

WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE WISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th
May 2018 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Hannah Pretty, Julian Harris, Andrew Howlett, Paul Parry, Geoffrey Kiddy,
Tony Goldson

APOLOGIES: Camilla Prior, Matthew Wetmore, David Ritchie

NOT PRESENT:

ALSO, PRESENT: Bill Simpson (Parish Clerk), 1 Members of the public

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

The Chairman read out the report for the past year, copy attached. There were no questions arising.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

Hannah Pretty was elected Chairman and duly signed the acceptance of office. Mathew Wetmore was elected as Vice Chairman in his absence, having verbally advised he would stand. Clerk will arrange the signing of the acceptance of office.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Geoffrey Kiddy declared an interest in planning ref. DC/18/1490/ROC and did not take part in the discussions regarding this.

Julian Harris declared a possible interest in the Valley Farm planning applications as has done previous work there. As he has not been asked to quote for any of the works, has no pecuniary interest in these applications.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th March 2018:

Minutes of this meeting were signed as a true copy.

REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS.

None received.

PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE.

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations based on the NALC recommendations. These will be put onto the website. Also agreed to readopt the existing code of conduct, and to continue to accept Summons to attend Parish Council Meetings via email.

REPORTS:

There was no report received from the Police, although this is now available online.

The re-training of the Community Speed Watch volunteers to be arranged.

The VAS equipment will be in use during June. Tony Goldson advised that the data box for the ANPR system, on trial in Spexhall, had been stolen but would be replaced. He also advised the Police are in full support of this and that there may be a possibility to extend this into an average speed system.

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Clerk advised that a Data Protection Officer may now no longer be required. Parliament has now removed the need for Parish Councils to appoint one, currently awaiting final decision from House of Lords, but do not believe it will be refused.

Clerk has completed, as far as is possible, the General Data Protection Audit. Most of the personal data we hold is restricted to name, email, phone and address details.

Clerk has emailed all Parishioners on the mailing list asking them if they wish to “opt in”. Any that do not “opt in” by 25th May will be removed from the mailing list and their details deleted from the Parish laptop.

Julian Harris is going to take down the Village Sign whilst it is dry in order to inspect it in more detail. A first look had indicated areas of rotting wood. Quotations will be obtained for both restoration and possible replacement options before any final decision is made. Attention was drawn to the Parham Village Sign as an example; <http://parham.suffolk.cloud/news/new-village-sign-3/>

The “Our Water” survey has not progressed well with only 4 volunteers. Organiser has asked that we keep the pack until w/c 11th June and do what we can prior to this.

A replacement salt/grit bin for Lodge Lane is to be purchased in 2018/19 budget.

Clerk has not heard from the water company re the standing charges etc. for the water supply to the Village Field and has been advised this may be due to their not being able to do a meter reading yet. Julian Harris advised stopcock and tap now fitted at an approximate cost of £140.00.

Water company have done remedial works to the verges. These were delayed until they could make final connections to some properties.

Clerk has had an informal meeting with a member of the Community Council regarding the “Battles Over” event in November. Currently waiting on the Community Council to arrange a meeting of interested parties. Julian Harris has made some memorial figures and is working to finish them.

Owner of the land above the Village field and car park has agreed we can have the bonfire there.

The owners of The Plough and the tenants have agreed we can site the proposed defibrillator outside the pub. Tony Goldson has already agreed a contribution and advised that Peter Aldous has also offered a contribution. Clerk has not received email from Peter, so will contact him to confirm. We will be buying as a group with other local Parishes in order to try and get a bulk order price. Question was asked as to electricity running costs. Clerk to enquire.

Hannah Pretty has volunteered to be responsible for general upkeep of the defib.

