

WESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

On behalf of westhorpeparishclerk@gmail.com

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 in the Village Hall at 8.10pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs David Barker (Chairman), Steve Christian, Ian Cotgrove, Diane Gladders, Robin Lambert, Richard Brown

IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public and Mark Eggleton (clerk),

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR of the Parish Council for the year 2023/2024. Cllr David Barker was nominated and seconded for the role of Chairman.
2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR of the Parish Council for the year 2023/2024. Cllr Steve Caley was nominated and seconded for the role of Vice Chairman.
3. CO-OPTION of Steve Christian to fill vacancy caused by electoral roll issue. Cllr Steve Christian was unanimously co-opted on to the Parish Council.
4. APOLOGIES and approval of absences. Cllr Steve Caley sent his apologies.
5. DECLARATIONS of interest and dispensation. The Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 14 as the footpath in question is on his land.
6. MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2023 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
7. MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2023 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
8. MATTERS Arising from Council Meeting held on 10 January 2023.
 - 5.1 Update on the tree surgery contractor's progress. The work has not been completed. The Chairman will send a follow up email copying in the CEO of UK Power Networks.
9. MATTERS Arising from Council Meeting held on 15 February 2023. No matters arising.
10. SPEED Indicator Device (SID) update – Cllr Brown presented the SID data report. There are a number of low speed (1,2,3mph) readings that may be skewing the data. Cllr Brown is investigating. It was also noted that batteries were only lasting 24/48 hours. Cllr Brown has identified that two replacement batteries, delivery and VAT would cost £299. Please find the data report attached.
11. COUNTY Councillor report – Cllr Mellen presented his report during the Annual Parish Council meeting.
12. DISTRICT Councillor report - Cllr Mellen presented his report during the Annual Parish Council meeting.

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13. PLANNING UPDATE

13.1 DC/22/00594 Land South of Church Road, Westhorpe, IP14 4SU.

An appeal has been made against Mid Suffolk District Council's decision to refuse planning permission for new houses on this site. The Council have reiterated their objections to the proposal and their comments were logged with the Planning Inspectorate on 11 October 2022. The appeal was refused by the planning authorities.

13.2 DC/23/00549 Shrubbery Farm, Walsham Road, Westhorpe, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SZ The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application. The application is currently awaiting a decision.

13.3 DC/22/2190 HYB Shepherds Grove Bury Road Stanton Suffolk
The Parish Council submitted their observations on 18 February 2023. The application is currently awaiting a decision from West Suffolk District Council.

14. PARISH FOOTPATH MAP DISCUSSION. The chairman advised that footpath FP9 on his land, although correct on the definitive map, Suffolk County Council had placed the footpath sign pointing the wrong side of the ditch and the County Council are asked to correct the mistake.

15. REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL meeting schedule. It was agreed that meetings would be held on the second Tuesday in February, May, August and November.

16. REVIEW OF WALSHAM LE WILLOWS Parish Council's request for a contribution to planning consultant fees in relation to planning application DC/22/2190. It was unanimously agreed not to provide a contribution.

17. VILLAGE GREEN SIGN discussion. A parishioner has suggested that a signpost for the village hall and defibrillator is placed on the village green. The council agreed that outline costs should be identified before any further discussion takes place.

18. MSDC GRANT discussion. The clerk has an action to see if there are any grants available that could be used to fund replacement batteries or solar power for the Speed Indicator Device.

19. REVIEW OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE and Accountability Return Form including Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statement and Certificate of Exemption. All documents were reviewed and unanimously approved.

20. FINANCE UPDATE

20.1 The bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 was presented by the clerk.

20.2 The following payments have been made since the 10 January Council meeting.

a) 1.2.23 Cheque number 100449 - £8 to Westhorpe Village Hall for hire of the village hall.

b) 10.3.23 Cheque number 100450 - £11.40 to SALC for payroll services.

c) 26.3.23 Cheque number 100451 - £407.16 to Mark Eggleton (clerk's salary).

d) 10.4.23 Cheque number 100452 - £133.63 for SALC subscription

20.3 The following payments were approved during the meeting.

a) £22.00 payable to Westhorpe Village Hall for hire of the hall.

b) £167.51 payable to Mid Suffolk District Council for emptying dog bins. Invoice number 2000162546.

c) £16.98 payable to Sue Hull to reimburse her for wine purchased for defibrillator trainers.

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21. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN. No questions received.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 8 August 2023 at 7.30pm

Mark Eggleton
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council