers installed. Windows and doors replaced. Balcony balustrading replaced. Roof tiles replaced on house and garage. Cladding of garage walls and single storey part of house. Rendering of walls on main part of house and chimney.
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 17/6/20 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
Land adjacent to Old Forge Cottage, Darsham Road, Westleton	DC/20/1843/FUL	New 2 storey dwelling on the site of the Old Forge Cottage Annex - Minor amendments to previous approved scheme ref DC/19/1714/FUL
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 18/6/20 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
Greenways, Mill Street, Westleton	DC/20/1931/FUL	Proposed garage conversion to two storey accommodation.
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 19/6/20 Response: No objections

4. East Suffolk Council - Local Plan Consultation on Main Modifications

As reported last time, East Suffolk Council has published the conclusions and findings from the Independent Planning Inspector following the public hearings which were held in August/September 2019.

The Parish Council will be preparing a response (which Andrew Turner as Chairman of the Planning Committee is co-ordinating) in time for the 10 July deadline.

5. Vacancy on the Parish Council – Co-option Arrangements

Following the resignation of Roy Jones earlier this year, the Parish Council now has a vacancy to fill under the co-opted process. We have posted a notice/advert inviting expressions of interest and the closing date for applications is Friday, 17 July 2020. The successful person will effectively serve in office until the next Parish Council Elections due to be held in May 2023. Further details/information are available by contacting Ian Haines.

6. Common

As well as the rogue dumping (reported as 1 above), there have been a couple of other incidents to note. The first situation involved a visiting family walking in the area who had ventured too close to the bee hives (located near to the old football pitch away from the main pathways) where they came under threat from a swarm. Fortunately no one in the party suffered injury but we have now put up warning signs to deter people and alerted the owner/keeper of the bees. We will monitor the situation to ensure safety is as far as possible maintained at all times.

The second occurrence was an oak tree which came down on the perimeter. Last year the same tree also had a large branch break off. There was no damage to any neighbouring property but swift action was taken to cut up and remove from the site.

7. Highway Issues and Road Maintenance

We would continue to encourage residents to report problems direct via the SCC website reporting tool www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue/

8. Financial Risk Assessment 2020/21

An update/review has recently been completed of the Parish Council's Financial Risk Assessment in line with good practice. Whilst fully recognizing the impact of the Covid-19 on the national economy and individual households, the Parish Council have not ourselves been directly affected financially. However, the position would be somewhat different if we ran a facility or operated a particular service and relied on income with the resultant loss of bookings and footfall etc.

9. Sizewell 'C'

The application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build a new nuclear power station with two reactors was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 27 May 2020.

The first part of the process was for PINS, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to decide whether the application was suitable for Examination and if so, formally accept it. Part of this process was to ensure EDF had fulfilled its statutory duty to conduct adequate pre-application consultation.

On Wednesday 24 June 2020, an announcement was made by PINS confirming that EDF has satisfied its legal responsibility to adequately consult the public in advance of submitting the proposals and so the DCO application has formally accepted.

The Section 56 Notification Stage or the formal pre-examination stage of the process will now begin on 8 July and run to 30 September. The minimum statutory duration of this stage is 30 days but the application is detailed and there are still some restrictions due to the pandemic response. This part is **not** a public consultation but PINS are encouraging stakeholders to read the application online.

The PINS Sizewell C weblink page where the documents have been published can be found at (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/?ipcsection=docs>).

We will continue to respond as appropriate to further consultation and announcements.

Ian Haines
Parish Clerk
27/6/20