

CULFORD, WEST STOW AND WORDWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 28th September 2017

Present: Clr Joy Childs, Clr D Fisher, Clr B Murdoch, Clr A Self, Clr R Salt, J Milward (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Public Discussion A long discussion centred on traffic issues which were still outstanding, with Councillors and members of the public expressing their frustration over promises which had been made (particularly by SCC Highways) and had never been fulfilled. Calming measures which were supposedly to start within 10 to 12 weeks of the last meeting were unlikely to start whilst traffic issues around West Stow had been totally ignored. Councillors were totally sympathetic to points made by the public but in the absence of the SCC representative no positive answers could be given.

Officers' Reports

Borough Councillor: Clr Susan Glossop not in attendance but following written report submitted:

- St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath councils voted in favour of a new single council for West Suffolk this week. The business plan will now be submitted to the Secretary of State on the 28 September 2017. The Secretary of State has given his firm intention to ensure that should the Councils wish to proceed in becoming a single Council then the necessary support and assistance should be provided to enable this to happen. A survey was commissioned from COMRES an independent polling company. 70% of residents supported a single council and only 1 in 5 are opposed to it. If this goes ahead there would be a saving of £800k. There would be less Councillors and the authority would commence from May 2019 after the Borough elections. Anyone wishing to view the business case can go onto the St Edmundsbury council website where there is the agenda and documents for the Council meeting which was held on the 26th September.
- The planning application for the HUB at Hollow Road Farm was approved on the 21st September by the Development Control committee. The Secretary of State has been advised and the application could be called in for review.
- The town centre master plan consultation has been completed and the revised version will be considered by the town centre working group and a final version will then be presented to be formally adopted by the full St Edmundsbury council by the end of the year .
- The Eastern Relief Road will be opening for traffic on Monday 25th September from Skyliner Way roundabout up to Sow Lane Sow Lane will be opening at the same time.
- The closure of RAF Mildenhall has been delayed due to the project design and construction for the move of assets from RAF Mildenhall to Germany and are dependent on the completion of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Centre at RAF Croughton. This will not happen before 2024.

County Councillor – Clr Rebecca Hopfensperger not in attendance and no report received

Parish Council Agenda

1. Apologies Clr Ramsey and Clr McQueen

2. Declaration of Interest: Nil declarations.

3. Dispensations: Nil required

4. Minutes: Unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2017 be accepted as a true record.

5. Clerk's Report Nothing new to report other than 2 items to be covered under item 8 on the agenda. There is however a need for the clerk to write to Clr Hopfensperger to determine the position with regard to calming measures which should be starting by 19th October 2017.

6. Planning.

a. Application No DC/17/1742/FUL – 20 metre high telecommunications tower and associated works, Brandon Road, Wordwell - Approved

b. Application No DC/17/1943/CLE – Lawful development certificate for existing use or development. Approved

7. Finance

a. The external auditor's report was presented to the council. The comments raised by the auditor with regard to precept and grants were noted for future reference. Unanimously agreed that the accounts for 2016/17 now be closed.

b. Cheques were approved and signed for HMRC, Clerk's wages and expenses, M&TJs (grass cutting) and K Burns (I Cloud web site).

8. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

a. Clr Fisher raised the subject of a White House stables sign which had been left on the side of the road near the riding school and also with regard to the overhanging hedge in the same area. Clerk to check.

b. Clr Salt raised the subject of blocked drainage by Home Farm/ Cottage/Park Cottage. Clerk to take up with Highways.

c. Clr Salt also raised the subject of overhanging hedge outside The Hollies. Had previously been reported to Highways who declared no action required. Clerk to take up with Highways again.

d. Clr Self reported similar problem of overhanging hedge at West Stow Lodge in West Stow. Clerk to take up with resident.

d. Clr Childs raised again the subject of trees along The Street in Culford. Despite constant raising the subject with SCC representatives no action has been taken. Clerk to write to Highways.

e. Clr Childs raised the subject of Neighbourhood watch. Clr Fisher confirmed that it still operated and Clr Salter also offered her services.

f. Clr Self raised the subject of labeling waste bins with speed sign notices. Subject had been discussed before at a council meeting and clerk to check back to determine from where they can be obtained..

g. Clerk raised the subject of wreath laying. Chairman outlined the proposals currently being discussed. Wreath to be purchased by the council.

h. Clerk had received a request that the council consider the possible move of the village notice board. It was agreed that it should remain where it is.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm Date of Next Meeting 23rd November 2017