

Westley Parish Council Minutes

13th March 2025

Present: Jim Sweetman (JS); Colin Clayton (CC); Paul Foreman (PF); Mike Spenser-Morris (MS); Cllr Chris Anderson (CA); Christine Mason, Clerk (CM) and two members of the public

55/2025 Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Green (AG); Cllr Steve McClellan (SMc) County Cllr Karen Soons (KS).

56/2025 To receive member's declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct regarding items on the agenda: None received.

57/2025 Planning Appeal: Following advice from Peter White in relation to what action the PC might take to express concerns about the completion of the relief road, JS to write to the Appeal Inspector pointing out that in accordance with the Local Plan, and also reiterated in the anticipated new Local Plan, the proposed relief road was offered as a structural means of avoiding coalescence to Bury St Edmunds as well as significantly reducing traffic through the village. To keep the local MP up to date, JS to make contact to arrange a potential meeting.

58/2025 Public participation: Concerns were likewise raised by a member of the public in relation to the completion of the relief road, JS advised that as well as the Parish Council, all residents are entitled to write individually to the Appeal Inspector.

59/2025 To receive County & District Council reports: Cllr Karen Soons report was previously circulated and noted. No report was received from Cllr Ian Houlder.

60/2025 To receive the financial report and authorise payments if appropriate: Clerk's salary + back pay £171.90; Clerk's salary x 2 months £221.00; Westley Club hire £75.00; Clerk's salary £110.50. Closing balance as of 17th February 2025 £2483.81.

61/2025 Road markings update: With a number of outstanding road markings orders overdue due to cold and wet weather, Westley road markings are running late. Matthew Fox to inform SMC once a new date is confirmed by the contractor.

62/2025 Devolution Plans for Suffolk update: With Suffolk being chosen to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme, the government will now launch a public consultation on the devolution elements of their proposals. Simultaneously, Suffolk County Council will research, engage on local issues and then submit to government a detailed business case for council reorganisation. Areas only have until September 2025 to submit their complete plans. A government led public consultation on the local government reorganisation proposals will follow the business case being submitted. At this point no decision has been made on whether Suffolk would be covered by a single or multiple unitary councils. The government also intends to create a mayor covering Suffolk and Norfolk who would take control over strategic policy areas like transport infrastructure, economic development, health improvement and blue light services. The mayor will be elected in May 2026.

63/2025 To agree the date of the Litter Pick: The date for the litter picking day was confirmed as Sunday 6th April at 8.30am.

64/2025 To consider any correspondence received: Forwarded as and when received.

65/2025 Date of next meeting: Thursday 8th May 2025 Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm followed by the Annual Council Meeting at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.