

WANGFORD WITH HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Wangford Community Centre Committee Room at 7.30pm Tuesday 14th February 2023

Present: Chair Cllr S Smith, Cllrs T Carter, S Farrands, S Ives, R Miller, G Pepper.

Also in attendance: District Cllr. N Brooks.

Parish Clerk, Greg Radcliffe taking minutes.

Declarations of Interest – None.

Receipt and acceptance of apologies – Cllr A. Smith, Cllr E. Utting, Cllr R. Waters.

PUBLIC FORUM –to include COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Brooks attended the meeting.

New council tax budgets - Council tax budgets are subject to a 2.8% increase and this will be set next week. No services will be cut.

Holding company – East Suffolk Council has created an independent holding company to provide district services. It will mainly affect refuse collection. All NORSE staff members can be TUPE'd over to the new company if they wish. This new arrangement will save a substantial amount of money, including a management fee. Cllr Brooks said that the public will not notice any difference in service provision.

Third bridge crossing - Cllr Brooks advised that good progress is being made and the major construction is about to begin. On 3.3.23 part of Denmark Road, Lowestoft will close due to the construction of the bridge. Cllr Brooks said that a special crane is needed for part of the work, but it will not be available until July 2023. It is hoped that the third bridge will be open in the early part of 2024.

Elections – Cllr Brooks mentioned the forthcoming elections to be held in May.

Henham Quarry – Cllr Farrands asked Cllr Brooks for his views on the application for the proposed extension at Henham Quarry. Cllr Brooks replied that he is unable to answer questions on that subject as he sits on the Planning Application Committee and it would be a conflict of interest.

Thanks – The Wangford councillors present thanked Cllr Brooks for attending many of their meetings and providing updates.

Cllr Brooks left the meeting at 7.42pm.

Acceptance of Minutes of Meeting Held 10th January 2023 –

Proposed, Cllr R. Miller, 2nd Cllr S Farrands. All In Favour (AIF).

Matters Arising from The Minutes of Previous Meetings

Bus stops – There has been no word from Cllr. Dunning – Cllr. Farrands suggested adding a message regarding lack of progress to the Wangford Facebook page. Cllr S. Smith to research this.

MUGA – Cllr S. Smith ran through what needs to be done and added that full repairs can be carried out by Trevor Clark.

Eon bill – Cllr S. Smith said that the parish council is paying £20 per month just for lighting the MUGA. There was a general discussion about how to gain better access to the area in case the key is not available along with whether the boards and posts should be taken down? Cllr S. Ives felt it would be helpful to let villagers know that they need to use the area or they could lose it. Cllr S Farrands suggested putting an article in The Messenger advising that the area is not economically viable as it is not used. Cllr S. Smith will write an article for The Messenger. Cllr S. Farrands suggested switching off the electricity so that there would not be a standing charge. Cllr S. Smith said that the goal posts have been delivered and they are in the tractor shed – they will be put up in the spring.

Any Other Councillor Reports

Reports on:

Police Report sourced from Suffolk Constabulary website – there was concern about the relatively high number of reported crimes from the website. There is no information about the radius covered and all present felt that it would be reassuring to have a police representative attend a PC meeting to explain this. Clerk to write to Suffolk Constabulary regarding this matter.

Notice board – Cllr S. Ives said that a resident had approached her to say that the village notice board had not been updated. Cllr S. Smith said that the board had recently been updated. The Clerk added that he had not been aware of the issue and also that he had just found the notice board key which had been put in a finance folder. The Clerk will keep the board updated from now on.

Sue Taylor – Cllr S. Farrands mentioned that Sue Taylor has not been receiving PC meeting minutes. Ms Taylor was also not aware that PC meetings begin at 7.30pm now. Clerk to email Ms Taylor regarding the altered 7.30pm meeting start time and ensure she receives meeting minutes in the future.

Sign – Cllr S. Farrands advised that the “Dead End” sign in Blacksmiths Close is rotten and needs replacing. Cllr G. Pepper said that he had reported this to East Suffolk Council, but they did not appear to be interested. Clerk to contact Highways Department.

Potholes – Cllr S. Farrands said that Mardle Road (next to Reydon Grange) has a lot of potholes which need repairing. Clerk to contact Highways Department.

PC accounts – Cllr S. Smith reminded councillors that he has statements for all the PC accounts if they would like to see them at any time.

Chickens on allotments – There was a general discussion about the possibility of adding a supplement for allotment holders who keep chickens as they are attracting rats.

Tidying village – Cllr S. Smith suggested that it might be worthwhile asking residents to volunteer to form a working party to sweep up leaves and tidy the village generally.

Coronation celebrations – Cllr Farrands suggested that it would be a nice idea to put the photographs from the Queen’s Jubilee in the church and also arrange some flowers (funded by Parish Council) for the Coronation weekend. She continued that Monday of that weekend is “volunteer day” and that it would be helpful to ask residents to sign up to tidy the village (suggestions were painting, tidying the community garden & conifers, etc.) for 2 – 3 hours. At the end volunteers would be rewarded with a tea party (funded by Parish Council). Another idea was for residents to have red, white and blue themes in their gardens.

Proposed (in principle), Cllr S. Farrands, 2nd Cllr G. Pepper. All In Favour (AIF).

Finance

Accounts for Payment

	COST	VAT	TOTAL
Clerk’s salary for December 2022	£225.00	-	£225.00
Clerk’s travel, 34 miles at 45p per mile	£15.30	-	£15.30

Printer toner	£22.95		£22.95
Clerk's training (via Jean Brown)	£30.00		£30.00
Spurdens pest control invoice	£55.12	£11.02	£66.14
E-on electricity bill for MUGA	£19.91		£19.91
Allotment water bill	£71.21		£71.21
Community centre hire	£77.10		£77.10
Total			<u>£527.61</u>

Proposed for payment Cllr S Farrands, 2nd Cllr S. Ives, AIF.

Accounts already paid - None

Receipts:

Bank Statement Figures -

Current Account: £5,306.89

Business Account: £7,064.21

Latitude Ticket Sales Account £17,738.28

Correspondence –

Email from Aileen & Bill Irving regarding "Proposed Southern Extension to Wangford Quarry".
 Email from Ian & Maggie Hall regarding "Proposed Southern Extension to Wangford Quarry".
 Email from Sally Luther (Oxon) regarding "Proposed Southern Extension to Wangford Quarry".
 Email from Amelia Watson regarding allotment availability.
 Reply from Cllr M. Rudd about hospital waiting times.

Cllr S. Farrands said that the proposed extension to Wangford quarry is at pre-planning stage and therefore nothing can be voted on at this stage. Until there is a planning application there is nothing to object to. Cllr S. Farrands will attend the forthcoming exhibition (21 & 22 February) and talk with Breedon. She is also on the Quarry Liaison Committee and at the last meeting it was said that extras are being applied for on the last piece of land owned on Mardle Road. This will impact on the reed beds and was not accepted in the minerals plan. Clerk to respond to the above Wangford quarry emails accordingly.

Cllr G. Pepper kindly offered to contact Miss Watson about allotment availability.

The Clerk read out Cllr M. Rudd's reply to the query about what happened to the promised 6 bed unit when Southwold hospital closed. The reply advised that the current model includes care provision from Out of Hospital teams along with intermediate care beds at Beccles hospital and NHS funded beds with care in local residential & nursing homes.

Planning

a. Applications received: None

b. Decisions received: None

Any Other Business – None

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Website: www.wangfordwithhenham.onesuffolk.net

Next meeting Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.30pm.