

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

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Approved Minutes of a Meeting of Little Waldingfield Parish Council at The Parish Room Tuesday 25th January 2022

Present: Councillors Chris White, Matt Foster, Stewart Braybrook, Robert Wheeler and Tim Sheppard

In attendance: District Councillors Margaret Maybury, Clive Arthey and Christine Hargan (Clerk)
and one member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

County Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton

2. Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation from Councillors

None.

3. Agree minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 2nd November and 9th December 2021

The minutes of the two meetings were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

a. DCllr Maybury advised that funds are available in her locality budget and encouraged applications before the end of February if required.

It is anticipated that Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council will increase council tax by around 2%.

b. DCllr Arthey congratulated the village on getting the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) through to the referendum stage. He provided an update regarding the BMDC Joint Local Plan. Following the suggestion of the Inspectors the JLP is now to proceed in two parts. This will allow the development management policies to be adopted first in part 1, the spatial strategy and housing allocations will be addressed in part 2.

Public forum

Other than taking part in the discussion over the Platinum Jubilee there were no further contributions from members of the public.

5. Planning

a. Consider Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

b. Update to Planning application

DC/21/06540 Land Adjacent, The Grange The Street Little Waldingfield CO10 0SG. A Non-Material Amendment sought following grant of planning permission DC/20/00899 was granted.

Signed _____ Date _____

6. Platinum Jubilee Village Celebrations

It was agreed that there should be a working party representing all village organisations to gather ideas and coordinate events and the Chair agreed to be the PC representative. Various suggestions were made and it was agreed to take further discussion to the working party meeting. Councillors were asked to forward ideas through to the Chairman.

a. Village in Bloom Competition

Possible areas muted were the Closed churchyard and the playing field. An approach to the District Councillors as part of the BDC Biodiversity Action Plan to plant hedges, trees and wild flowers, on community land could subsidise the project.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The referendum will take place on Thursday 24th February 2022. The Referendum Notice and Information Statement documents have been issued and posted on the council website and noticeboard, further copies are to be posted in other locations with local agreement. Leaflets will be distributed to every household.

8. Correspondence

a. Consider actions on correspondence forwarded by the Clerk
No actions were required.

9. Clerk's Report

Following a review of the Clerk's report there were no further actions requested of the Clerk.

10. Finance Report

- a. Receipts
- b. Expenditure
- c. Bank Balances
- d. Bank Reconciliation (31 December 2021)
- e. Review of Budget

The councillors noted the income received since the last meeting, the reconciliation of bank accounts against the bank statements, and the Statement of Accounts against the Budget.

- f. Consider Payments to:
- Village hall rental £14.00
 - Clerk Salary £416.00
 - HMRC employment costs £156.00

All payments were authorised by the councillors.

11. Finalise Budget for 2022-23

Councillors resolved to accept the budget with an amendment to Precept as shown below.

12. Agree Precept for 2022/23.

Councillors resolved unanimously to set the Precept at £9,181 which will show as 0% change on Council Tax Bills

13. Village Maintenance.

a. Litter Pick

The date for the Village Litter Pick was set for Saturday 19th March 2022. The previous risk assessment will reviewed and updated.

b. Cemetery Maintenance

There will be a volunteer working party session in churchyard on Sat 26th February 2022 between 11am-1pm, Cllrs Sheppard and Foster to review the potential work in advance and contact volunteers.

c. Closed Churchyard

Cllr Sheppard will discuss the maintenance contract for 2022/23 with the contractor.

A date for the annual memorial push test needs to be set.

14. Footpaths

Councillor Wheeler reported that the Footpaths Group has inspected a number of our Public Rights of Way through fact finding walks on 31/10/2021 and 12/12/2021. Most PRow's were in good condition however there were some stretches that crossed cultivated fields that needed improvement. Annex A contains a detailed summary of the Footpaths Group findings.

15. Questions to the Chair

Hedge and verge cutting along the B1115 towards Lavenham Road.

It was confirmed that the work would be completed by March – Councillors Foster & White would be assisting in the work.

The Clerk presented a letter to the Chair announcing she was tendering her resignation giving one week's notice in accordance with her contract.

The next meeting will take place on 1st March 2022 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 10:00pm

Christine Hargan - Parish Clerk

clerk.littlewoldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk

10 March 2022

Signed _____ Date _____

Annex A

The Footpaths Group has inspected a number of our Public Rights of Way through fact finding walks on 31/10/2021 and 12/12/2021. Here is a brief summary of the findings.

PRoW 2 (from opposite the Village Sign to the Lavenham road): in good order until the final part, where the path crossing the field is blocked by young sugar beet.

PRoW 3 (Allotments Drift, Church Road to Village Sign): in generally good order.

PRoW 4 (from the Playing Field to the Lavenham road): generally good. A 100 yard section in Great Waldingfield parish, where it crosses a field diagonally, has been left since harvesting last year, and is not easy to walk. This section was blocked by wheat last summer. An issue about possible incursion by properties at the end of Grove Avenue, raised on behalf of the landowner, has been passed on to the parish council.

PRoW 5 (Churchfield): good at this time..

PRoW 6 (Haymarket – High Street Farm – Priory Green): overall, good. There was an intrusive bramble hedge at one point. [This has since been resolved]. Just before it enters Edwardstone parish, there has been an issue of the path being blocked by crop growth and unofficially diverted round the field edge. This is being resolved.

PRoW 10 (Byway, beyond Priory Green): this is a pleasant green lane, open to riders as well as walkers. The growth needs some cutting back in places, underfoot, to the sides and overhead.

PRoW 7 (part way from PRoW6 to Church Road, half way to Archers Farm): generally good, but a bit narrow in parts and much of it is on a tilt, making it slippery for safe walking.