



MINUTES

of the WEST ROW Parish Council meeting held on 21st September 2022

at 7pm in THE CHURCH HALL, WEST ROW

Present:

Cllr R Hamill
Cllr A Fisher
Cllr T Gooch-Taylor-Balls
Cllr A Goodenough
Cllr J Goodenough

In attendance: Sharon Vale - Parish Clerk
C/Cllr L Stanbury, and 10 members of the public

1. **Chairman's Welcome**

Cllr R Hamill presided and welcomed all to the meeting. Everyone present was informed that the meeting was being recorded under data protection policy.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Sqn Ldr A Bell, Cllr C Noble, D/Cllr D Waldron, Cllr M Peachey and Cllr C Bebee.

3. **Councillors' Declarations of Interest**

- (a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda – None.
- (b) For declarations of interest received, Councillors to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter during public participation and/or at the agenda item prior to discussion - None.

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- (c) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) – None.
- (d) To grant any request for dispensation as appropriate – None.

4. Public Participation (10 minutes in total)

Susan McGuinness discussed her complaint to the Parish Council about the recent planning application for the Dog Park along The Green. She asked why the neighbours had not been consulted by the Parish Council about the planning before the Parish Council submitted their comments to West Suffolk Council. C/Cllr L Stanbury explained how the planning system worked. This was then discussed in more detail under Item 7 – Planning.

5. Approval of Minutes

- (a) To approve the minutes of the meeting on the 17th August 2022 (**Paper A**). A motion to **APPROVE** the previous minutes was made and proposed by Cllr A Goodenough and seconded by Cllr A Fisher.

6. External Reports

To receive reports from both the County and District Councillors and RAF Mildenhall.

- (a) Sqn Ldr A Bell – RAF Mildenhall - Nothing to report.
- (b) D/Cllr D Waldron – Nothing to report.
- (c) C/Cllr L Stanbury – Updated us on the UK shared prosperity fund. Awaiting to hear further information. The Government has just announced a rural England prosperity fund to be dedicated to various projects in rural communities. We have until 30th November to apply for this funding to help existing businesses etc. C/Cllr L Stanbury will provide us with additional information. Mildenhall Hub is celebrating its first-year anniversary which has been a great success. Community chest is a huge fund to support residents through health and wellbeing projects and there is a funding period for this which will close on 30th September, when the Council will allocate funds to certain community groups. Local plan has come to an end and the consultation is in process. C/Cllr L Stanbury spoke about Anglia in Bloom being a nationwide event and maybe West Row can investigate taking part.
- (d) D/Cllr C Noble – Nothing to report.

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7. Planning

Planning application – Change of use from Paddock to dog training field with adjacent parking – Land adjacent to Rolfe Close, The Green, West Row. West Suffolk Council agreed that the Parish Council could reverse our original decision on the grounds that we were not informed of the amended plans. After reviewing the amended plans and comments made by neighbours and Suffolk Highways, we **OBJECTED** and **AGREED** to decline the application on the grounds of adverse effect on the residential amenity of neighbours, noise disturbance, overlooking and loss of privacy, effect on the neighbourhood, highways safety, traffic generation and road access. Cllr A Fisher proposed, and Cllr A Goodenough seconded. Clerk to write to James Morriss in the Planning Department at West Suffolk Council to make a formal complaint about how this planning application was handled.

8. Matters Relating to Governance

None.

9. Financial Matters

- (a) Approval of Accounts – Payments – September 2022 (**Paper B**) – **APPROVED AND AGREED** Cllr A Fisher proposed, and Cllr J Goodenough seconded.
- (b) Approval of August 2022 Bank Reconciliation (**Paper C**) **APPROVED AND AGREED** Cllr A Fisher proposed, and Cllr J Goodenough seconded.

