

## Westley Parish Council minutes

3 November 2016

**Present:** Chris Anderson (CA); Colin Clayton (CC); Alan Green (AG); Gary Smith (GS); Jim Sweetman (JS); Steve McClellan (SM); Mike Spenser-Morris (MSM); Jen Larner (JL, Clerk); Two members of public; Terry Clements (SCC)

**36/2016. Declarations of interest:** None received.

**37/2016. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

### **Adjournment for reports from SCC, SEBC, public participation.**

One member of the public told councillors of his unhappiness with a local farmer – the mud left on the road, poor and fast driving of farm vehicles, bad language. It was agreed that specific incidents and times will be given to the Clerk who will write on behalf of the parish council.

A report had been circulated by Ian Houlder, who was unable to be present.

A report had been circulated by Terry Clements. Terry was asked to update the parish council on the situation with the Westley Bridge on Newmarket Road, which is due to be closed for 6 weeks early next year. It was emphasised that we have heard nothing of what the work entails, why it is necessary to close the road, and what the plan is to divert traffic. There is huge concern about the impact this closure will have on local traffic, and the tremendous hold ups it will cause. The parish council needs a statement that it can issue to all villagers about the situation. TC has talked to James Finch, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport, and an email from MSM with detailed questions has been forwarded to him. MSM is happy to meet with James Finch/others to talk over the plans if that would help. It was agreed that both TC and the Clerk will ask for details of the plan to deal with this to be received within the next week.

It was also noted that granite chippings have been left on the pavement between the church and Burrells Orchard following road re-surfacing, and these need clearing. TC will follow this up with Highways.

**38/2016. Feedback from SCC on footpath queries:** The clerk had reported to SCC three different issues within the village – the state of the signs at the entrance to the village (still being assessed); on the footpath/hedge going round to Burrells Orchard (no action considered necessary at this time) and the overgrown footpath to Westley Middle School (this had been cut by the three landowners). The clerk reported some confusion over emails regarding these three situations, and requested that one delegated person pursue any future issues that arise.

**39/2016. Finance – authorisation of payments:** The following payments were authorised: Clerk salary to end of September £208.43; Clerk expenses to end of September £12.90; HMRC to end of September £11.00; SALC payroll costs £18.00.

**40/2016. Insurance :** it was agreed to renew the insurance at the level suggested by the insurers, at a cost of £197.79.

**41/2016. Budget 2017/18:** a first draft of the budget had been circulated by the RFO and was accepted. The final figures to be able to set the precept from this will not be available until the new year when the budget will be confirmed.

**42/2016. Dog waste bins:** the cutting back of the hedges over the footpath had raised the issue of whether the village needs more dog waste bins. The view of the Area Rights of Way officer was read out, stating that he didn't feel there was a need for further bins. It was agreed not to proceed

with buying more. A paragraph will be inserted into the next newsletter reminding dog owners to clear up after their dogs.

**43/2016. Emergency planning for Westley:** CC reported that he had received no information from Councillors, and concluded this wasn't necessary. The information he does have will be put on the website.

**44/2016. Signs for the village:** JS reported on the research he had done regarding 'gateway' style signs for the entrances to the village. He has checked with Highways and they will need to approve these. They would cost about £3000 for 4 signs. A local carpenter has offered to make them for about £1000, but ongoing maintenance costs may be more expensive for wood, so it may be a false economy. It was agreed such signs could help with identity of the village as well as possible traffic calming. JS agreed to draw up a proposal that could be used for funding etc.

**45/2016. Future hosting of website:** Suffolk County Council has informed us that they will no longer be providing free hosting and support for the One Suffolk parish council website. This will now be undertaken by Community Action Suffolk at a cost of £50. The Clerk, along with SALC, have protested at this sudden action and short deadline, given that parish councils have to have a website to comply with transparency. It was agreed that, for this year at least, the parish council will stay with Community Action Suffolk.

**46/2016. Planning applications and notifications:** DC16/2191/TPO – 4 Bullens Close. Various tree works. No objections raised.

TPO 137 – 6 Bullens Close. Tree work. No objections raised.

Security Lodge and entrance turnstiles etc at Direct Table Foods, Saxham Business Park – no objections raised.

DC/16/1681/FUL – 5 Becket Close. This had been rejected.

Date of next meeting - Thursday 5 January 2017 at 7.30pm.