

# Culford, West Stow and Wordwell Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of the Parish Council Meeting held at Culford Village Hall on

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**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, Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger and fourteen members of the public.

### 1. Apologies

All present.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

- a. None received.
- b. None received.

### 3. Minutes

Within Cllr Glossop's report and under local plan, the minutes to be amended to read **there are no proposals for houses in Culford as it is designated as countryside in the plan.**

The amended minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were approved as a true record and will be signed by the Chair.

### 4. County & District Councillor Reports

Cllr Susan Glossop: In relation to the felling of the tree outside Toad House, planning reference DC/19/1016/TPO, it appears no instructions were ever received to schedule the replacement tree, therefore, the responsibility lies with SCC. Given such a long lapse, this condition may not now be enforceable. Copies of emails from the Tree Officer have been forwarded to Cllr Hopfensperger. The Government have agreed extra funding to help councils with the problem of rough sleeping and homelessness. Later this month, West Suffolk Council will discuss the Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy. Part of the strategy looks at the role of the council in trying to ensure more people can better afford a place to live. The strategy will also build on existing work to tackle homelessness.

Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger: In regard to the Government's White Paper, Devolution/Local Government Reform, if it goes ahead the number of current councillors will be reduced from 200 to 90. In addition, there will be a directly elected Mayor for each Unitary Council. Full consultation will be undertaken prior to any decision being made.

Cllr Fisher informed the meeting that with details of the proposed east to west cycleway/footpath not being thought out as it might have been, the plan has been withdrawn and will go back to the drawing board. Cllr Hopfensperger to send the routes funding link to the clerk.

### 5. Culford School – Public access

Covered in Public Forum

### 6. Public Forum

Public Right of Way: A detailed summary of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November between Culford School, Cllr Miller and Cllr Fisher has been posted on the website and will be appended to the minutes. Members of the public were invited to give their views on the situation. With many valid

points raised and questions to be answered, it was agreed a meeting with the ROW Officer at Suffolk County Council was the best way to move forward on this matter. Additionally, a PRW working party to be set up, including residents and stakeholders; email the clerk if interested in joining the group.

#### **7. 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.

#### **8. Speeding/Excessive Lorries/Traffic Working Party**

The parish council are in the process of posting the traffic information downloaded from the speed cameras onto the website. The meeting with Andy Moore from Suffolk Highways indicated that results from the speed survey were not at a level to trigger a response to do anything. This could be funded by the parish council but at the cost of having to increase council tax and deal with planning. Suggestions involving noise from lorries included collaborative working with other local parish councils, to invite relevant companies to attend a parish council meeting.

#### **9. War Memorial Kerbing update**

The Parish Council confirmed that the quotation of £1640 +vat received from M J Nunn Surfacing Ltd for kerbing works at the grass memorial area at the village hall be accepted – all in favour. The additional cost of £312 + vat for topsoil may not be needed, the parish council to confirm at a later date.

#### **10. Culford Village Sign Update**

The iron work of the village sign has been sand blasted and power-coated but requires a new oak post. Adam Ashworth to be contacted for a quotation.

#### **11. Planning & Environment**

Re-Consultation DC/24/0170/FUL

Proposal: Installation of telecommunication base station installation comprising a 22.5 metre Monopole supporting six antenna, two 300mm dishes together with two equipment cabinets and ancillary development (Information submitted 5/11/24)

Location The Triangle Culford Suffolk

Applicant Cornerstone

**No objections**

DC/24/1635/FUL

Planning application – change of part of existing outbuilding From gym / garage / store to create residential unit for holiday let

Location – Midsummer Lodge Icklingham Road West Stow IP28 6EZ

**No objections**

#### **12. Finance**

- a. Proposed by Cllr Luke and seconded by Cllr Fisher that the Receipts and Payments schedule be approved – all in favour
- b. The bank reconciliation as of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 was approved – all in favour
- c. A grant of £700 was approved for St Mary's Parochial Church (West Stow)
- d. Deferred to the January 2025 meeting
- e. Deferred to the January 2025 meeting
- f. Heard at the end of the public session

**13. Precept 2025-2026**

Percentage increase figures of 11% and 5% for the financial year 2025-2026 were circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was proposed variations of the precept form based on either increasing the budget by 5%, 11% or keeping it the same as the previous year to be forwarded to councillors. With a deadline of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 for submission to WSC, a final decision to be made by email.

**14. SALC Portal**

Other than enquiries that have to go through the clerk, the portal can be accessed by councillors by registering onto the SALC Members Portal.

**15. Dates to 'meet your councillors' social evening**

Agreed venue West Stow Club on a Friday evening. Cllr Luke to check availability when not being used for another function. An agenda item at the next meeting.

**16. Councillors' reports and items for future meetings**

A large tree at Culford School is growing through the iron bridge. Cllr Fisher has contacted the school on two occasions but with no response. Further discussion at the next meeting.

End of public session

**12f. Compliance & Clerk's salary**

Noted.

Date of next meeting 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.18pm.