

Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

Thursday 26th September 2024 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: District Councillor Susan Glossop. County

1. Apologies

Cllr Paul Turnhill, County, Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger, Christine Mason (Clerk to the Council)

2. Declarations of Interest

Item 9. DC/24/11/1176/TCA, Cllr Salt. No other declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

Unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2024 be ratified and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

4. County & District Councillors Reports

District Cllr Susan Glossop reported that she was pleased to have received 8 applications for grants under the Decarbonisation Scheme. The draft of the local plan is with the inspectorate. It appears that there is no development slated for any of the villages in the Parish. All households will be getting communication regarding the new recycling scheme which is yet to be ratified. This is expected on 15th October at full council and will be followed by a large communication plan. Cllr Salt had some outstanding actions from the rolling action log including the tree outside Toad House, changes to windows and driveways at Woodland View and Pine Tree House and the splitting of the Old Post Office into two dwellings without planning permission. The Parish Clerk had been trying to make progress on these points without any feedback to date. Cllr Salt agreed to send details to District Cllr Glossop and ask Christine to forward any communications she had. Cllr Salt to find the Original planning application for Woodland View and Pine Tree House and forward to District Cllr Glossop. Cllr Fisher asked about the progress of the Communications Mast Planning Application. It appears that Planning are awaiting a revised application, reflecting a more accurate plan of the site.

Cllr Salt asked about Broadband provision for homes in North Stow who are still struggling with connectivity. District Cllr Glossop suggested that the new MP should be contacted to see if he was able to assist, both with internet connectivity for North Stow homes, and with fibre connectivity in Culford village (fibre already in West Stow). Cllr Salt to pass this on to the North Stow households affected.

Cllr Luke mentioned that some branches of Specsavers Opticians were able to provide NHS hearing aids but noted that the Bury St Edmunds branch has not signed up to the Scheme. Cllr Glossop was unaware of why this may be. Cllr Luke to email Cllr Glossop details of the scheme to explore whether relevant to West Suffolk

5. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

6. Clerk's Report & Administrative Business

An additional quote for restoring the War memorial had been circulated in advance. Agreed that the quote was more in line with what had been spent previously. Clerk to request a meeting with members of the PC and the company in Woolpit who had provided the 2nd quote.

No other update available.

7. Speed Camera downloads/Culford & West Stow

Meeting took place with Cllr Fisher, Andrew Moore, SCC Highways and Christine Mason (Clerk to the Council) Andy took on board concerns raised by the Parish Council in relation to speeding and inappropriate HGV use but after looking at data taken from the four speed survey sites and accident data, Andy said that other safety measures i.e Gates, 'Slow' signage, a 40mph buffer zone would not be suitable and would not be authorised by the SCC Speed Safety Team (photos of the four sites were shown) SCC Highways did not accept that HGV usage was excessive or inappropriate. The only road that in his opinion was suitable for any type of traffic calming would be on Icklingham Road, West Stow where 'Dragon's Teeth' paint marking could be used beyond the 30mph limit. It was stressed that unless this was paid for by Highways the PC **or Cllr Hoffspenburger** would be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the scheme. We are currently awaiting a response from Highways.

Regarding speeding and excess lorries it was suggested that the Parish Council could arrange for the noise caused by lorries be measured with decibel Meters as one had been recorded on an uncalibrated device at 96dB which is over the acceptable level for traffic noise.

As it's clear that there is little appetite to help us resolve the issue from SCC Highways, it was suggested by Cllr Miller a public consultation in the Parish to ask if people would be prepared to contribute. We will go back to SCC and explain that we are fundamentally dissatisfied with the response to the issue of lorries and speeding and that will be reflected on the PCC website.

It was agreed that the traffic page on the Parish Council website would include all information and progress to date including the responses from SCC. In order to expediate progress it was agreed that a traffic working party would be set up to create the updates and forward to Christine for uploading onto the Parish Council website by our website administrator.

8. Culford Village Sign update

The sign has been taken down and a quote for blast cleaning the metal surround was accepted. Cllr Miller to progress. Cllr Fisher is waiting for an email reply from the restorer who is repainting and preserving the sign.

9. Planning & Environment

DC/24/11/1176/TCA Trees in a conservation area notification – three fruit (T-T3 on plan) one Budleja (T4 on plan) and one cherry (T5 on plan) Fell

Location Benyon Cottage The Street Culford

Cllr Salt declared an interest in this item and did not comment

To be advised by the Tree Officer

DC/24/1108/VAR Trees in a conservation area notification - one Sycamore

(T1 on plan) crown reduce by 33 percent; one Euc (T2 on plan) crown reduce height by 33 percent; one Ornamental Plum (T3 on plan) crown reduce height by 33 percent; one

Weeping Willow (T4 on plan) reduce height by 33 percent

Location 6 Chimney Mills West Stow Suffolk IP28 6ES

To be advised by the Tree Officer

10. Financial matters

Financial statement was signed with the exception of Clerk's expenses due to a query.

Grant application received from St Mary's Church Culford which was approved and will be paid in January. Cllr Luke was asked to let West Stow Church know that we are now able to contribute towards the maintenance of Church yards (but not the fabric of Church buildings) and to ask them if they wished to apply for a grant.

Comment [AM1]: I noted that we approved the grant to St Mary's

11. War memorial Kerbing update

Picked up by Cllr Miller who had a meeting with Tony Bate from the Village hall Committee. It was agreed that a kerb would prevent egress on the grass surrounding the memorial but that it needed to be low/normal profile to remain in keeping with the surroundings. Quotes are being obtained for kerbing that will prevent most vehicles from straying onto the grassed area. The Parish Council will review other options to protect the memorial which may include posts and a chain link situated behind the kerbing.

12. Meet your councillors Social Evening

It was agreed that the first "Meet your councillor" event would be held at West Stow Club on a Friday evening when there is no other event scheduled. Cllr Luke to circulate possible dates.

13. 'Remembrance Sunday

Wreath from the Parish Council to be ordered by the Clerk and delivered to Cllr Salt.

14. Councillor' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Salt reported that there had been a number of questions about the revised signage in Culford School, about public access on the public footpaths and permissive pathways in the

school grounds, and about the anticipated barrier, and asked that it was added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Luke reported that "The triangle' in West Stow which was previously owned by the school had been sold to a West Stow resident and that it would be maintained in its current state with no prospect of building on it.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.