

# Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

**Thursday 25th January 2024**

**Present:** Councillors Rachael Salt (Chair), Andrew Miller, David Fisher, Cllr Paul Turnill, Cllr Paul Luke

**In attendance:** Christine Mason (Clerk to the Council), District Councillor Susan Glossop and one member of the public

### 58. Apologies

County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger.

### 59. Declarations of Interest

- a. Cllr Salt declared an interest in agenda item 69 planning application DC/24/0006/TCA Fell 1 Sycamore, Willow View 5 Benyon Gardens, Culford.
- b. None received.

### 60. Minutes

With one typo error corrected, the amended minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### 61. County & District Councillor Reports

Cllr Susan Glossop: Topics included the proposed property Band D council tax increase of £5.76 per year; draft proposal to end the £1 charge after 6pm at the Arc car park and replace it with current charges up to 8pm, after 8pm the car park will be free. Both propositions need to go to Full Council; with the Western Way Hub not going ahead, the Bury St Edmunds Records Office is to close, and all records transferred to The Hold in Ipswich; SCC are going to be cutting the Arts Funding and this will have a direct effect on the Theatre Royal. Regarding the planning application DC/23/1933/FUL submitted by Culford School, if the parish council agree not to support it, the application will go to the Delegation Panel and possibly to the Development Control Committee. Individual objections can be raised on the WSC planning portal. With reference to an email received from a member of the public regarding the replacing of a plain fence wire with a single strand razor wire on the new erected boundary fence along the highway verge adjacent to West Stow Road, correspondence including photos taken by Cllr Turnill to be sent to Cllr Glossop and Cllr Hopfensperger.

Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger: The General Report was previously circulated. Link to the HGV reporting tool: [Report an incident with a heavy goods vehicle – Suffolk County Council](#); list of local permits that have been issued, Universal Tankers, Apollo Farms Ltd, Eastern Concrete Ltd, Barry Clarke & Son Haulage Ltd, D Mortimer Transport Services.

The speed surveys have been ordered and paid for and will be put in place on 30<sup>th</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> February; the incorrectly placed chevron on the triangle to be moved.

### 62. Public Forum

Issues raised by a member of the public included the tipping of waste at the Equestrian Centre and alleged damage to TPO trees (reported to Enforcement Section at WSC), an agenda item at the next meeting; very low broadband speed 0.6 megabytes per second in Noth West Stow affecting approximately 11/12 houses, whereas in town speed is from 10 to 200 megabytes per second.

Cllr Hopfensperger to be contacted as there is a current project to get all villages connected; the main causes of premature failure of SCC road repairs was brought to the attention of the meeting, the list to be forwarded to Highways and a copy sent to Cllr Hopfensperger.

**63. Clerk's Report & Administrative Business**

- a) There were no decisions taken under delegated powers since the last meeting.
- b) There were no relevant or significant matters not otherwise on the agenda.

**64. Meeting with Andy Moore, SCC Community Liaison Engineer SCC**

Response received from Andy Moore on issues raised at the meeting:

'The footway will be inspected by the Highways Assessment officer when its scheduled inspection is due, based on its priority.

I have spoken to the Asset team and they will look at this footway condition and then decide if it is for necessary future works, 2024-2025.

I have remounted the chevron to the post, no further work needed, at this point.

All four surveys are now booked in for the 30<sup>th</sup> of January to the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, I am sorry for the delays but unfortunately there is a high demand for surveys across Suffolk at the moment'.

Given the cost for 300mm repeater stickers has been revised, the clerk to contact Coastline for an updated price. An agenda item at the next meeting.

**65. Grass cutting contract**

Whilst the quotations received were very similar, it was agreed the quote from T C Landscapes be approved – all in favour.

**66. Culford Village Sign update**

Cllr Fisher to book the repairs to be carried out to the village sign. In relation to the cherry tree that has caused the damage, the clerk to contact planning for advice on submitting an application to trim back the tree away from the sign.

**67. By-way chippings, Chalk Lane, Keepers Cottage, IP31 1PR**

Email correspondence received from a resident was noted – no further action to be taken.

**68. To consider a way forward for downloading data from the speed camera**

Cllr Salt to action prior to the next meeting.

**69. Planning & Environment**

DC/23/193/FUL

Proposal: Planning application - a. Maintenance building with workshop, storage, and office space, b. removal of lean-to structure, c. alterations to boundary wall and entrance gates; hardstanding with EV charging point

Location: Maintenance Yard Culford School Culford Park Culford Suffolk

**Object\_** on the grounds the building is too tall, not in keeping and does not fit their own maintenance plans.

DC/24/0006/TCA

Proposal: Trees in a conservation area notification - one Sycamore (T1 on plan) fell and remove stump

Location: Willow View 5 Benyon Gardens Culford Suffolk

**No objections**

DC/24/0027/TE1

Proposal: Determination in respect of Development by

Telecommunications Code systems operators - a. one arqiva smart metering omni at 13.83 metres mean mounted on proposed 12 metres streetworks pole b. one arqiva smart metering GPS antenna at 12.4 metres mean mounted on proposed streetworks pole c. one arqiva smart metering 3G omni antenna 3.8 metres mean mounted on proposed 12.4 metres streetworks pole

Location: Sewage Treatment Works Icklingham Road West Stow

Applicant Arqiva (Ltd), Arqiva (Ltd)

**No objections**

DC/24/0035/TCA

Proposal Trees in a conservation area notification - one flowering cherry - fell

Location: 8 Chimney Mills West Stow Suffolk IP28 6ES

**Advice to be taken from the tree officer**

DC/23/1996/HH

Proposal: Householder planning application - a. single story side extension (following demolition of conservatory) b. first floor rear extension c. dormer window d. alterations to porch e. replacement windows to all elevations f. additional window and replacement front door

Location: Borderlands The Street Culford Suffolk IP28 6DN

**No objections**

## **70. Financial Matters**

- a. Proposed by Cllr Turnill and seconded by Cllr Luke that the Receipts and Payments schedule for December 2023 and January 2024 be approved – all in favour.
- b. It was unanimously agreed the precept for the financial year 2024-2025 be confirmed as £11,200. This equates to a 0.22% increase over last year and a Parish Band D Council Tax of £41.49.

## **71. Councillor reports and items for future agendas**

Cllr Luke: Quotation received for £130 including vat for a new post for the West Stow village sign was accepted – all in favour.

Cllr Miller: An enquiry has been received relating to the availability of land for an EVC Point, the village hall was suggested – however, already in hand.

Cllr Turnill: Broadband in Culford is now 900 megabytes per second; charges using the tip have changed; fly tipping in Common Lane goes into the waterway and ultimately into the River Lark, not the responsibility of the Council but part of Stennetts land, the clerk to contact the landowner and if feasible Cllr Turnill to take photos.

Cllr Fisher: The Equestrian Centre are looking into setting up a contract with a pest control company; horse manure on the footpath where the fence had fallen down has been cleaned up.

Cllr Salt: With the only post office for Culford, Ingham, West Stow, Wordwell now closed, it was suggested the provision of a weekly mobile PO is discussed at the next meeting. Feedback from the community important.

With no further business the meeting ended at 8.52pm

Date of next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm.