

MARKET WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Market Weston Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2019 7:30pm in Market Weston Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: D Fulcher, A Hall, S Allen, J Loden, P Brand B. Cllr Bull & C. Cllr J Spicer

1. Co-option of new Parish Councillor

Paul Brand and Jamie Loden were co-opted on to the Parish Council. The Clerk will arrange for the correct paperwork to be filed.

2. Apologies for absence Cllr M Martin

3. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

3.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.

3.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

3.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act.

4. Minutes - Minutes of Thursday 19th September 2019 meetings agreed and signed as a correct record

5. Meeting open to the public

The condition relating to the noise policy at Liberty House has been discharged, this means it has been put into action. The condition relating to bin storage has not been discharged, as Suffolk County Council are unhappy with the current arrangements. There was a discussion around waste disposal and it is still unclear if the owner is required to dispose of the waste on a commercial basis or not. Cllr Bull will continue to investigate this.

Residents raised concerns about West Suffolk Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). (see under item 11.1) Although the residents were reassured that this was not an assessment of whether the sites will be allocated in the future West Suffolk Local Plan nor does inclusion in the SHELAA imply or grant any planning permission, they would like the Parish Council to make it clear that any development should take into consideration the unique, peaceful and quiet environment that Market Weston enjoys and we should do all we can to preserve this. To this end, it was agreed that the Parish Council would look at the possibility of creating conservation areas in the village.

Action Clerk/Cllr Bull

6. Report from County Councillor:

Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Report from West Suffolk Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull had no report to make.

8. Chairman's Report

The chairman had no report to make.

9. Clerks Report

9.1 Highway matters. Winter awareness from SCC.

SCC are still promoting community involvement in winter work, the Clerk contacted SCC as she wants to know how this sits with Chapter 8 etc.? Surely, this constitutes works on the highways. She has been told, at the meeting with Mary Evans and Mark Stevens, that anyone working on the highways needs Chapter 8 traffic management training. However, she is having difficulty seeing how spreading grit differs from, for instance, cleaning a sign? If anything you could argue that gritting in winter conditions, poor light, visibility and icy roads, is potentially more dangerous than carrying out works in better weather condition. After expressing these concerns the clerk received the following response, which seems quite ridiculous; she will continue to pursue the issue. *“Anyone applying grit from either the County Council’s / parish / town councils’ or third parties’ grit bins to Suffolk’s footways and roads would be acting in an entirely different way from those undertaking work such as sign cleaning, vegetation clearance or footway skirting. The individuals carrying out the types of Community Self-Help work that fall under the scheme will be focusing their attention on their activity, rather than on passing pedestrian or vehicular traffic – so the presence of separate traffic management is required. Those spreading grit will, by contrast, be specifically conscious of passing traffic – they would apply common sense and time such spreading once that traffic is clear rather than throwing it at passing people or vehicles!”* The Clerk will continue to pursue this matter with SCC as well as with SALC and our insurance provider to clarify what works on the highway actually is.

9.2 Suffolk Preservation Society, landscape-training update

The Clerk attended some landscape training. It was a very informative presentation that looked in detail at the landscaping attached to new developments. Often a developer’s plan will not truly reflect the realities of what can be planted. By drilling down into the plans, at an early stage, more realistic goals can be set, with potentially better, forest scale trees and shrubbery being used rather than typical small, ornamental type trees. In addition, the ongoing maintenance plan can be agreed upon.

9.3 SALC training conference, confirmation of attendance

The Clerk attended the SALC, “Shaping Suffolk – working together to make a better place to live” conference. The speaker, from Mid Suffolk Council was advocating sharing information and the benefits of pre planning consultation. However, the District Council are not always able to share pre application information due to confidentiality issues. This can often make Parish Councils feel undervalued and that advice may have been given without local factors being taken in to consideration. Although we would support sharing information, it was disappointing that the planning department are often unable to do the same.

9.4 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England. SCC Boundary review.

This matter will be discussed once a proposal has been put forward.

9.5 Trustee Market Weston United Charities

Miranda Martin’s term of office as a trustee of Market Weston United Charities has expired. Cllr Martin would be more than pleased to stand again as a Trustee. All in agreement.

Action Clerk

9.6 Welcome pack

Guy Hatten has contacted the Clerk about the village welcome pack. When he was a member of the Parish Council, he was responsible for its distribution and making sure the information was up to date and correct. Cllr Allen said he would be happy to take over this role. The Clerk will pass this information on to Mr Hatten.

Action Cllr Allen/Clerk

10. Finance.

10.1 Payments. To consider payments to include

Admin	Admin	£442.96
One Suffolk	website	£60.00
ICO	subscription	£40.00
West Suffolk	Election costs	£21.34
community heartbeat trust	Code keyrings	£28.00
Came and Co	Insurance	£337.71

10.2 Bank reconciliation

The Clerk provided the Councillors with a bank reconciliation, income and expenditure account details and a budget report.

10.3 Budget, to consider budget for 2020/21

Following discussion, it was agreed to precept for the same amount as last year, £5990.

Action Clerk

10.4 Banking arrangements

As more of our suppliers are requiring payments via electronic means the Clerk has been again investigating options for the Parish Council. Currently we have a Community account with Barclays, which carries no fee but also does not allow BACS payments. Barclays could provide a business account, which allows BACS payments for a minimum fee of £6 per month. As a non profit making organisation this additional fee is an added expense we can ill afford. Cllr Loden, who works for Barclays, will make some enquiries regarding accounts for organisations such as ours as the necessity for electronic banking increases.

Action Cllr Loden

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

11.1 The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment SHELAA).

10.2 The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment SHELAA).

The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (or SHELAA) is an assessment of land for housing and economic development. The SHELAA is not an assessment of whether the sites will be allocated in the future West Suffolk Local Plan nor does inclusion in the SHELAA imply or grant any planning permission. The document or previous call for sites process holds NO weight in decision making. West Suffolk is seeking views on the factual information submitted. In accordance with government guidance, they are seeking views on the draft SHELAA report and in particular: The suitability, availability and achievability (including viability*) of specific sites featured within the draft report (whether or not they are included or deferred at this stage) The constraints – are these (reasons for deferral of specific sites) still appropriate/relevant? * for a site to be considered deliverable, the NPPF requires development to be economically viable and to this end, we seek written commentary on the viability of the sites in which you have a particular interest, in addition to confirmation that the sites themselves are available at this time and if not, when they are anticipated to become available. As discussed under item 4, the Clerk will ensure that West Suffolk Council are aware of the views of the parish regarding any future development.

10.3 West Suffolk Local Plan: 2019 sustainable settlements review.

West Suffolk Council is in the early stages of preparing a new local plan for West Suffolk. One aspect of the new plan will be to review the currently adopted settlement categories and hierarchies in the former St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath areas. In order to do this work officers are currently preparing a sustainable settlements study as evidence to sit alongside the local plan. The purpose of this study is to understand which are the most sustainable settlements in the district through applying a set key sustainability criteria, such as the presence of shops, schools etc. This information will be used to help draft a new settlement hierarchy which will be subject to consultation in January 2020 as part of the Issues and Options consultation. For those settlements which have an identified settlement boundary, key sustainability criteria have been recorded and a

matrix produced. West Suffolk are now inviting all parishes to comment on this matrix in respect of the factual accuracy of the sustainability criteria recorded for settlements in their parish. The Clerk has provided up to date data by adding the pub and the play area as current facilities.

11.3 Liberty House, confirmation of conditions.
See under item 4.

11.4 Application for Lawful Development Certificate for Proposed Use or Development - Detached annexe | Stone Cottage Hepworth Road Market Weston Diss Suffolk IP22 2PF
Following advice from Cllr Bull regarding lodges, the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

12. Play area report

12.1 Play area report. Ongoing.

12.2 The Green, ongoing upkeep

It was reported that the trees, adjacent to the footpath, on the right hand curve, are overhanging the path. The Clerk will mention this to Guy Hatten. **Action Clerk**

13. Village Hall report

No report made.

14. Defibrillator

14.1 Update awareness training.

The Key rings have arrived. Due to problems with hiring the hall during the week, it was agreed to swap the training times with Barningham. The weeknight training will now be held at Market Weston, on a Wednesday and the Saturday afternoon training will be held in Barningham. The dates are still to be confirmed by the trainer. **Action Clerk**

15. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

15.1 Book exchange maintenance update.

Some local residents have tidied up the book exchange and it is looking very tidy. The Parish Council are thankful to them for this.

15.2 Potholes in Church Road

The worst potholes have been filled but there is still a stretch by the post-box that need repair. Two incidents, with cars being damaged by potholes, have been reported recently. The Clerk will report this. **Action Clerk**

16. Correspondence for information none received

17. Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th January 2020

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

18.1 Personnel Issues. Decrease in Parish Councils pension contribution. Noted

18.2 Legal Issues. None