

Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

Thursday 29th September 2022

Present: Councillors: Rachael Salt (Chair), David Fisher and Paul Turnill

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council)

Five members of the public.

41. Apologies

Councillor Luke had submitted apologies and the Council resolved to approve the reason.

42. Declarations of Interest

a. There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda.

b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda.

43. Minutes

a. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2022 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair of the meeting was authorised to sign them as such on behalf of the Council.

44. County & Borough Councillor Reports

a. District Cllr Susan Glossop reported that The Abbey Gardens in Bury had become one of the most visited outdoor attractions for tourists in the country. The Christmas fair would not be taking place but a programme of other events had been developed for the run-up to Christmas.

In response to a question from the Chair, D Cllr Councillor said that the County Council had just produced a leaflet about warm-places and funding for them.

b. County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger was unable to attend but had sent an update on the Lorry Route Review (reported under 45, below).

45. Lorry Route Review

County Cllr Hopfensperger, having not had a satisfactory response to the issues about the Review that she had raised with officers of the County Council (and reported at the previous meeting) had taken the matter up with the cabinet minister responsible and had reported that she was awaiting a response.

The Chair reassured members of the public that the Parish Council would keep the matter alive too and it would be reported on at the next meeting.

46. Public Forum

♦ A member of the public felt that the Emergency Plan was inadequate and asked how many people the Parish Council had trained as First Aiders. The Chair responded that the Parish Council had put out a call for people interested and willing in supporting the emergency plan but no one had come forward. A call is also included in the Welcome Pack, so as to give people new to the village the opportunity to volunteer. In the absence of volunteers it was felt that the emergency plan was as good as it could be for the present.

♦ A member of the public reported that there had been a further accident at Rats Corner since the last meeting and also reported that the Highways department had told her that no accidents had been recorded by them in the past five years. This is known to be inaccurate.

The Chair responded to ask whether the resident, who had previously reported that she had a record of accidents and had offered to provide that information to the Clerk, had provided that information. Responding, the member of the public acknowledged that she had not and so she was requested to do so, in order that the comprehensive file of all accident information that the

Council is trying to compile can be completed and, as previously reported, used to make representation to Highways.

- ◆ A member of the public asked that consideration be given to maintenance of the noticeboard in West Stow and the Chair responded by saying that she had been planning to suggest that matter as an item for the next agenda, along with any other maintenance works that should be considered.
- ◆ A member of the public asked that hedge-cutting opposite West Stow Hall be chased-up.
- ◆ A member of the public raised the problem of accidents at Brockley corner, including in the previous week, when police and ambulances had had to attend. The Chair asked that the information be passed to the Clerk, for the file of accidents previously mentioned.
- ◆ The lack of mobile telephone signal at Brockley Corner was also raised. The Clerk responded that a planning application had been made for a mast, which the Council had supported but which, unfortunately, the planning authority had rejected because of the height of the mast and its proposed situation within the conservation area. Signal is patchy across the villages and the Council had written to the national organisation responsible for mobile phone infrastructure encouraging them to re-apply.

47. Clerk's Report & Administrative Business

a. There were no decisions taken under delegated powers since the last meeting.

b. The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ County Councillor Hopfensperger had reported that, in the face of unwillingness on the part of highways to do anything about the problem junctions (Brockley and Rats corner) she was trying to get a lower speed limit from much further north. Speed data, from surveys conducted by Highways themselves, would be necessary and there was a cost involved in obtaining these. It was hoped that C Councillor Hopfensperger would cover the initial cost of such surveys.
- ◆ The Bank mandate had finally been put into effect.
- ◆ A grant application had been received from St Mary's Culford and this would be brought to the January meeting, in accordance with the grants policy.
- ◆ The flood lighting at Culford school's all weather pitch had at last been adjusted so as not to shine into houses on The Street.
- ◆ The Welcome pack had been updated by the Chair and it is now flagged up on the front page of the website.
- ◆ Correspondence had been received from a resident of the drift, explaining a problem of fly-tipping on a track adjacent to her property. The Clerk had offered advice and the resident had placed a notice explaining that fly tipping was illegal – within 24 hours the rubbish been removed.
- ◆ The Suffolk Local History Society had put out a call for a local Reporter. This is someone who would simply report to them about local events, and so contribute to an ongoing archive of life across the country. They were interested in hearing about simple matters such as special celebrations, meetings of local organisations and so on. Volunteers were encouraged to make contact with the Society.

48. Planning & Environment

a. **Planning Application Consultations:**

i. **DC/22/1526/HH - 2 John O'Groats Cottages, Brandon Road, Wordwell:**

a. alterations to front and rear elevations b. single storey side extension.

In discussion it was noted that, although the extension is large, it was within the size permitted. After brief discussion, the Council resolved to raise no objection but to encourage a site visit.

49. Co-option of Councillors

a. **Criteria** - The Council considered criteria to be used in the co-option of councillors, recommended

by the working party and resolved to adopt them for future use.

- b. **Process** - In view of the decision under (a) above it was agreed to circulate the new criteria to nominees and for a sub group of Councillors to meet them and make recommendations back to the Council.

50. Maintenance of War Memorial

The Council discussed maintenance work to the War Memorial and it was agreed that specialist contractors would be contacted provide quotations for cleaning the stone work, for future consideration.

51. Maintenance of Benches, Noticeboards and Dog Waste Bins

It was agreed that the noticeboards in West Stow and Culford needed an overhaul and that the bench in Culford also needed an overhaul. A replacement dog waste bin is required outside Heather Cottage on the Street, Culford. It was resolved to purchase a new bin and to obtain quotes for the wood works outlined above.

52. Vehicle Activated Sign

- a. Cllr Fisher reported that the problems with the sign and the charger had now been resolved. Following discussion it was resolved that one person would be responsible for charging the battery (Cllr Fisher) and that the sign would be rotated around the various registered posts on a fortnightly basis. It was noted that the sign was flashing at speeds of 30mph and under whereas it had previously only flashed at speeds over the limit. Cllr Fisher would raise this with the manufacturer. The Council resolved a vote of thanks to Cllr Fisher for his efforts.
- b. The figures for the proportion of speeding vehicles on the various days of the week were: Monday 46%, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 42%, Thursday 40%, Friday 47%, Saturday 49% and on Sundays, 53%. In discussion the idea of buying an additional sign was raised and this will be placed on a future agenda - a member of the public offered to contribute around half the cost.

53. Cycle Routes

It had been noted that cycling into Bury St Edmunds was currently quite dangerous and so it was resolved to ask the Cycling Officer to consider whether cycle routes in, and to and from, the parish could be considered, especially in the light of forthcoming works at the Tollgate circulatory system.

54. Finance

- a. The schedule of receipts and payments was received by the Council and, after adding the payment of the previously agreed grant for Jubilee celebrations (£716.39), it was resolved to approve the schedule of payments.

55. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Fisher reported that he had received a complaint about a caravan parked in the grounds of a house on The Street.. The Clerk responded that there were no restrictions on this (other than any covenants on individual properties that would be a private matter) unless the caravan was a permanent fixture.

The Chair thanked the public for their attendance and closed the public section of the meeting. The following business was conducted in camera, due to its confidential nature.

56. Staffing

The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been one applicant for the office of Clerk; an experienced Clerk who had been highly recommended by a County Councillor. It was resolved that an interview panel of two to three councillors would be convened and that it would make a recommendation as to appointment at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date