

CULFORD, WEST STOW AND WORDWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 27th July 2017

Present: Clr Joy Childs, ,Clr K Ramsey, Clr B Murdoch, Clr A Self, Clr Susan Glossop (StEdsBC), Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger (SCC), J Milward (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Public Discussion The question was raised as to whether or not Neighbourhood Watch was still active in the village and also with regard to general security in the area. Since the previous Neighbourhood Watch representative (Clr David Fisher) was not present no definitive answers could be given. It was agreed to add the subject to September's agenda when hopefully more answers would be available.

Officers' Reports

a. County Councillor – Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger

a. Following on from the accident that had occurred in The Street in Culford, and having established from the clerk that up to £3,000 could be made available from parish funds, she had contact with Highways officers responsible for handling her Locality Highways Budget and had had it confirmed that with funding now available the original scheme could be implemented within 10-12 weeks. This will include 2 gateways (one at the top and one at the bottom of the village), 40mph roundels at the Bury end of the village and 30mph roundels at the Brockley Corner end, 2 x 30mph roundels in the middle of the village and extra appropriate signs around the school entrances. Clr Murdoch, in referring to the recent accident, expressed the opinion of residents that more in the way of physical calming measures were needed. Clr Hopfensperger explained that such measures could not be introduced because Culford lies in a strategic lorry route. As an extra she has requested police to carry out more regular speed checks. She stressed that it is important to carry out a phased approach to the problem. Should the measures being introduced prove ineffective then extra restrictions could be considered.

b. With regard to West Stow she had spoken to Rev Tim Jones and all are in agreement that with regard to children having to walk up to the T junction there is no possible way of making that stretch of road pedestrian safe. In consequence they have arranged to move the bus stop to Cornwallis Close. The money already allocated for the original scheduled works will now be saved and kept for work required within the parish area. Whilst accepting that this change is very welcome, Clr Self raised the point that it does not solve the problem of HGV traffic using that road. Something is required to reduce the volume and speed of HGV traffic along a road which in any case is defined as "unsuitable for HGVs". Extra signage could be added around that junction if that is what the council would like to do with the money saved from the original allocation. Agreed that this item should be added to the next meeting's agenda for further consideration.

c. Clr Hopfensperger has arranged a meeting with the portfolio holder and she will raise with him the issues of unanswered correspondence from Councillors and of promises made and left unfulfilled

b. Borough Councillor: Clr Susan Glossop

a. Expressed her surprise at the rejection by St Edmundsbury Borough Council of the application to build a new residence between Old and New Rectory Flempton Road. The revised plan had been approved by the Parish Council.

b. Positive action by Culford School to have the area known as Three Corner Covey cleared has not taken place and the area remains in a terrible state with fly-tipping still taking place.

c. The St Edmundsbury Borough Council met to move forward the Waste Hub development but deferred their decision in order to resolve various issues raised by the public and other agencies

d. The draft Town Centre Master Plan has now been produced and there will be many presentations at various locations to allow public to air their views. A brief outline of the plan was given.

Parish Council Agenda

1. Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Clr Fisher

2. Declaration of Interest: Nil declarations.

3. Dispensations: Nil required

4. Minutes: Proposed by Clr Murdoch and seconded by Clr Self that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2017 be passed as a true record. Unanimously agreed.

5. Clerk's Report

a. Confirmed that building structures at the rear of Benyon Gardens are within limitations set as requiring no planning applications.

b. No decision yet received with regard to tree house on The Street

6. Highways

a. The council expressed their concern and frustration that despite all the promises made by various officers of Highways Department and all the correspondence sent to different councillors and departmental heads nothing has happened and that we are still nowhere nearer to getting a representative at a council meeting. Council agreed that at the moment we can but "wait and see". A clearer assessment can be made after the calming measures proposed have been installed.

b. Proposed by Clr Childs and seconded by Clr Murdoch that £3000 be made available to Highways Department towards cost of proposed calming measures. Agreed unanimously

7. Planning

Application No DC/17/1050/HH -12 Chimney Mills – single storey side and rear extension, porch to side extension, external alterations including cladding and render – No objections

Application No DC/17/1193/HH - Badgers Cottage Brockley Corner – infill extension with conversion of rear store to kitchen and first floor extension on rear elevation, single storey side extension – No objections

8. Finance

a. Cheques were signed for HMRC, Clerk's Wages, M&TJs (grass cutting), Culford PCC West Stow PCC, Culford Village Hall, D Deeks, and Clerk's Expenses

b. The subject of grass cutting and payment of bills by Village Hall Committee and Culford PCC was raised by Clrs Childs and Murdoch. . After lengthy discussion it was agreed that in future individual bills for PCC, Village Hall and Parish Council would be raised by the contractor and sent direct to each party. Clerk to write to Rev Canon Mark Howarth and Tony Bate explaining what future procedure would be.

9. To consider applications to fill vacant Culford seat Two applications had been received, one from Rachael Salt of Culford and one from Paul Luke of West Stow. Both were considered by the Council to be suitable applicants and that each would serve the council well. Taking all factors into consideration, not least of all that another vacancy, this time in West Stow, would occur before Christmas, the council decided to co-opt Rachael Salt on to the council which would leave Paul Luke as a candidate to fill the vacancy which will arise when Clr Ramsey retires.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm Date of Next Meeting 28th September 2017