

MARKET WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Market Weston Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 18th January 2024 7.00pm in Market Weston Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: P Barham, P Freeman, A Hall, M Martin, W.S Cllr Bull & C. Cllr J Spicer

1. Co-option of new Parish Councillor

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr D Fulcher

In the absence of Cllr Fulcher, Cllr Martin chaired the meeting.

3. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

3.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.

3.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

3.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None.

8. Minutes - The minutes of the Thursday 16th November 2023 meeting agreed and approved as a correct record.

5. Meeting open to the public 2 members of the public present.

2 residents, from a property at the end of Ponds End Lane, came to speak to the Parish Council and Cllr Spicer about an issue with potential flooding at their property. The recent rain saw water almost breaching their threshold, fortunately they were home at the time and were able to sweep the water away. Ahead of the Parish Council meeting Cllr Spicer had been contacted about the problem and she is trying to make arrangements to visit the property tomorrow when she is in the area with a Suffolk County Council Community Engineer, Mike McLean. Another SCC engineer, Andrew Moore has also been alerted to the problem and they will both investigate the matter. Cllr Spicer will keep the Parish Council updated regarding progress. **Action Cllr Spicer**

6. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

Cllr Spicer reported that the SCC budget proposals, for 2024/25, will be presented to its Scrutiny Committee meeting on 11 January. The proposals would give the council a budget of around £752 million for 2024/25, made up of funding coming from Government, business rates, charges for services and council tax. The proposed budget would require a 4.99% increase in council tax in next year. This would be made up of a 2.99% increase in general council tax and a 2% increase dedicated to funding adult care. This means the costs for Band D property would be £30.21 per week (£1.43 per week increase from 2023/24).

7. Report from B. Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull informed the Councillors that West Suffolk Local Plan Submission Draft (Regulation 19) consultation documents are going live from consultation on 31st January. The Clerk will circulate the documents for consideration. It was noted that there was an oil theft in the village recently.

8. Chairman

Overgrowth outside Ponds End. Cllr Hall will speak to the residents again about the plants growing over the path. **Action Cllr Hall**

9. Clerk:

9.1 To discuss option to attend the West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum

The Clerk intends to attend the next Parish and Town forum, to be held on 18th March, 19.00-20.30 in Mildenhall. Other members are welcome to attend if they wish to do so.

9.2 To give feedback on the SALC conference.

The Clerk found this to be a very informative and enjoyable event. A report has produced with a summary of the event which is available on request.

9.3 To provide information on fit villages project.

Active Suffolk currently deliver the Fit Villages Project across Suffolk, and they are looking for new projects in villages across West Suffolk. Fit Villages is a well-established and popular project. that is now entering its thirteenth year. It plays a vital role supporting Active Suffolk's vision to inspire more people across Suffolk to get active, improving their health and wellbeing. The funding will be used to continue setting up more physical activity sessions for adults aged over 55 by using local facilities such as community centres, village halls, libraries and playing fields.

If we would like to register an interest in having a Fit Village in our area, please we need to contact fitvillages@activesuffolk.org

9.4 To provide information on West Suffolk Councils Cost of living support and advice.

The Clerk has put a link to some up-to-date cost of living advice on the website. This was also circulated to the councillors.

9.5 Trustee nomination, Market Weston charities.

It was provisionally agreed that Cllr Martin should be re-elected as a trustee to the Market Weston United Charities. This will be ratified at the March meeting.

Action Cllr Martin/Clerk

10. The Green/Play area report

10.1 to receive an update on the continuing maintenance of The Green, including any update on the current status of the mower.

Stephen Hatten has found a replacement mower, in good condition, in the region of £2,500. It was agreed, in principle, that this probably the best option going forward. Cllr Fulcher will do some more work on this before a final decision is made. It was agreed that we would need to factor in a figure for fuel into our next budget.

Action Cllr Fulcher/Clerk

10.2 To discuss matter raised in the inspection report following meeting with WS Parks Manager.

Following a meeting with the WS Parks manager it was agreed that the yellow flagged items, (i) Tree Trunk, we will continue to monitor with the understanding that we will probably have to remove this in the future. (ii) The Adventure trail, we need to remove the stepping stones, these can be replaced if we so desire.

The items flagged green, (i) Seating Area, we need to clean and monitor, we could potentially use the wood to create a stumpery in the future. (ii) The Basket swing, we could use a steel shoe into the ground. This was felt unnecessary at this time and the use of weed killer around posts will be employed, to avoid further strimmer damage, going forward.

It was agreed to remove the wooden bench, near the entrance from Common Road

The Clerk is still waiting for a price for grass safety matting under the basket swing.

Areas of the concrete path were considered to be a trip hazard.

A new issue was raised, a metal fixing has been exposed. Cllr Fulcher will check this out.

It was agreed that a working party would meet on the Green on 23rd March at 10am to tackle the works listed above. It was felt that we should get rid of any yellow flagged items. We would then carry out an exercise to see what the residents of the Parish Would like to replace, moving forward.

Action All

10.3 To receive any updates regarding signage for The Green.

It was agreed that the working party will clean or remove any signage that was dirty or duplicated/incorrect when they meet in March.

Action All

11. Highway matters

11.1 To discuss issues with flooding in Ponds End Lane/ The Street
See under item 5.

11.2 To receive any update on potential VAS project, to include possible post locations.
Cllr Freeman has done some work on identifying potential sites for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). There would be a preference to use the existing posts, but we are not sure if this will be possible. It was agreed that there would be nothing to lose by looking further at potential sites, contacting residents close to those sites and submitting an application to SCC for consideration, before making a final decision on whether to move the project forward and invest in a device. Cllr Freeman and the Clerk will get together to take these next steps. **Action Cllr Freeman/Clerk**

Chapter 8 training

The Clerk has been in touch with SCC about the current arrangements for Chapter 8 training. This is a qualification that is required for anyone working on the highway. The Highway includes both the roadway and the pavement. The Clerk will look into arrangements for current training. Cllrs Freeman and Barham would like to undertake the training. The Clerk will ask Cllr Fulcher if he would also like to undertake the training. **Action Cllrs/Freman/Barham/Clerk**

11.3 To receive any update on footpath signage.
The footpath sign, off church Road, is down. This has been reported to SCC.

12. Finance.

12.1 To consider payments and note any receipts.

Administration	Various	-£725.87
Annual support	community heartbeat trust	-£162.00

12.2 Bank reconciliation, budget report and accounts update.
The clerk provided the Councillors with a schedule of payments, budget report and bank reconciliation for information.

12.3 To note acceptance of Precept request and confirmation of taxbase from West Suffolk Council.

West Suffolk council confirmed receipt of our Precept request for 2024/25. West Suffolk council confirmed that, provisional tax base figures previously provided, were approved by West Suffolk Council, so there will be no changes to the forms already sent. Also agreed by West Suffolk Council was the continuation of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024-25 for the up to 100% discount for working age claimants. In line with the attached report. The tax base figures provided already assumed the continuation of the scheme.

13. Planning Matters to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.

13.1 DC/23/2021/LB DC/23/2020/HH a. single storey side extension b. demolition of entrance lobby and replacement with single-storey entrance hall c. replacement windows d. installation of solar panel array on front roof of outbuilding. Chapel Cottage, Church Road. The Parish Council raised **No objections** to this application.

13.2 DC/22/1250/FUL Cinque Farm Bury Road, To note Conditions Discharged by West Suffolk Council. Concerns were raised as to whether the condition 8 has been carried out. Cllr Bull will look into this. **Action Cllr Bull**

14. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

14.1 To confirm works to noticeboard. Some works had been carried out to replace the laminated front. Cllr Barham is going to put up a solar powered light. **Action Cllr Barham**

15. Correspondence for information

15.1 West Suffolk Council - Strategic Priorities for 2024-28, circulated for information.

15.2 PRECEPT SURVEY: PCC proposes increase in precept to fund Constabulary in 2024/25. Noted.

15.3 Plug In Suffolk

This information has been shared with the village hall.

15.4 A letter of thanks, for the donation made, was received from market Weston Village Hall.

16. Aide memoire

16.1 Tree planting project, Cllr Hall.

16.2 Flooding issues, Cllr Hall.

17. Date of next meeting: March 21st 2024 7pm

18. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:

18.1 Personnel Issues. None.

18.2 Legal Issues. None.