The Plough have asked if they can use the Village car park for overflow parking during the beer festival. As this is a public car park with only “no overnight parking” restrictions, this has been agreed. They also asked about the Village tent and security staff. Clerk to put in contact.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS/DECISIONS:

DC/18/1490/ROC Wissett Lodge Removal of conditions of occupation restrictions

DC/18/1575/ROC Noahs Ark, Valley Farm Removal of condition 10, LBC conds on occupation

DC/18/1574/ROC Noahs Ark, Valley Farm Removal of condition 11, LBC conds on occupation

DC/18/1864/LBC Millcroft 2no. Conservation rooflights

DC/18/1927/FUL Valley Farm Refurb, new porch, boiler encl & assc works

DC/18/1928/LBC Valley Farm Refurb, new porch, boiler encl & assc works

DC/18/1873/FUL Halleluia Red House Lane Change of use of redundant barn complex to residential unit.

Were all approved with the comment of subject to Conservation approval on those with LBC.

FINANCE:

The audit for 2017/2018 has been completed by the Clerk and has been approved by the internal auditor. It was signed off by the Chairman and will now be sent to the external auditor.

The Village Asset Register was reviewed.

The budget for the year 2018-2019 was reviewed.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

Mr W Simpson	6 months salary	£541.74
Wissett Parochial Church Coun	Churchyard Grant	£980.00
Wissett Web	Grant	£100.00
Suffolk Assn. of Local Councils	Subscription fees	£135.35

Were all approved and cheques signed.

INCOME RECIEVED:

1st precept instalment 18/19	£1,823.00
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Account balances at 10th May – Current £3,232.83 - Deposit £27,361.85

CORRESPONDENCE/CIRCULARS:

Copy of the Waveney Local Plan – final draft plan was shown.

Clerks & Local Councils Direct publication was shown.

Glasdon leaflets for bins and village gateways. Clerk was asked to get prices for village gateways.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL;

A village “litter pick” has been suggested again. Clerk to ask WDC for guidance etc. Will email residents and ask Wissett Web to include a call for volunteers. Probably in the Autumn.

Question was asked why last Wissett Web on Parish website is from October 2017. Clerk advised that the PDF copies have not been received. Will ask the publishers if they have them. If anyone has the missing copies, they could be scanned in.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 19th July 2018 at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

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Annual Meeting of the Parish 17th May 2018 Chairman's Report 2017/2018

Finance:

I can report that the Council's finances remain good with a yearend closing balance of £1,440.36 in the current account and £27,361.85 in the saver account.

The Council's expenditure was £5,621.90 with income of £5,007.43. The deficit of £618.47 was mainly due to the increase in grant for the upkeep of the Churchyard and is in line with the budget plans.

We also successfully reclaimed 2016-2017 VAT at £351.72.

The precept for 2018/2019 increases 4.77% from £3,480.00 to £3,646.00.

Developments over the year:

We continue to use the community benefit monies to make contributions towards various projects. These include the planned purchase of a defibrillator, a grant towards new windows in the Village Hall, the increased contribution to the upkeep of the Churchyard, a proposed donation towards the "Battles Over" celebration in November 2018, and costs associated with speed reduction in the Village.

A timer was added to the low level light on the Village car park.

A safety mirror was installed at the junction of Grays Lane.

We applied for and received a grant from the Government's Transparency Fund for the purchase of a laptop. There was no cost to the Parish.

We successfully negotiated a free water supply to the Village Field as recompense to the Parishioners for the inconvenience caused by the water mains replacement works. This work was estimated at £1,200.00. There will be ongoing standing charges and usage costs.

Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs continue to be used in the village every 3 months at present. The Police approved sites for the Speed-Watch Scheme, but the volunteers were unable to be trained to use the "speed guns" due to faulty equipment, then the road closures, then the snow. This will start soon now. The trial of a potential new ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system is now taking place locally. Police speed vans continue to attend the village.

The village website continues to be a source of Parish Council information.

Grants:

The Parish Council made grants of £980.00 for churchyard maintenance, £100.00 for the Wissett Web, £424.55 to the Village Hall Committee to pay for the annual insurance, £15 to the "Wissett Dragons" children's holiday scheme and £250.00 to Halesworth Town Council to help maintain the free car parking.

Chairman's thanks:

I should like to thank all members of the Council and the Clerk for their help, support and time over the last year.

I would also like to thank County Councillor Tony Goldson and District Councillor David Ritchie for their continued support for the village over the last year.