

# Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 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.

### 1. Apologies

County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

a. None received.

b. Cllr Turnill declared an interest in planning application DC/25/0291/TPO

Proposal: TPO 191 tree preservation order - one ash fell.

### 3. Minutes

Proposed and seconded that the amended minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair.

### 4. County & District Councillor Reports

a. Cllr Susan Glossop: The grass cutting schedule from WSC to be forwarded to the clerk for circulation; Government has invited areas to apply by 10 January 2025 to be part of its Devolution Priority Programme which would see mayors elected in May 2026. County or unitary councils are the only authorities that can request this. Suffolk County Council made the request as well as asking to postpone their May elections. Parliament has confirmed Suffolk will be part of the Devolution Priority; the Inspector has examined the Local Plan and minor changes have been made. A copy of the LP to be posted on the parish council Facebook page and website.

b. Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger's report was deferred until later on the agenda. With RH attending four other parish councils on the same evening, it may be necessary to change the date of the Culford PC meeting to an alternative Thursday. RH to be contacted for a) her meetings schedule b) confirmation of attendance at the Annual Parish meeting and Annual General Meeting in May, the clerk to action.

### 5. Public Forum

Electricity issues in West Stow – Cllr Luke

A summary of the correspondence received from a resident concerning the electricity failure in West Stow: 'A tree had fallen during a storm affecting the power lines that feeds the underground cable to the Electricity substation, a generator was delivered from UKPN and power was restored at 11pm that night. Trees also impacted the overhead cables and subsequently the generator was 'shorted out' and power was lost until 11am the next morning. Since then the church trees have been trimmed, the fallen tree removed, trees have been trimmed to reduce the risk of a repeat, the underground cable is still broken, and the substation is being fed from Culford. Discussions with UKPN on how to fix the issue are ongoing'.

Agreed, a letter to be sent to UKPN expressing the parish council's dissatisfaction that in this day and age this issue has occurred on more than one occasion.

## **6. Clerk's Report & Administrative Business**

- a) There were no decisions taken under delegated powers since the last meeting.
- b) A planning application received today, to be heard in agenda item 12.

## **7/8. Next steps on the school driveway**

A number of discussions have been held with the school regarding new signage and the restrictions placed on people walking the 150 metres of the driveway from the church to the main footpath. The school suggested they were happy for residents of the parish to walk it but were not prepared to change the signage, and if anyone applied to register that as a PROW they would seek to move the main footpath so it would not run as its currently does. A delegated working group meeting made up of Councillors and interested members of the public concerned by the change has been held. The view of the meeting was the offer from the school solves the issues, but concerns were raised that the number of people who can confirm they have walked that section of path as a right of way for over twenty years prior to 2010 will overtime diminish. The meeting recommended that by choice, members of the public could complete a DMO form, not submit it but have it as evidence if the school ever changes their position. To promote stronger ties with the school, it was suggested a representative from the School Board of Trustees joins the parish council, to be explored further.

## **9. War Memorial cleaning**

With two very differing quotations received to clean the stonework, a third to be sought but must include the restoration of the brass.

## **10. Grass cutting quotations for 2025-2026**

The quotation received from TOP Garden Services for £2340.00 plus vat was unanimously approved.

## **11. Electricity issues in West Stow - Cllr Luke**

Heard in agenda item 5 Public Forum

## **12. Planning & Environment**

DC/25/0191/HH

Decisions made under the clerk's delegated powers

Proposal Trees in a conservation area notification - five leylandii (1-5 on plan) fell

Location 2 Icklingham Road West Stow Suffolk IP28 6EZ

SUPPORT

DC/25/0291/TPO

Proposal TPO 191 (1993) tree preservation order - one ash (G10 on plan and on order) fell

Location 35 The Street Culford Suffolk IP28 6DP

To be re-submitted on the correct planning portal with TO BE ADVISED BY THE TREE OFFICER

DC/25/1091/HH

Proposal Householder planning application - a. new external render on walls at lower level and weather boarding at upper-level b. replacement opens sided porch c. alterations to existing fenestration including replacement windows and new canopies d. two storey rear extension including terrace e. first floor side extension f. addition of pitched roof to existing single storey side projection

Location Russet Lodge The Triangle Culford Suffolk IP28 6DW

NO COMMENTS

Discussed at the meeting

Re-Consultation DC/25/1091/HH

Proposal Householder planning application - a. new external render on walls at lower level and weather boarding at upper-level b. replacement opens sided porch c. alterations to existing fenestration including replacement windows and new canopies d. two storey rear extension including terrace e. first floor side extension f. addition of pitched roof to existing single storey side projection

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NO OBJECTIONS

#### **4b Report from Cllr Hopfensperger**

If not attending, Cllr Hopfensperger to be requested to forward her report earlier than the meeting date. With regard to a) photographs of the 7.5t weight limit in West Stow sited in the wrong place, Cllr Turnill to email them direct to RH b) replacement of the missing fingerpost at The Drift, Cllr Salt to give details on the reporting tool, including the fallen road sign by the telephone exchange in Culford. With reference to the Local Government Reform interim business plan, figures comparing one, two or three unitary councils were noted.

#### **13. Finance**

- a. The schedule of receipts and payments including the admin expenses schedule of January 2025 were approved.
- b. The bank reconciliation as of 28<sup>th</sup> February was approved.
- c. The expenditure against budget figures for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 were accepted.  
As a way forward to ensure invoices are paid on time between meetings, an agenda item at the next meeting. Online banking to be pursued.

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

Cllr Fisher reported he had attended the Active Travel Forum meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. A positive presentation was given by SCC Green Access Development Officer Andrew Woodin on footpaths and cycleways routes going into Bury St Edmunds.

Date of next meeting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual General Meeting

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm