

Westley Parish Council Minutes

8th May 2025

Present: Jim Sweetman (JS); Colin Clayton (CC); Paul Foreman (PF); Cllr Steve Macellan (SMc); Cllr Alan Green (AG); District Cllr Ian Houlder (IH); Christine Mason, Clerk (CM) and one member of the public

Annual Report: Topics highlighted in Cllr Sweetman's Annual Report included the Pigeon planning application, the subsequent appeals and the response from the Parish Council, the churchyard, footpath clearance, community events, visit by Nick Timothy MP.

66/2025 Election of Chairman: Proposed and seconded that Cllr Jim Sweetman be re-elected for 2025-2026 – all in favour.

67/2025 Apologies: Cllr Chris Anderson; Cllr Mike Spenser-Morris; District Cllr Karen Soons.

68/2025 To receive member's declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct regarding items on the agenda: None received.

69/2025 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th March 2025 : Unanimously approved.

70/2025 To receive County & District Council reports: Cllr Karen Soons report was previously circulated and noted. Cllr Houlder spoke about the Pigeon planning application and devolution government plans for Suffolk. Regarding devolution, a question was raised whether if, a brand new council is elected, would agreements already confirmed within the Pigeon planning application still stand. In response, IH said any decisions set in stone within the application would be rolled over.

71/2025 Public participation: There were no matters raised.

72/2025 To receive the finance report, approve and sign the 2024-2025 end of year accounts and sign the Exemption Certificate from PKF Auditors: Expenditure: Service charge £4.25, Clerk's salary March £110.50, Clerk's salary April £110.50. Income: Precept £2180.00. Balance as of 28th April 2025 £4434.31. Proposed and seconded that the finance report and Exemption Certificate for 2024-2025 are approved and duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

73/2025 Planning application: DC/25/1681/HH Two storey side and rear extension and single storey front extension. Location 2 Garden Lane Westley Suffolk – No objections.

74/2025 Planning Appeal update: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

75/2025 Road markings update: Due to a major failure in communications between Highways and the contractors' systems, a date for new road markings has been delayed until the end of July.

76/2025 Flooding in Old Church Lane: Following a conversation with Charlie Browne, the reason given for the flooding was the bore holes had not been switched off once capacity had been reached. The more general problem about the flooding, is that drainage is just soak away drains and prone to overflows when clogged by earth and straw deposited by farm vehicles. SMC to meet with CB to discuss the issue further.

77/2025 Litter picking day review: A successful morning, however, for future litter picking days, more volunteers are needed.

78/2025 Any other business: Track alongside the church is grossly overgrown, MSM to be asked to speak with WSC; The 30mph sign on the chicane is lying in the hedge, to be reported to Highways.

Date of next meeting: 17th July 2025 at 7.30pm,
There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.