

MARKET WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Market Weston Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7.00pm in Market Weston Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D Fulcher, P Freeman, M Martin, C Snelling & W.S Cllr C Bull

1. Apologies for absence Cllr A Hall & C.Cllr J Spicer

2. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. Cllr Snelling declared an interest in item 11.1 on the agenda.

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

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

3. Co-option of new Parish Councillor.

We currently have two vacancies for Councillors on the Parish Council. Any residents who might be interested in joining the Parish Council are encourage to contact either the Clerk or any the existing Councillor, contact details are on the Parish Council website

Marketweston@onesuffolk.net for further information.

4. Minutes - Minutes of the Thursday 8th September 2022 Parish Council meeting confirmed and agreed as a correct record.

5. Meeting open to the public

None present.

6. Report from County Councillor:

Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting and sent her apologies.

7. Report from West Suffolk Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull has sent round a copy of the West Suffolk Newsletter. The first part contains information about what is happening in Bury St Edmunds this Christmas but the bulk of it is a new Newsletter that the Council has started to produce which Cllr Bull thought we might like to see and which she shall send out in future on a monthly basis. There is a considerable amount of information about what is going on in different areas as well schemes that are available and applicable to all residents. It covers information on Warm Homes, recycling, West Suffolk Councils work with Landlords, business development and career and skills fair and much more.

8.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had no additional report to make this month.

8.2 Clerks Report

8.2.1 To discuss requirement for a History recorder.

A request has been received for a History Recorder for Market Weston. The principal aim is to collect, observe and record what is happening today in the parish as that will become tomorrow's history. It is not an onerous job with back up and advice supplied, if required. The Recorder does not need to have lived in the parish for years, or be a historian. They would be asked for the collection of any parish magazine, leaflets, election papers etc., to list the organisations in the parish and note any changes such as the closure/opening of shops, new buildings etc. Only two things are asked of the Recorders, that they are on-line to aid communication, and, that they submit a short report each year. This can just be two sides of A4 (or more) summarising the activities in the parish, and should be sent to the organisers electronically or by mail. The reports are then deposited into the Suffolk Archives. Cllr Freeman could potentially be interested in this role. The Clerk will forward him some more details.

Action Cllr Freeman/Clerk

8.2.2 To discuss the option to purchase the latest copy of Charles Arnold Barker and new office chair.

There is a new version of Charles Arnold Baker, costing £131.99. There has been at least 13 updates since the 6th edition, which is the addition we currently hold. Barningham Parish Council are happy to contribute a higher, pro-rata amount. This would mean Market Weston would need to pay £16.50. The Councillors agreed to this amount.

The Clerk needs a new office chair. As with above Barningham will contribute a larger percentage towards the purchase price of approx. £200. Market Weston are happy to contribute up to £30 towards the purchase.

Action Clerk

8.2.3 Issues with HMRC

The Clerk has been contacted by HMRC about an issue with filing returns. She has written to them to explain the situation and ask for further advice.

10 Finance.

10.1 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Various	Admin	£784.29
Community Action Suffolk	Website	£60.00
ICO	subscription	£40.00
MWVH	Grant	£300.00
MWPCC	Grant	£300.00
Royal British Legion	S137	£50.00
Gallagher	Insurance	£377.84

10.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report

The Clerk provided an up to date bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and budget report for the Councillors information.

10.3 To discuss budget requirements for 2023/23, to include potential election costs.

It was noted that if an election were called it would cost between £1,500 and £2,000.

10.4 To discuss and respond to West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

West Suffolk Council is seeking views on some potential changes to its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) to support low-income working-age residents, in light of the current pressures on the cost of living. The council is considering an increase in the maximum discount to either 95 per cent or 100 per cent (from the current 91.5 per cent). If the maximum discount was increased to 95 per cent, those households benefitting from the change would pay £42.14 less in Council Tax over the year, on average, depending on the banding of their property. If the maximum discount was increased to 100 per cent, those households benefitting would pay an average of £103.32, depending on banding. The Councillors supported the option to increase the maximum discount to 95%. The Clerk will submit the response to West Suffolk.

Action Clerk.

10.5 To agree Precept amount for 2023/24

Due to the ongoing increase in costs generally it was proposed to increase the Precept this year. An increase to £8,149 would represent a nil percent increase; unfortunately, this was not felt sufficient to cover potential costs. The mower for the Green is broken and a repair or replacement could be quite expensive. It was felt a sensible precaution to get some quotes for a contractor to cut the Green as this might prove to be more cost effective moving forward. The Clerk will provide some further information about what impact a Precept of £8,500 and £8,750 would have on the a Band D property. Once this information is provided the Councillors will make a decision about the Precept amount for 2023/24. This decision will be ratified at the January meeting. **Action All/Clerk**

11. Planning Matters to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was 11.1 DC/22/1867/FUL partial change of use of existing garage/storage outbuilding (class C3) into holiday let (sui generis) Liberty House Hepworth Road.

The Parish Council supports this application on the understanding that the following condition is met: The Parish Council only support this application on the understanding that this conversion represents an addition to the existing property and remains within the existing properties curtilage and does not create a new, separate dwelling that could be split from the existing property and sold as a separate entity.

2. The Green/Play area report

12.1 Continuing maintenance of The Green

As the mower is not working, Cllr Fulcher has done the last cut of the year with a borrowed mower. We need to look at the cost of the repair of the mower before making a decision about having it repaired. Cllr Fulcher will look at the potential cost of a replacement mower and the Clerk will get quotes from local contractors to cut the Green. (See also under item 10.5)

Action Cllr Fulcher/Clerk

It was agreed to purchase a new shed alarm, up to the value of £100. Cllr Fulcher will look into this.

Action Cllr Fulcher

13. VAS project.

Due to concerns over expenditure it was agreed to put this item on hold until we were in a better position to make an informed decision.

14. Emergency Plan

The Clerk recirculated the draft document. We need to contact those who offered to help and set up a meeting to discuss actions and preparation of the plan. All the Councillors present are happy to get involved and this item will be revisited in the New Year.

Action All

15. Tree Warden Report.

There was no report this month.

16. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

There is a problem with one of the units in the book swap. Currently books are being left, in large quantities, on the floor. Cllr Martin will write a polite notice offering guidelines on how the book swap should work. Cllr Fulcher will look at replacing the damaged unit.

Actions Cllrs Martin/Fulcher

The main post for the kissing gate, on the Church Road to Hopton Footpath, is quite badly damaged. The Clerk will report this to Rights of Way for repair.

Action Clerk

The post for the dog bin, near the Church, appears to be failing. Cllr Fulcher will have a look at this and repair/replace as required.

Action Cllr Fulcher

17. Correspondence for information

17.1 Rural Mobility Survey. The Clerk will complete and submit this.

Action Clerk

18. Aide memoire

18.1 Tree planting project, Cllr Hall.

18.2 Flooding issues, Cllr Hall.

19. Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th January 2023.

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

20.1 Personnel Issues. None.

20.2 Legal Issues. None.