

Great and Little Whelnetham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Monday 9 January 2023 at the Community Centre

Present

Cllr Peter Royce, Chairman, PR

Cllr Howard Singh, HS

Cllr June Attwood, JA

Cllr Tim Webber, TW

Clerk, Elaine Gorman, EG

2 members of the public

County Councillor Karen Soons, KS

1. **OPENING** – the Chairman, PR, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.
2. **APOLOGIES** – none. Suffolk CC Cllr Karen Soons joined the meeting. She informed the meeting that she was also standing in for WSC Cllr Nick Wiseman who is unable to carry out his duties at the current time so any issues re WSC are to be directed to KS.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS** – none.
4. **MINUTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 21 NOVEMBER** (minutes as detailed on website). The minutes were approved and signed by PR as a true and accurate record, proposed by HS and seconded by JA.
5. **PUBLIC FORUM** - Chairman's report – PR mentioned that drainage works had started on Stanningfield Rd but it is not clear what these works are. Notification received from Suffolk CC states it is remedial work.
County Cllr Karen Soons' last report was circulated prior to the meeting. There was no report from WSC Nick Wiseman. The clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the public. Email correspondence was received from the Police and Crime Commissioner re precept proposal and Citizens Advice West Suffolk; both were circulated prior to meeting. The monthly play inspection report was circulated prior to the meeting. PR queried the use of Bells Lane for cycling time trials. KS agreed to investigate. PR queried Water Lane development. KS agreed to investigate.
6. **STATUTORY BUSINESS** –
 - a) To review and approve Standing Orders. Unanimously approved, proposed by HS, and seconded by JA.
 - b) To review and approve Financial Regulations. Unanimously approved, proposed by TW, and seconded by JA.
 - c) To review, consider and approve the statutory legal power of LGA 1972, s137. The Clerk explained that she was unable to provide the new 2023/24 rate per head of population as it has not been announced yet but she will update at the March meeting.
 - d) To review the Risk Management documents and policy to ensure all risks are identified. Reviewed and approved.
 - e) The clerk read out the update from SALC re annual council meeting dates following elections in 2023. Monday 8 May will be an additional bank holiday to mark the coronation of HM King Charles III. The 2023 local election date is Thursday 4 May and councillors would ordinarily take office Monday 8 May. SALC's view is that councillors will now take office on Tuesday 9 May making the relevant 14-day meeting for the purposes of paragraph 7(2) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972, Wednesday 10 – Thursday 25 May inclusive.
7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** decided upon since last PC meeting,
DC/22/1943/FUL – single garage to the front of plot 1 The Garage Plot 1, Sudbury Rd, Sicklesmere, IP30 OTJ applicant F Goldsmith (Sicklesmere) Ltd, unanimously objected. -

DC/22/1981/HH – a. replacement doors and windows to front elevation b. installation of roof lights to front and rear elevations, Sicklesmere House, Lt W’ham Rd, Gt W’ham, IP30 0BX, Mr and Mrs Churchill, unanimously supported.

DC/22/1982/LB – Application for listed building consent – a. replacement windows & doors to front elevation, b. installation of rooflights to front and rear elevations, c. storage area converted to bedroom, d. bathroom enlarged, e. existing bedroom 2 converted to kitchen area, Sicklesmere House, Lt W’ham Rd, Gt W’ham, IP30 0BX, Mr and Mrs Churchill, unanimously supported.

DC/22/2012/TCA- Trees in a conservation area notification – two sycamore (within G1 on plan), five Poplar (within group G1 on plan), one Elm (T1 on plan), one Yew (T2 on plan) fell, Sicklesmere House, Lt W’ham Rd, Gt W’ham, IP30 0BX, unanimously supported with request to plant new trees.

DC/22/2128/HH, a. single storey front extension b. rooflights to rear and front elevations c. side elevation window enlarged d. single storey rear extension, e. rear dormer, 9 Tutelina Rd, Gt W’ham, IP30 0TX, Alex Crascall, unanimously supported.

DC/22/1692/FUL, Re-consultation, amended plans, proposed elevations amending roof form, land at 10 Grove Cott, Stanningfield Rd, Gt W’ham, Mrs Abbie Weingartner, unanimously objected

PLANNING APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED - RE-CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF A PLANNING PROPOSAL, Planning application - single garage to the front of plot one LOCATION The Garage, Plot 1, Sudbury Road, Sicklesmere, Suffolk, IP30 0TJ APPLICANT, F Goldsmith (Sicklesmere) Ltd AGENT Mr Sam Stonehouse, unanimously object.

8. FINANCE

- a) Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliation. Balance of current account is £32,169.56 less cheques of £1,920.30 to be issued. Total in current account is £29,249.26
- b) Bi-monthly statement received and approved. The following cheques were approved and issued.

Detail	Cheque No	Net (of VAT)	VAT	Total
Greene & Greene	871	1,500	300.00	1,800
E Gorman exps	872			120.30
Total				1,920.30

- c) To consider and approve the precept proposal. Council agreed a figure of 8.5% (£12,920) for the forthcoming year to ensure sufficient funds to maintain current and future liability. Chairman, PR signed the precept application form for the clerk to return to WSC.
- d) To consider the grass cutting quote from WSC of £2455.74 plus VAT for the renewal of the grounds maintenance service for 2023/24. Council resolved unanimously to proceed with this contract for 2023/24. Clerk completed renewal form to be emailed to WSC.
- e) To receive and consider the internal control report for the period Sept to Dec 2022 as prepared by the clerk and Cllr Attwood. The clerk reported that this is the first time the Internal Control policy checklist had been undertaken and concluded that the standing orders and financial regulations are considered satisfactory and effective for this parish council’s purposes. The clerk reported that the current employment contract requires updating and this will be done in time for the next meeting in March.

9. UPDATES

- a) Railway Walk landfill site. The clerk reported that negotiation was still taking place between SCC and the resident to agree for the removal of the spoil.
- 10. a) Consider new projects for the village other than those listed below. There were none forthcoming.
- b) Consider new VAS. The chairman, PR, explained that the current equipment was no longer usable and that he would investigate the various options available and report back.
- c) Consider new noticeboards. The clerk, EG explained 3 boards are required urgently. Recent rainfall has meant that it has been difficult to open the doors as the wood had warped. It was agreed that the clerk research wood effect boards and circulate information for consideration.
- d) Consider bulb planting. Council agreed not a viable proposition at this time.
- e) Consider coronation mugs. The clerk, EG explained she had contacted the school and they were very happy to be offered King Charles III commemorative mugs. The chairman had researched and obtained details of company providing these. Clerk to confirm numbers required and order.
- 11. **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING** – village sign.
- 12. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. No matters to be discussed.
- 13. **CLOSE OF MEETING** 9.15pm
- 14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING, MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 at 7.30pm**

Signature of Chairman.....

Date.....