

WESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

On behalf of westhorpeparishclerk@gmail.com

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County and District Cllr Andy Mellen, eight members of the public and Mark Eggleton (clerk),

1. APOLOGIES and approval of absences. No apologies received.
2. DECLARATIONS of interest and dispensation. The Chairman declared an interest in agenda items (8) and (9) as they occurred on his land.
3. MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 previously circulated and taken as read – unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. SPEED Indicator Device (SID) update – Cllr Brown circulated the latest SID data before the meeting. He advised that whilst the solar panel has been installed and is working, once the battery goes flat, it only supplies enough power for the device to reset. This results in the display flashing bright colours or displaying speed in kph rather than mph. Cllr Brown is discussing solutions with the supplier.
5. COUNTY Councillor report – Cllr Mellen presented his report. The key points related to the devolution of powers to regional mayors and local government reorganisation. Please find a copy of the report attached
6. DISTRICT Councillor report - Cllr Mellen presented his report. A key point was that the Joint Local Plan would need to be reassessed as the government had stipulated an increase in housebuilding was required. Please find a copy of the report attached.

Cllr Caley asked Cllr Mellen if had received an acted upon a planning / change of use enquiry that had been sent on behalf of Mr Hemy. Cllr Mellen confirmed he had received the enquiry and had responded to Mr Hemy accordingly.

7. PLANNING UPDATE
7.1 DC/23/05193 and DC/23/05077 Bacton Middle School. The developer wishes to vary their application. The Parish Council's objections to the variation were submitted on 7 December 2023. The application is currently awaiting a decision.
8. FLOOD PREVENTION. Work has been carried out to reduce flooding within the village. The next step will be to clear the ditch and coppice the hedge between The Crescent and the Westhorpe Hall entrance.
9. TREE SURGERY. The Chairman advised that the work carried out by UK Power Networks contractors had helped to ensure no damage was done to overhead cables during the recent strong winds.
10. SPEEDING WITHIN THE VILLAGE. A member of the public emailed the Parish Council to highlight their concerns about speeding vehicles. That person also attended the meeting and explained their concerns were twofold. Speeding in general and village residents not always being respectful of other road users such as cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders.

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The Chairman advised that whilst safeguarding village residents was in everyone's interest it was not the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure the health and safety of village residents.

Three actions were agreed.

- a) Any member of the public could raise their concerns about a village residents driving with the Clerk or the Chairman, and the Chairman would discuss the matter with the individual concerned.
- b) The Clerk will draft a note reminding residents to moderate their speed and to be mindful of other road users as outlined in the Highway Code. This note will be distributed via the village email list, hand delivered to residents that do not have email, placed on the notice board and uploaded on to the website.
- c) Cllr Mellen advised it would be possible to arrange a seven day traffic survey in the centre of the village. It was unanimously agreed to proceed on this basis. Cllr Mellen will arrange the survey.

11. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION. The Parish Council's comments were submitted on 20 September 2024.
12. JOINT LOCAL PLAN PART 2. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation and Proposed Approach to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The Parish Council's comments were submitted on 30 September 2024.
13. NORWICH TO TILBURY PYLONS. The Clerk submitted the Parish Council's latest objections to the plans on 24 June 2024. To date only an automated acknowledgment has been received. No further updates.
14. INCIDENT AT CHURCH ROAD, WESTHORPE. An incident took place on 11 October 2024 involving Mr East who is a resident of the village. Nicola Dowling (Mr East's daughter) contacted the Parish Council Chairman regarding an injury her father sustained when walking home from the Village Hall in the dark without using a torch. Following Nicola's e-mail it was decided that members of the Parish Council would visit the accident location to confirm that there was nothing in the area which was owned by or the responsibility of the Parish Council. As expected, it was evident to those on site that there was nothing which was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Mr East had earlier conceded to the Parish Council Chairman that the accident had been entirely his fault and had said that no further action from anyone would be necessary.
15. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY. A new farm worker's cottage is being built at Potash Farm, Wyverstone. It is believed that the new building will be within the Parish boundaries of Westhorpe. The Clerk will raise this issue with Mid Suffolk District Council to identify how the Parish Council can access the CIL funds.

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16. ADOPTION OF PHONE KIOSK. BT posted a notice advising the public of their intention to remove the phone kiosk located at Church Road, Westhorpe. The Parish Council agreed to adopt the kiosk, and the Clerk has liaised with BT to instigate this process. BT were also informed that the kiosk was listed so could not be simply removed. The adoption is currently in progress and BT expect to be able to provide a further update before the end of February. It appears that two panes of glass have been removed from the kiosk. The Clerk will contact BT to discuss the possibility of replacement.
17. PRECEPT. It was agreed that the precept would be increased by 2% to £3855.60 for 2025/2026. It was also agreed that the Clerk's salary would increase to £2042.58 with effect from April 2025.
18. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS. It was agreed to hold future Parish Council Meetings on 18 March 2025, 20 May 2025, 23 September 2025 and 20 January 2026.
19. FINANCE UPDATE
 - 19.1 The Clerk presented the financial reconciliation as at 31 December 2024.
 - 19.2 The following payment has been made since the 17 September 2024 meeting.
 - a) 24.9.24 Cheque number 100478 - £486.33 Mark Eggleton (Clerk's salary for the quarter ending September 2024).
 - b) 12.10.24 Cheque number 100479 - £22.80 SALC Payroll Services
 - c) 8.11.24 Direct debit £35.00 Information Commissioners Office
 - d) 23/11.24 Cheque number 100480 - £79.99 Mark Eggleton (reimbursement of MS365 subscription).
 - e) 19.12.24 Cheque Number 100481 - £486.33 Mark Eggleton (Clerk's salary for the quarter ending December 2024).
20. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND AOB.

A member of the public asked if the proposed changes to local government would affect Parish Councils. The Chairman advised that he did not foresee any material changes.
21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Mark Eggleton
Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council