10. Matters Relating to Street Furniture/Amenity Provision

- (a) Update on Footpaths/Bridleway Projects – Footpath from Friday Street across playing fields that cuts through the allotments. Mildenhall Parish Charities trustees are meeting today Wednesday 21st September, where hopefully they will decide how they would like to proceed. Update next month.
- (b) Report on Speed Indicator Device Findings – All roads are a lot better this month. Pott Hall Road has greatly improved.
- (c) SID post Ferry Lane to Hurdle Drove – Still waiting for this to be done. The Quiet Lane post which was damaged has been replaced and the sign reinstated.
- (d) Update on Footpath 30 along river at bottom of The Gravel – Defer.
- (e) Update on Footpath from Cricks Road into Church Road – D/Cllr C Noble is now trying to get an answer from SCC Highways as to how we can advance this.

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- (f) Update on hedging along footpath running from Ferry Lane to the Church – Letter received from Barry Rolfe. Clerk has spoken to West Suffolk Council on how they can intervene under 'high hedges legislation'. For West Suffolk Council to get involved would cost the Parish Council more than £300. Clerk to write to Mrs T A Lovatt to try and resolve this issue.
- (g) Update on Brown Tourist signs along Cow and Sheep Drove – C/Cllr L Stanbury continues to work on this.
- (h) SCC Development – Cllr M Peachey continues to speak with various officers at West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council and had a Zoom meeting with the people who are dealing with the planning application on behalf of Suffolk County Council (the landowner). We must bear in mind that the following update is all still subject to the planning application being approved. Firstly, the most positive news - our demand that the application must include a new pavement running along Pott Hall Road to where it joins the path to Mildenhall has now been agreed, with an estimated cost of £120k to be paid by the developer. It is expected that the developer will install the path themselves when they do the new roads within the development. This is a massive win for the Parish Council.

The plans now also include a properly tarmacked combined pedestrian/cyclist link between Chapel Road and Cricks Road as we had requested. The exact route will be subject to some legal work, but multiple options have been identified. The main point is that while the detail is yet to be finalised, the principle of the connection has been agreed, and Suffolk County Council will provide the land required. It is expected that the construction will be carried out by Suffolk County Council's own contractors, and that the developer will provide any funds required in addition to the funds being provided by the Waters development.

However, the fight is not yet over. They are hoping to bring the application to the planning committee soon, they were aiming for October but more likely it will be November. The S106 agreement, which will be crucial to us as it will include details about the parish office land, ownership of the parkland on the site, footpath details, etc, will not be ready in time for the application decision, so they propose to put together a document called a "heads of terms" that will include the key points that the S106 will need to include, which will be drawn up following any approval of the application. It is therefore vital that we pay very close attention to the "heads of terms" document when it becomes available. It is possible that we may still want to object to the application if we are not satisfied.

Update on Suffolk County Council Development Cemetery Land – Cllr M Peachey had both good and bad news. The good news is that following negotiation with the EA, they are now willing to accept groundwater level monitoring from just one borehole, not the four that were originally proposed.

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Mr Norman has agreed to this, and the hole should be drilled on Friday 23rd September. Once drilled, a machine will be inserted which should monitor the groundwater levels through until next spring. Obviously, the reduced number of monitoring wells also reduces the costs to us. In addition to the groundwater monitoring, we also need groundwater pollutant testing, pollutant flux models, a site design, and further reports. The revised cost breakdown from the consultant, assuming things go well the total costs of around £8k should hopefully get us to a stage where the EA are happy. The estimated cost is less than the £10k authorised last month so all good there. The less good news is that Suffolk County Council's agent does not want to include the proposed cemetery land transfer as part of the planning application S106. This is not to say they are changing their mind, only that they want to do it separately. Cllr M Peachey made it clear that if they want to do it outside of the S106 agreement then that would be acceptable to us, so long as we have a clear commitment to it in writing prior to the application being decided, to protect us.

At this stage the application is only an outline one, so exact details such as house designs, materials, etc are not being discussed, that will come later. It is expected that if the current application is approved, the detailed application will be made by a different architect working for the developer, who is likely to be Lovells.

- (i) Update on defibrillator – Cllr A Fisher to speak to Emma Harrison. Defer until October.
- (j) Update on Beacon landscaping – Two quotes to be obtained to remove chalk and to lay topsoil and landscape. Cllr R Hamill to obtain a quote from R H Landscapes and Cllr A Goodenough to obtain a quote from Rosedale Garden Services.

11. Other Working Party Updates/Reports

- (a) Update on Emergency Plan Policy – Cllr R Hamill and Cllr A Fisher. Plan has been reviewed and needs a bit more work. Work in progress.
- (b) Update on litter picking - Crooks Drove/Cow and Sheep Drove and the Village. Good turnout from the Village and about 30 bags of rubbish collected. Close.
- (c) Update on Coat of Arms – No update. Cllr R Hamill to investigate costings. Defer.
- (d) Councillor photographs – Cllr T Gooch-Taylor-Balls to provide photo. Close.
- (e) Echo/Parish Magazine – Meeting on 26th September at 10am in the Church Hall.
- (f) Neighbourhood Plan – Ian Poole currently putting the residents' survey together.

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12. Protocol for Marking the Death of a Sovereign

Actions to be taken on the death of a Senior Royal. Protocol now in place but needs amending. Close.

13. Village Hall

Promote community interaction – film nights, creche, bingo, t-dance, line dancing etc. Clerk to invite Gary Morley to the next Council meeting to enable us to discuss this further.

14. Allotment Matters

Allotment Association had their meeting this month, where it was decided that there would not be a rent increase this year. Tenancy agreements and invoices to go out to allotment holders this month. Cllr A Goodenough to ask the allotment holders if they would agree to having a bench placed with a plaque on John Smith's old plot. Cllr A Goodenough to obtain a quote for 50 tonnes of manure.

15. Filling of Council Vacancy

West Suffolk Council have received no request from 10 local government electors for holding an election. Parish Council now eligible to fill the vacancy by co-option. Vacancy will now be advertised on the notice board and the website. Co-option policy has been written up and adopted. **APPROVED AND AGREED.** Cllr A Goodenough proposed, and Cllr T Gooch-Taylor seconded.

16. Events 2022

- (a) Remembrance Sunday – 10am to 11am on Saturday 12th November. Clerk to email David Everett. On Friday 11th November Councillors and villagers to hold a service. Cllr R Hamill to speak to West Row Academy about attending on the Friday or Saturday – Update next month.
- (b) Christmas Planning – Update next month.

17. Chairman and Councillors' Reports/Suggestions (on the night)

Protocol for the Queen's death all went to plan. Cllr R Hamill attended the Proclamation in Mildenhall.

Cllr A Goodenough, Cllr J Goodenough, Cllr A Fisher and Cllr R Hamill to attend the Joan Mann Special Sports Day on Friday 30th September at RAF Mildenhall. Cllr A Goodenough to obtain a quotation for planting flowers at the Memorial.

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Cllr A Fisher asked if he could advertise on the website the MacMillan coffee morning on Friday 30th September.

Kevin Peachey asked if he could replant the flower tubs outside the old Fish Shop at no expense to the Parish Council.

18. Correspondence and Exchange of Additional Information (at the discretion of the Chairman)

Complaint from Mrs S McGuinness re planning application for a Dog Park at Nursery House, The Green - Close

Bench at Isleham Lock House. Bench has now been removed from the Lock House. We now have two spare benches. One bench to go to the allotments on John Smith's old plot. Cllr A Goodenough to ask allotment holders if they will agree to this. In the next edition of the Parish Echo, we will ask villagers for their opinion on where to place the other bench.

Grass cutting Church Green – Cllr A Goodenough to take over the cutting of the grass.

The meeting then closed at 8:50pm

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