

Weybourne Parish Council

**DRAFT MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 7th April 2021, 7.30pm remotely using Zoom.**

Present: Lyndon Swift (Chair), Peter Gallally, Valerie Stubbs, Penny Taylor, Charlie Harrison and Robin Woodhouse

Also present: Four members of the public.

- 1. (a) To confirm that this Zoom meeting will be recorded, and that Members of the Council and general public are reminded they should behave appropriately as if in a general meeting.**

Cllr Swift read this statement out. No issues.

- (b) To receive and consider apologies**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Andy Crawford, Cllr Ruth Gallally and The Clerk. No response from Cllr Sarah Butikofer (Norfolk County Council).

- (c) To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda items and consider requests for Dispensations.**

Cllr P Gallally declared an interest on agenda item 7 (a) (i) as this is a neighbour. It was **agreed** by all councillors that a request for dispensation is granted.

2. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2021.

The minutes were **agreed** as a true record of the meeting.

3. Public Participation

- (a) The meeting was adjourned to allow correspondence from members of the public and any councillors with prejudicial interest to speak.**

One member of the public stated interest in contributing to fibre broadband and another member of the public stated interest in contributing to the village survey.

- (b) To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillor and Police.**

No updates from County and District. Cllr Swift will contact both Councillor contacts for updates.

The Police cluster newsletter has been received.

4. Windfarm Developments

To receive any updates regarding the offshore wind developments

Cllr Stubbs sent around an update to all councillors before the meeting and went over the updates.

- Duncan Baker MP has reported that HVDC (High Voltage Direct Cable) is Ørsted's preferred connection method, although technical conversations need to continue before final decisions are made. HVDC is preferable because the cable corridors are narrower, causing less disruption and damage to the environment.
- The PC wrote to the BEIS (Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) pointing out issues with the original decision to approve the Hornsea 3 project. The BEIS responded that a decision could only be reviewed under exceptional circumstances, which this doesn't count as.
- Duncan Baker is continuing to push for HVDC to be used on all the landfalls and cable corridors currently and for future projects to include shared infrastructure. There has been some concern whether SEP (Sheringham Shoal Extension Project) and DEP (Dudgeon Extension Project) would be allowed to go ahead at the same time with shared infrastructure, but it is now likely that this will be permitted in view of the government's current thinking.
- Equinor will be carrying out a second consultation starting from 29th April for a six-week period. The PC have written generally to Equinor to object to the planned route through Weybourne Woods and Heath but we need to write to them in a more formal way with more detail. We also need to encourage parishioners and anyone who has concerns to respond independently to the consultation.
- The PC has contacted the Wildlife Trust for their support with our objections regarding the route through the woods and heath.
- Equinor will publish its Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment in due course. If the PC has any concerns from this, we need to contact Equinor and join up with groups along our cable corridor with their concerns.

- The SEAS (Suffolk Energy Action Solutions) campaign group has registered a formal complaint about the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements in the compulsory purchase agreements with landowners. This relates to a windfarm in Suffolk but we have wondered if this is being used here. Cllr Stubbs wrote to Equinor, Ørsted and Duncan Baker. Ørsted stated that this information is confidential, Equinor has yet to respond and Duncan Baker stated that this has already been raised with the Secretary of State.

Cllr Swift stated that he had an email from a resident expressing various concerns and replied accordingly stating what we are doing as a parish council.

All councillors stated how they appreciate all the work Cllr Stubbs is doing with Windfarms.

Cllr Stubbs stated that ideally a petition raised away from the Parish Council could hold more weight, so parishioners should be encouraged to undertake this themselves. Cllr Swift stated we would support this as a Council.

5. Covid-19

To receive any updates regarding village issues with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic

Cllr Swift stated more visitors and second home owners have been to the village in the past weeks. Cllr Swift will laminate new signs for post 12th April to show new guidelines etc. around the village. In May because of changes of guidelines these signs will change again and these will show more positive messages etc. Everyone in agreement.

6. Finance

(a) To note the bank reconciliation to –

- 23rd March 2021

The bank reconciliation was noted.

(b) To note the account summary's to -

- 23rd March 2021

The accounts summary was noted.

(c) To approve the following invoices for payment:

i.	D Howes	Salary for March	£ 339.00
ii.	E.On	Streetlight Electricity (March)	£ 67.29 (VAT£3.20)
iii.	D Howes	Expenses/postage/toner for March	£ 56.16 (VAT£4.59)
iv.	Shrublands Garden Svs	HDPF work	£ 200.00
v.	TT Jones	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 57.30 (VAT£9.55)

All five invoices were **approved** for payment.

(d) To approve payment of invoices received since the publication of the agenda:

i.	Secret Gardens	Grass verge cutting – March	£ 38.00
ii.	Garden Aid	Churchyard & Cems maint – March	£ 352.00

Both invoices were **approved** for payment.

(e) To agree to appoint an internal auditor

Three quotes were distributed before the meeting to all councillors. It was agreed to appoint Helen Carrier on the basis of continuity as last year's auditor for the fee of £55.00.

7. Planning

(a) To consider the following planning applications

- PF/21/0567 - The Seahouse, Temple Drive, Weybourne, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 7ET
Extensions to side and rear; replacement roof with raised ridge height;
external alterations

It was **agreed** the council **opposes** this application on the basis of overdevelopment of the area, change of character, close to the Marlpit which is a SSSI (site of special scientific interest), potential of wildlife and habitat damage and non-compliment with the Dark Skies agreement.

Cllr Stubbs stated that a part of a hedge has been taken out around the back of the property, which has raised concerns as this is between the Marlpit and the property. Cllr Stubbs to email this information over to Cllr Swift to look into this further.

(b) To consider planning applications received since the publication of the agenda

None received.

(c) To receive any updates on affordable housing

Cllr Swift stated we are still waiting on the Sheringham development in regards to updates.

8. Highways & Footpath matters:

(a) To receive updates on installation of white lines on The Street and Sheringham Road

Cllr Swift stated that after various issues that this work will be rectified over the coming week. The Clerk will chase this up from next week onwards.

(b) To receive any updates on the streetlighting replacements

It was agreed in the last meeting to move forward with column replacements for the further three lights from this coming year's budget. The Clerk to revise quotes and bring these to the next meeting.

(c) To discuss verge cutting

Cllr Stubbs stated this was something that the parish council did discuss approx. 18 months ago. Councils have a duty to defend and improve bio-diversity according to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The idea would be to cut verges less frequently to help wildlife, wildflowers and bees, which has proved successful elsewhere. We do get a grant for this work but we would need to find out if we do cut the verges less then could we lose this grant.

There are two main routes to improve bio-diversity – to reduce the cutting to twice a year and let what is there to grow with little maintenance, a lot cheaper and natural, or the alternative way which is to strip off the turf and sow wildflower seeds including an annual mix, which is a big investment and would require more maintenance.

To move this forward Cllr Stubbs has proposed a pilot scheme on a couple of verges to test the bio-diversity and to see peoples' responses. In these areas to add markers and explanations on what we would like to achieve in these areas including a mowed edge.

It was **agreed** by all councillors to move forward on this proposal and to comply with 'No Mow May'.

Cllr Stubbs to send around information to all councillors on verge locations etc. and to contact the Clerk in regards to instructing 'No Mow May' to our current contractors.

9. Allotments

To receive the allotment report

A report was received by all Councillors from Cllr Crawford.

Tenancy is still at full capacity.

The top wooden sleepers of raised beds could not be replaced due the reduced availability of the landscapers assigned to the job.

The trees growing along the allotment paths, which were starting to interfere with the power cables have been cut, allowing more light on the southernmost plots.

Dog waste continues to found on the allotments so all owners of dogs off leads will continue to be reminded of the PC rules.

Cllr Stubbs confirmed that the dog warden has been contacted but as this is private land they cannot help.

Cllr Harrison to measure the allotment accesses to see if any of his surplus gates would fit.

10. Village Hall

To receive the Weybourne Village Hall Management Committee report

A report was received by all Councillors.

New audio visual equipment has been fitted and internet will be added soon. Going forward from May onwards various events have been planned from film evenings to streamlining live events etc.

11. Harry Dawson Playing Field

(a) To receive report regarding the playing field weekly inspections and consider any recommendations

Cllr Taylor stated no further issues as from previous reports apart from notices had been blown down and too damaged to put up again.

(b) To confirm Cllr Woodhouse to carry out the weekly playing field inspection between 7th April 2021 and 5th May 2021

It was **confirmed** that Cllr Woodhouse will carry out the weekly inspections. The Clerk to send a template report.

(c) To receive any updates in regards to funding possibilities and future developments at the HDPF

The Clerk attended a Fundraising webinar and gave some positive information back to Cllr Swift. Cllr Swift to speak to the Clerk about ways of moving forward, with the next part to liaise with who has taken interest and to devise what equipment etc. is wanted/needed and to come up with some ideas regarding design etc. so an estimated amount can be generated.

Now weather is getting better we have teams of people who can help with painting.

We have current funds from the HDPF Committee dissolution which can be used for the painting costs etc.

Starting point will be a 'Go Fund Me' page so residents can donate etc. Then going to write to anyone with a holiday home and businesses in the village in regards to donating. So, tackle the small funding first before tackling the match funding.

Cllr Stubbs asked when the paint session will take place? Cllr Swift proposed the weekend after half term but will confirm in our next meeting.

The Clerk to set up a new bank account for this ringfenced money and to keep an up-to-date record of donations etc. so people can be thanked.

12. Weybourne Community Fund

To receive the Weybourne Community Fund report

Cllr Woodhouse stated no updates.

13. Governance:

(a) To confirm the draft structure of the annual parish meeting

The draft structure was confirmed by all councillors.

(b) To confirm the draft co-option advert and application form for the councillor vacancy

The draft co-option advert and application form were confirmed by all councillors. It was agreed by all councillors that the vacancy will be advertised for three weeks and the new councillor will be confirmed at our next meeting.

(c) To review the draft PC asset list and the renewal risk presentation from our current insurance provider

It was **agreed** we need to confirm how many litter bins and grit bins there are in the village.

(d) To review insurance quotes

Three quotes were sent around to all councillors.

It was **agreed** to inform BHIB to take their quote on a three-year period starting from 1 June 2021.

(e) To discuss broadband fibre funding

Cllr Swift sent all this information prior to the meeting. One of our residents sent information to Cllr Swift in regards to getting funding per person towards broadband fibre instead of what the village has at present. There are some residents with poor internet connections so this will provide much faster speeds. As the village has this issue then we can apply for a funding grant. A small number of businesses and residents would need to apply to start this process.

A resident from Cley stated this is set up in their village and gave some background on how this was set up.

Cllr Swift to contact the resident for advice on how to start the process etc.

(f) To receive any updates regarding the dead trees issue in Weybourne Caravan Park

Cllr Stubbs stated that a response from Simon Case said that basically it is up the caravan park if they wish to add more trees onto the park and that we would support this, although the caravan park owner is likely to link this to permission to develop the site further. Cllr Stubbs to keep in contact with Simon Case for further updates.

(g) To receive any updates on the village emergency plan

To be deferred to a later meeting.

(h) To receive any updates on the village survey

WVHMC questionnaire has been passed onto Cllr Swift.

Cllr Swift to distribute the village survey information to councillors ready for distribution throughout the village.

(i) To consider subscription renewals for both Norfolk ALC and NPTS

It was agreed to pay the subscription to Norfolk ALC and the Clerk to report back in what capacity we have used NPTS.

(j) To consider a donation to the Norfolk Citizens Advice

It was **agreed** to donate £200 to the Norfolk Citizens Advice. Proposed by Cllr P Gallally and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

14. Correspondence to consider and respond to the following:

(a) Items received since the publication of the agenda

Cllr Stubbs highlighted correspondence from the National ALC regarding a Coastal Communities webinar on 27 April which would be good for us to attend. It was agreed that Cllr Harrison and Cllr P Gallally would attend the webinar. Cllr Stubbs to forward the information.

Cllr Stubbs stated from the Norfolk ALCs newsletter that we should be involved in the 'Great British Spring Clean'. Proposed for advertise this to resident and to include this onto our next agenda.

Cllr Stubbs stated there is an Environmental Form with NNDC on the 23 April which she will attend.

Victoria Holliday from Cley next the Sea introduced herself to the councillors and stated that she has been selected as a candidate for the District Councillor role within the Coastal Ward. Victoria gave some background on herself and what she would like to achieve as a District Councillor.

15. To confirm date of the next Parish Council Meeting which includes the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed on Wednesday 5th May 2021 starting from 6.30pm followed by the next Parish Council Meeting starting from 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.04pm