

# WETHERDEN

## Annual Parish Meeting

### Notes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 April 2018 in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr. Sonia Jewers – Chair of Wetherden Parish Council  
Cllrs Stephanie Hensley, Chris Harcourt, Duncan Perry  
Jen Larner – Wetherden Parish Clerk  
District Councillor Rachel Eburne  
7 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr Andrew Stringer (SCC)

1. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting of 10 April 2017 were noted.
2. Cllr Sonia Jewers gave a report from Wetherden Parish Council, which is attached to these minutes. Some of the areas dealt with by the Parish council were highlighted, such as the large number of consultations and large planning applications over the year. She thanked all councillors, the clerk, and volunteers in all the organisations in the village for their hard work and dedication. The full report is attached.
3. St Mary's church – Mike Tuffin reported on the year and thanked the parishioners of Wetherden for their financial contributions to the upkeep of the church. The theme for the year is 'be a somebody'. There is a new priest in charge, Brin Singleton, who was unable to attend. The report is attached.
4. Townlands Charity – Alex Jarrett reported that there is this year a surplus of funds. Sadness was expressed at the death of Chris Irwin, a huge loss to the village, and thanks for all that he did. Bill Goodsall has resigned and Alex is now Chair. Two new trustees are on board. The management of the allotments is being looked into. The poplars on the osier beds have to be removed, and may be replaced by cricket bat willow. The accounts are attached.
5. The Crawford Widows Trust – Mike Tuffin reported that four grants had been given this year. The accounts are attached.
6. History club – Pat Tuffin reported on the activities of the group, now 9 years old. The theme of last year's event was 'School days in Wetherden', held 150 years to the day of the opening of the first school in the village. The ongoing stories about Wetherden people and WW1 are being collated into a book for November. Five copies of the 1846 tithe map have been printed. The report is attached.
7. Crawford Educational Trust - Richard Cooke reported that 8 grants had been made to students, totalling £1,900, as well as to the primary school in Haughley and the Scouts. The accounts are attached.
8. Wetherden School - Richard Cooke reported that the site is now up for sale, with planning consent for redesign for housing. The situation will be reviewed at the end of May.
9. Village Hall – Andrew Thrall reported on the benefits of the recent work undertaken, particularly the increase in bookings (now up to 300) and the income from these of £4,700, so reserves are healthy. The car park improvement project will be commencing soon, for users of the hall, thanks to funding from Alfred Williams Trust, MSDC and SCC.
10. Wetherden Tennis Club – Andrew Thrall reported that there has been a slow uptake of membership. The court has been resurfaced but the parish council will need to redo this expensive job in 4-5 years. The coach is leaving. There has been various acts of

- mindless vandalism to the court over the year. The report is attached.
11. Wetherden and Haughley Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Explorer Scouts – the beavers and cubs groups are flourishing, with waiting lists. Scout numbers have dropped but hope to pick up. Volunteers are needed for all sorts of activities. The report is attached.
  12. County Councillor Andrew Stringer provided his annual report which is attached. Areas covered were the home the school transport question; Lawn Farm Quarry and potholes. He thanked the parish council for its work over the year.
  13. District Councillor Rachel Eburne gave her report which is attached to these minutes. She talked about the changes to MSDC governance, budget and investments; planning and housing developments and community groups she has supported. She will have similar locality budget funding for this coming year. She thanked the parish council for its hard work for the village.
  14. Any other matters – there was a request that the triangle at the bottom of Plashwood/ Rectory Hill be considered for grass strimming and repair of posts by the community payback team. This will be discussed at the May parish council meeting.

It was also noted that if the police are rung regarding bad road conditions caused by Aggmax, it needs to be on the day itself, not retrospectively.

Jen Larner  
Clerk