

# Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of the Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Present:** Councillors: Joy Childs (Chair), Maximilian Clay, David Fisher, Paul Luke, Bruce Murdoch, Myrtle McQueen, Rachel Salt.

**In attendance:** 2 Members of the public.

Cllr Childs opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, explaining that the Clerk was retiring because of ill health and was unable to attend. His last day of employment was today. A presentation to the retiring Clerk had been made prior to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from John Milward (Clerk). Cllr Clay offered to take minutes of the meeting.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Dispensations**

There were no requests for Dispensations

### **4. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such on behalf of the Council.

### **5. Public Forum**

A member of the public raised the issue of speeding on the Chimney Mills stretch of road to the By Road. There was a discussion about the effective deployment of the VAS which, due to illness, had not been circulating in the normal way but that this would be addressed.

Another member of the public felt that speeding through Culford had greatly increased and proposed that the village consider launching a SpeedWatch scheme. He would be willing to co-ordinate such a scheme and recruit volunteers. It was reported that Speed Guns on tripods for SpeedWatch are available for about £300 and this will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **6. District Councillor Report**

District Councillor Glossop reported that:

West Suffolk District Council had started to look at its budget for 2020/21 but things were clearly at an early stage.

The planning application for the re-development of the old Post Office in Bury had now been submitted - the intention is to create a much more pleasant and wider link between the two parts of the town centre served by Market Thoroughfare.

A Climate Change Task Force had been created.

Responding to a question, D Cllr Glossop reported that the Christmas Market will be going

ahead - it has become a large and significant event over the years.

It was noted that much of the wood in the Triangle at West Stow had now been cleared.

## **7. County Councillor Report**

County Councillor Hopfensperger reported that:

The Highways Safety Team had agreed to visit Rats Corner with a view to assessing how this dangerous junction can be made safer. The date has yet to be arranged. C Cllr Hopfensperger had been liaising with Cllr Salt about the community self-help scheme. Section 8 training will enable Cllr Salt to become a supervisor and will also give access to a pool of equipment at no charge. Work under the scheme is limited to roads with a maximum speed limit of 30mph but the County can be asked to make a risk assessment for the 40mph stretch of road and, subject to that, volunteers can be instructed accordingly.

The Lorry Watch scheme could be added on to the putative SpeedWatch scheme discussion.

The Electoral Boundary Commission is looking at the Divisional boundaries for the County Council. There will be wider consultation but the County's initial response is that the number of seats should be reduced and that all divisions should be single-member seats. There is also an intention to avoid overlap of division boundaries with District ward boundaries.

## **8. Report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting**

In the absence of the Clerk there was no report.

## **9. Progress report (Clerk)**

In the absence of the Clerk there was no report.

## **10. Correspondence for Information**

In the absence of the Clerk there was no report.

## **11. Highways**

There was brief further discussion of the dangers of Rats Corner but this will be brought back to a future meeting following the visit by the Highways Safety Team.

## **12. Standing Orders**

The Clerk had highlighted the need for this document to be reviewed but in his absence, the item was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

## **13. Financial Regulations**

The Clerk had highlighted the need for this document to be reviewed but in his absence, the item was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

## **14. West Stow Telephone Kiosk**

BT have proposed removing the line to the kiosk as use is low, contrary to a previously stated intention. However, residents are concerned about the effect of this in the case of emergency, given the minimal mobile phone signal in the area. In the absence of the Clerk, it was agreed that Cllr Clay would contact the Planning Officer dealing with BT to establish the position.

## **15. Welcome pack**

Cllr Murdoch presented the final draft and asked for any last amendments to be communicated to him within the next week. It was pointed out that several small additions that had been proposed previously had not been included, including an explanation of the Oil scheme. Cllr Murdoch submitted expenses in relation to the production of the Pack.

## **16. Finance**

- a. In the absence of the Clerk there was no report.
- b. In the absence of the Clerk no payments were presented for approval.

## 17. Planning

*DC/19/1140/FUL; Culford School - Planning Application for (i) installation of 2no. black cast iron bollards in front of gates (ii) installation of ductile low height post railing at the entrance of Church Drive (iii) installation of one speed bump.*

In discussion it was noted that the new proposals represent a considerable improvement on the previous version and the speed bump is a much more appropriate measure than the previously proposed uni-directional plates but it was felt that that there were still significant problems with the current version. Accordingly the Council resolved to **Object** to the proposals for the following reasons:

- ◆ **Bollards** - While the Council supports the *style* of bollards now proposed, there is lack of clarity about their position (and therefore both their visual impact on the listed heritage assets and their efficacy in preventing damage).
- ◆ **Ductile Railing/ Highway Safety** - The design is attractive and in keeping with the setting of the various heritage assets and their context at the entrance to the historic, listed parkland. However, problems of road safety would be created by *any* closure of the forecourt as it blocks off turning space for vehicles that have turned in without realising the width restriction and does not allow for oncoming vehicles to pass - both eventualities lead to vehicles reversing onto The Street.
- ◆ **Cluttered Signage** - This needs rationalising/ addressing as part of any consent.

## 18. Remembrance Service

This was being organised under the auspices of the Parish Council, rather than the Church. Cllr Childs offered to order the wreath, Cllr Salt offered to provide mulled wine and sausage rolls and to arrange glasses, Cllr Murdoch offered to arrange a bugler. It was resolved to accept the above offers. It was further resolved to identify a former member of the armed services to lay the wreath.

## 19. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Several items for future agendas were identified, including the appointment of an internal auditor, banking arrangements (signatories) and payment of any grants that the council had previously resolved to make.

Cllr Clay announced his resignation.

## 20. Appointment of New Clerk and RFO to the Council

Following recent interviews by a panel of members, the Chair recommended and proposed the appointment of Mr Maximilian Clay to the offices of Clerk and RFO with effect from 27<sup>th</sup> September. It was resolved unanimously to appoint Mr Clay as proposed.

**The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm**