

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

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Approved Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 in the Parish Room.

Present: Cllr Chris White, Cllr Matt Foster, Cllr Stewart Braybrook, and Cllr Robert Wheeler

Attending: One member of the Public

1. Election of Chairman.

Cllr White was unanimously elected as Chairman of Little Waldingfield Parish Council (LWPC) and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking the chair.

2. Apologies and approval of absences.

Cllr Sheppard sent his apologies and his absence was approved

3. Election of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Sheppard was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman of LWPC.

4. Declarations of Interests by Members and Requests for Dispensations

No declarations of interest were made and no dispensations were requested.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 10th March 2022.

Minutes of the previous meetings of the Parish Council on 10th March 2022 were received, approved as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

6. Reports by County Councillor and District Councillors.

There were no reports from the SCC or DCC's

7. Public Forum – Contributions By Members of the Public.

There were contributions made to the discussions on Item 13a – Footpaths Working Group

8. To consider the appointment of SALC as the Internal Auditor for 2022 / 2023.

Members resolved to appoint SALC as LWPC's Internal Auditor for 2022 / 2023.

9. Annual Subscriptions.

It was resolved to renew the annual membership to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, and the Suffolk Preservation Society for 2022/2023.

10. Planning Applications and Decision Notices

a. Members noted Application DC/22/01068, Harvest Barn, The Street, had been granted.

b. Application DC/22/01694 Priory Farm, Priory Green, Edwardstone, Part In The Parish Of Little Waldingfield CO10 5PN. Alterations and refurbishment, including partial demolition and rebuild works, and associated landscaping works.

Members agreed to support the application.

c. Application DC/22/01695 Priory Farm, Priory Green, Edwardstone, Part In The Parish Of Little Waldingfield CO10 5PN. Listed Building Consent.

Signed:

Date:

Members agreed to support the application.

- d. Application DC/22/01614 Land To The Rear Of The Grange, The Street. Full Planning Application - Erection of 2 detached dwellings.

Following careful consideration members resolved to object to this application as it did not accord with several of the adopted Neighbourhood Plan Policies, concerns were also raised by the Footpath Working Group regarding the proposed rerouting and narrowing of the footpath.

11. Finance

- a. Members agreed that Cllr White should continue as the Responsible Financial Officer until a new Clerk can be appointed.
- b. Members approved the Bank Reconciliation as at the 31st March 2022.
- c. Members reviewed and approved the Receipts and Payments Budget Reports to the 31st March 2022.
- d. The AGAR Part 2 Certificate of Exemption (2021/22) was reviewed and approved by Members for submission to the External Auditors.
- e. The following payments were presented and approved for Online Authorisation:-
Places4People £498.82 (Neighbourhood Plan Support 2021/22); Genesis Garden Furniture £160.00 (Commemorative Bench Deposit); SCC £283.22 (Street Lighting); SALC £192.00 (Annual subscription); SALC £36.00 (Accounts training); P Crawford Ltd £300.00 (Hedge & verge cutting); SALC £12.00 (Audit training); LW Parish Room £28.00 (Room Hire); Suffolk Preservation Soc. £30.00 (Subscription); Groundwork UK £758.48 (Unused NP Grant); Genesis Garden Furniture £493.00 (Commemorative Bench final payment); C P White £31.80 (Printing costs) + £675.90 (Jubilee commemorative Mugs).
- f. Members noted receipt of Grass Cutting 2022 Purchase Order of £419.32 from Suffolk CC.
- g. Members noted receipt of the 1st Precept payment for 2022/23 of £4,590.50 from Babergh DC.
- h. Members noted receipt of a BDC Locality Award of £500.00.
- i. Members discussed a further donation to Go Start Community Transport. It was acknowledged that the 112 bus service was an essential amenity for some villagers and should be maintained if at all possible. Members resolved to donate £100 to Go Start, and to review the position later in the year.
- j. Members discussed the BMSDC CIL bidding round for May 2022. There were no potential projects identified at present but it was agreed to explore future potential infrastructure projects that might qualify for funding.

12. Governance.

- a. The Chair observed that Members Responsibilities were currently somewhat unevenly spread, it was also remarked that the PC is currently 2 Councillors short. Members resolved that a fairer distribution of Responsibilities would be agreed at the next meeting and to make further efforts to recruit new Councillors.
- b. Members reviewed the Asset Register; it was suggested that some assets could be revalued due to depreciation. As a new asset is being acquired in May it was agreed the Clerk would present an updated Asset Register at the next meeting.
- c. Members agreed to adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct 2020 as recommended by SALC.

Signed:

Date:

- d. Members agreed the PC Meeting dates for 2022/23. Principle meetings will be held on Monday 6th June (Year End meeting); Tuesday 5th July; Tuesday 6th September; Tuesday 1st November; Tuesday 10th January 2023; Tuesday 7th March 2023. Further planning meetings may be required in the intervening months. All meetings will take place in the Parish Room starting at 7:30pm.

13. Highways & Footpaths

- a. Cllr Wheeler presented an update from the Footpath Working Group:
The Footpaths Group has aspirations to enhance and develop the network of paths, most especially to link existing paths and establish a safe and permitted circular route on the west side of the village. The group is in the early stages of this work. The cutting of the footpaths was discussed and it was requested that confirmation was sought from the contractors as to when the footpaths were due to be cut or had been cut. Contacts have been established with all the neighbouring Parishes promoting the idea of working together on issues of common interest.
- b. The Chair reported that Suffolk CC have stated that replacement bulbs for the Streetlights in Croft Lea are no longer available and recommend they are upgraded to LED bulbs which are more energy efficient. As these are the only streetlights in the village and the Neighbourhood Plan is advocating a dark skies policy for future developments, it was agreed to seek the views of the residents in Croft Lea as to whether the streetlights should be retained and upgraded.

14. Closed Churchyard.

The Chair reported that the annual safety checks had been carried out on 28th March with no issues.

15. Community Governance Review.

It was agreed that the PC had no initial submissions to make and would respond to any relevant draft recommendations once they were published.

16. Questions to the Chair

- a. Cllr Braybrook observed that the recently cleared areas in the Closed Churchyard and Cemetery had not been cut by the Contractors.
The Chair said the matter was being addressed by Cllr Sheppard and Cllr Foster offered to cut back the affected areas in the meantime.

17. Next Meeting Date.

The date of the next meeting (Year End) was set for Monday 6th June at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm



Chris White.

Chair/Acting Clerk
Little Waldingfield Parish Council

Signed:

Date: