

# Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm**

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

**In attendance:** Christine Mason (Clerk to the Council), District Councillor Susan Glossop, Culford School Head, Claire Bentley and three members of the public

### 1. Apologies

All present.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

a. None received.

b. Cllr Turnill declared an interest in planning application DC/25/0050/TCA

Proposal: Trees in a conservation area notification – four Conifers (T1-T4 on plan) fell.

### 3. Minutes

Amendment to minutes under agenda item 6 to read – ‘A tree at Culford School is growing through the bridge’ proposed and seconded that the amended minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be approved and will be signed by the Chair at the next meeting.

### 4. County & District Councillor Reports

Cllr Susan Glossop: A new grant scheme investing in activities that will try to help people out of food poverty, improve health and reduce food waste. The Building Resilience and Nutrition (BRAN) fund is open to applications from community groups, charities, voluntary organisations, faith groups and social enterprises. It has been created from £90,000 given by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and is being delivered by West Suffolk Council in partnership with Community Action Suffolk and Suffolk County Council. Concerning Devolution, if WSC are included in the first list, the May SCC elections will not go ahead, an announcement to be made shortly, further information as and when received. Questions were raised concerning the telephone mast planning application, Cllr Glossop to speak with the planning officer for an update; lack of funding for Gatehouse food bank due to the opening of the Community Pantry at the Racing Centre in Newmarket, Cllr Glossop to seek clarification.

### 5. Public Forum

With the 7.5 ton weight limit signage in the wrong location, 44 ton lorries are coming through West Stow, if possible, photos to be taken and an email sent to Cllr Hopfensperger for advice on a way forward to resolve the issue; a comment was made on why the driveway from the church to the public footpath has now been stopped as a result of safeguarding.

### 6. 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.

### 7. Update on PROW4

Owing to a mapping error when the original change to PROW4 was requested, WSC legal team have taken the lead to get this rectified. A productive meeting was held in December and

the minutes have been posted on the parish council website. Along with the school, the re-routed footpath has been walked and unanimously accepted.

#### **8. Disputed pathway**

As a result of full and detailed discussion at the meeting, the School's position on the disputed pathway is as follows:

1. Culford Park is a private estate and home to Culford School, a boarding and day school for pupils aged 1-19 including some 250 boarders who live on site. There are two public footpaths and one licensed footpath on the estate.
2. The School has a duty of care and a need to meet its child protection obligations to all pupils and boarders, and to provide a safe and comfortable living environment.
3. In the summer of 2024, the School's signage was updated, and the signs continue to reflect the legal framework under which the footpaths exist. There are no plans to make changes to the signage at this time.
4. The School would consent to residents of the Parish walking along the driveway between the Church and the public footpath and will not make challenge.
5. The School has no desire to apply for any changes to the public rights of way across its land and assuming the above is agreed does not anticipate this position changing. It remains an option if it cannot adequately safeguard its pupils within these arrangements or if applications are made to extend public rights of way on its land.
6. The School apologises to parish residents for any distress caused.

#### **9. Bin opposite Eastgate entrance to Culford School**

Following a complaint by a member of the public, the School agreed to speak with the contractors to ensure cigarette ends are disposed of in the bin rather than on the top section.

#### **10. Iron Bridge**

The School confirmed the issue of a tree growing through the iron bridge has been resolved.

#### **11. War Memorial kerbing update**

Waiting for the Village Hall Committee to receive their quotation from the contractor to gravel the drive at the same time as the kerbing. Once confirmed, the work will be carried out.

#### **12. Culford Village Sign Update – new oak post**

Waiting for a quotation for the new oak post. Cllr Luke to action.

#### **13. Planning & Environment**

Under the Clerk's delegated powers, responses made between meetings  
DC/25/0050/TCA

Proposal: Trees in a conservation area notification – four Conifers (T1-T4 on plan) fell  
Location Broadoak The Street Culford Suffolk TO BE ADVISED BY THE TREE OFFICER  
DC/25/1733/LB

Proposal: Application for listed buildings consent – insertion of two roof lights on garage  
Location Fieldside Cottage Culford Heath Culford Suffolk SUPPORT  
DC/24/1732/HH

Proposal: Household planning application – insertion of two roof lights on garage  
Location Fieldside Cottage Culford Heath Culford Suffolk SUPPORT

DC/24/1698/VAR

Proposal: Planning application – variation of condition 2 of DC/23/0397 to allow amended plans

Location Southdene 7 The Drift Culford Suffolk SUPPORT

NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING APPEAL

Proposal: Planning application – variation of condition 9 of SE/09/0605 to allow for removal of condition which states the land shall not be let, sold or leased separately from the temporary dwelling and associated buildings

Location Wideham Farm Icklingham Road West Stow

Appeal start date 17th January 2025

Procedure Written Representation NO FURTHER COMMENTS TO BE MADE

#### **14. Finance**

- a. The Receipts and Payments schedule was approved. Due to a typo error, the admin expenses schedule to be corrected and signed at the next meeting.
- b. The bank reconciliation as of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024 was approved.
- c. Cllr Salt declared an interest in this agenda item and did not vote.. A grant of £1396 was approved for Culford Village Hall towards the cost of the repair to the semi-circular drive.
- d. Under s137, a donation of £200 to be given to St Nicholas Hospice.
- e. Under s142 a donation of £200 to be given to the Citizen's Advice Centre.

#### **15. Precept 2025-2026**

The precept for 2025-2026 was confirmed as £11,760 and was duly signed by the Chair.

#### **16. 'Meet your councillors social' evening update**

Date agreed as 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at West Stow Club at 8.00pm. To be advertised on the website, WhatsApp and Lark Valley Magazine.

#### **17. Councillors' reports and items for future meetings**

Cllr Luke: Electricity issues in West Stow, an agenda item at the next meeting.

Cllr Salt: The footpath sign at the bottom of The Drift has rotted and has fallen over; south of the village at the crossroads and the electricity substation, the sign with directions to Culford and Bury has rotted at the bottom and has gone completely. To be reported to Highways.

Cllr Fisher: a car in the hedge at Culford Corner has been there for at least three weeks, noted as comes under Fornham St Genevieve Parish Council.

Date of next meeting Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm.