

Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on
Thursday 26th January 2023

Present: Councillors: Rachael Salt (Chair), Paul Luke, Paul Turnill, David Hurcomb, Andrew Miller

In attendance: Christine Mason (Clerk to the Council), District Councillor Susan Glossop, County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger
Three members of the public.

72. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr David Fisher - absence approved.

73. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda.
- b. Cllr Miller and Cllr Luke declared a Disclosable Interest in agenda item 82, Grant applications.

74. Minutes

Owing to an administrative error, ratification of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2022 was deferred until the next meeting.

75 County & Borough Councillor Reports

- a. District Cllr Susan Glossop informed the meeting WSC were currently working on budgets, a minor increase is anticipated. Further details at the next meeting. Councillors were reminded that with only £1000 left in her locality budget, an application has to be made as soon as possible should they wish to apply for a grant towards coronation related events or a commemorative item for distribution to residents. To be able to vote in the upcoming local elections, photo ID will be required. The Chair reported the information was now on the CWSW Facebook page and will be posted on the website nearer the time.
- b. County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger reported SCC are also in the budget setting process, Cabinet to meet next week with approval by Full Council on 9th February. Presently, the proposed council tax rise is 1.99% for the General council tax and 2% for Adult Social Care, which is ringfenced. To put this into context, out of the increased Social Care budget of £326 million, £26million of this is just for inflationary uplift. As with Cllr Glossop, locality budget funding is available for the King's Coronation celebrations.

Safety issues at Rats Hall Corner- with a negative response from the Safety Team, residents were asked to provide any further evidence of accidents occurring at Rats Hall Corner. Previous information collected and collated by the former clerk to be forwarded to Cllr Hopfensperger. It was furthermore suggested a site visit between councillors and the new Highways Community Liaison Officer, Andrew Moore be arranged. The Clerk to action, RH to be copied in.

76. Lorry Route Review

To take the conversation further, feedback to the full report sent by Cllr Hopfensperger on 20th November is vital. Further discussion deferred pending ratification at the next meeting of the 24th November 2022 minutes.

An issue was raised by Cllr Luke concerning the damaged pavement outside West Stow Hall as a result of lorries mounting the footway when two abreast. The hedge is also in need of cutting back, ownership to be identified.

Cllr Luke to forward photographs of the damage to the Clerk for reporting on the Highways Reporting Tool, reference number to be forwarded to Cllr Hopfensperger.

77. Public Forum

Matters raised included available funding for the King's Coronation celebrations, an agenda item later in the meeting.

Weight limit for lorries travelling through the village. With The Street in Culford identified as a Strategic Lorry Route, there are no restrictions in place.

Issues raised to be included in the Parish Council's response to the Lorry Review. For information to be added, it was proposed by The Chair, seconded by Cllr Hurcomb that a Google form is set up, Cllr Salt to action.

78. Clerk's report & Administrative Business

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

b. The Clerk reported that:

- Bacton Parish Council have agreed to loan us their amplification equipment. The Clerk to liaise with MC regarding arrangements for collection.
- The VAS from Westcotec to be ordered.
- The Chair to forward a list of decisions and queries to the Clerk that were in progress.

79. Planning & Environment

Pre-Planning Application Consultation for a Mobile Phone Base Station Installation at Cs-20582521 Culford Triangle, Culford Road East, Culford, Suffolk, IP28 6DW (E583815)

In discussion, the following comments were made:

Position of the mast will impact on some of the residents, have other locations been explored?

High visibility of the tower on the highway unless camouflaged

Expected coverage the mast will give?

Parish Council's response to be sent to Cornerstone:

We are 100% committed to working with you to ensure people in the villages get the mobile coverage they deserve.

80. Co-option of a Councillor

No further action as the candidate decided to withdraw her application.

81. Maintenance and Repairs to the Notice Boards and Bench

A list of contacts to be sent to the Clerk and quotations sought. To be carried forward to the next meeting.

82. Grant Applications

With reference to an application from the PCC of St Mary's Church, Culford for a grant towards the upkeep of the public cemetery i.e. grass cutting, the Clerk read out advice received from the council's legal body SALC in relation to the request.

The 1894 Local Government Act does not allow spending on works relating to the affairs of the Church or ecclesiastical charity. This includes maintenance of the churchyard unless closed.

The PCC to be advised.

In regard to the 'Warm Spaces' initiative, the Chair asked it to be minuted that grant monies are available from the Parish Council to those local organisations e.g. churches, village halls who can provide something for the community.

83. Coronation

Following detailed discussion, it was agreed a combined village event to celebrate the King's Coronation will be held at West Stow Church rather than Culford Village Hall. The Parish Council to submit an application for a locality budget grant towards the cost of the BBQ and soft drinks. West Stow Church to provide a breakdown of costs. It was further proposed if a week prior to the event, the weather forecast is unfavourable, it could easily be moved to the village hall.

84. Financial Matters

- a. Receipts & Payments:** The schedule of receipts and payments were not available.
- b. Budget for 2023-2024:** It was resolved to adopt the budget with the inflationary 11% uplift.
- c. Precept for 2023-2024:** The Council resolved to set the 2023/24 precept at £11,200.

85. Councillors reports and items for future discussion

Cllr Turnill reported the flashing sign on the VAS is now working but had no knowledge how to access the software to download data. The Chair and DT to liaise. A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Turnill for taking charge of the speed camera and the amount of data produced whilst Cllr Fisher is away. Cllr Salt reported Mr Stennett is looking to redirect the footpath to prevent it going through his yard in Ingham. With no evidence from planning involving a consultation period, the Clerk to investigate further. A query was raised whether the defibrillators needed new pads. The Clerk to look through old minutes to ascertain who is responsible for maintaining the equipment. Ingham Village Shop has put up a notice saying 'Use us or lose us' – residents need to be made aware of the present situation as closure of the post office will impact on those who live in the parish. An invitation to attend the West Suffolk Civic Dinner has been received, however, it was decided the local Social Club would be a better alternative to get to know each other better.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.