

Minutes of Wymondham & Edmondthorpe Parish Council Meeting

Held by Videoconferencing/Zoom 7th June 2021.

Present: Councillors: Howard Gresham (Chair), Trevor Mear, Kevin Spiers, Pat Peters & Nigel Hobson

Clerk: Terry Brown

Members of public: 2 parishioners

261 Public Time

Anita Broughton commented on her experiences as a newly arrived resident at Mann's Farm on Wymondham Drift with dangerous traffic speeds for westbound traffic coming into the Village particularly in view of the narrow pavement at that point.

She had sought explanations from LCCH for the recent movement of the 30mph speed sign further west from her property.

Cllr Spiers gave the recent history of the site and the movement of the speed limit signs and commented that the Parish Council might not be averse to a return of the speed limits to their original position but that LCCH remained obstructive in achieving this. He pointed to the activities of the W&E Traffic Group in formulating ideas to respond to the wide range of traffic related problems in the parish.

Mrs Broughton suggested the east facing illuminated speed indicator sign at the east entrance to the Village was inappropriate and that a more effective replacement would show the speed of oncoming traffic. Cllrs Hobson and Spiers supported this idea for further consideration.

Mrs Broughton reported that a 3-week survey on traffic outside her property had been taken by LCCH and the Parish Council would wait for the data to be made available in order to take further action but it was noted that the traffic speed data may be low for two days because of traffic lights due to roadworks.

The meeting then considered comments from a parishioner regarding a lack of transparency on the part of the Parish Council. (Appendix a)

262 Apologies for absence

Cllr Matthew Williams, County Councillor Joe Orson & Borough Councillor Malise Graham

263 To receive declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations

The meeting noted Cllr Gresham interest in property on Main Street Wymondham for item 272/3

264 To receive Borough and County Councillor reports

No reports.

265 To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the 4th May 2021

These were approved by the meeting.

266 To receive the Clerk's report

Noted.

267 Matters arising from previous meetings.

/1 to review progress on flooding issues

No response and the Clerk is to chase.

Action Clerk

/2 to review issues with dog bins

Cllr Peters reported that she had discussed an issue with Roots to Wings and it was considered appropriate that a general waste bin should be moved from its current position.

Cllrs Hobson and Gresham agreed to make the necessary change. Action Cllrs Hobson & Gresham

268 To receive Councillors reports

/1 to receive a report for St Peters School

Cllr Peters queried if a response had been sent for 07/21/252. The Clerk confirmed that no reply had been received since none had been asked for.

/2 to receive a report for W&E Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee

No report

/3 to receive a report for W&E Traffic Group

Cllr Spiers reported that the development of the master plan was ongoing and that the comments from the Public Time would be taken into account.

/4 to discuss progress on possible road improvements (Cllrs Spiers & Hobson)

See Public Time and 272/3

269 To receive and consider reports from representatives on outside bodies & meetings

No report

270 Planning

/1 Amended Plans - 20/00444/FUL Land at Junction of Main Street and Chapel Lane Main Street Wymondham

Residential conversion of two disused chapel buildings; and the erection of five new build dwellings. Demolition of existing storage shed and outbuilding to allow redevelopment of site.

The Parish Council resolved to support the application.

The development would remove a longstanding eye sore on the Main Street vista. Councillors considered the application a thoughtful response by the developers with due regard paid to the preservation of an important historical Village building

The Clerk is to respond thus to MBC Planning with the caveat that the development should have due regard to the importance of the materials used in order to preserve the vernacular style of the village.

Action Clerk

271 Correspondence received

Emails:

May 2021 various (30) re application for support of a grant for an organisation

May 2021 various (5) re allotment issues

Letters:

25/5/2021 Harrison Clark Rickerbys re complaint

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272 Matters for Discussion

/1 to consider an application for an Organisations grant.

The Clerk confirmed that he had received many more than the required signatures in support of the application for this Organisation Grant.

Accordingly the Parish Council unanimously approved a grant of £160.62 to purchase equipment for the Group's activities.

Action Clerk

/2 to consider an allotment issues.

The Parish Council noted recent emailed comments concerning the installation of a new fruit cage on an allotment.

The Clerk reported that he had been informed that the Allotments Association was to have a meeting.

/3 to consider a Complaint under the W&E Complaints Procedure

Following the discussions in Public Time and having reviewed at length the documentation involved in the Complaint, the Council resolved that the Complaint was not found and that the Clerk should respond to the parishioner accordingly.

Action Clerk

/4 to form a subcommittee of Councillors to review the Clerk's salary (Cllr Gresham).

Councillors noted the Clerk's report on missed salary increases since 2017 and unanimously resolved to increase the salary to SCP pt 15 with immediate effect and to pay the 2020 home working allowance.

273 Finance

/1	the following payments were approved:	
	T Brown re May 2021 salary	£383.03
	T Brown re May 2021 HMRC paye	£95.80
	T Brown re renewal of annual Zoom licence	£43.96
	Kathryn Fryer re Organisation grant – litter pickers	£160.62
	Community Heartbeat re Defibrillator electrodes	£46.80

/2 bank balances at 30/5/21 were reconciled to:

TSB Current account	£22347.44
TSB Deposit account	£20666.74

274 To receive items for the next agenda

- /1 to consider the future return to a normal pattern of meetings.
- /2 to consider future action on Community access problems to School play facilities.

275 Date of next meeting: Monday 5th July 2021 Meeting of the Parish Council by Zoom

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Appendix a**Report of the meeting to discuss the Complaint bought by Mr Keith Gallagher against W&E Parish Council at the Parish Council meeting 7th June 2021**

The Clerk reviewed the procedure to be followed namely:

the complainant would outline his grounds for complaint

Councillors could ask relevant questions

the Clerk would explain the Council's position

the complainant could respond

that the Parish Council would determine a response at agenda item 12/3 and this would be sent to the Complainant together with this report of the discussion and a copy of the draft minutes of the meeting.

the complainant would outline his grounds for complaint

Mr Gallagher chose not to make any comment at this stage stating that his position had already been stated.

Councillors could ask relevant questions

At this point no questions were asked.

the Clerk would explain the Council's position

The Clerk reviewed the communications that had taken place on the matter namely an initial email from the complainant's solicitor on 31st March 2021 followed by a letter dated 12th requesting information but immediately followed on the 14th with a Letter before Claim.

A letter of Complaint was then received from the complainant's solicitor on the 24th May followed by a letter of the 3rd June requesting the complainant be allowed to join the Parish Council meeting of the 7th June.

08/21

The Parish Council had responded with letters 7th April, 23rd April with details of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd April and a letter of 28th April.

The W&E response of the 28th May had stressed that the letter of the 24th with its repeated references to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct had no basis for action since like all similar councils, the Codes of Conduct refers to individual Councillors in the conduct of their office and not to the Parish Council as a constituent body.

The conduct of W&E Parish Council is governed by [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#) and the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as confirmed by the](#) Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

Therefore the Clerk advised that the complaint to be determined could only be one of a lack of Transparency on the part of the Parish Council.

Transparency of a parish council is set by the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. This sets parameters such as the requirement to publicise agenda on its website at least three working days in advance of a meeting and to publish in a similar way draft minutes of a meeting within one month of the meeting having taken place.

The Clerk advised that these requirements had been met.

the complainant could respond

Mr Gallagher responded thus:

That he had only heard of the siting of the VAS from a neighbour and that there had been no formal consultation.

He had attended a site meeting with Councillors and Coeval where he had stated his preference for a position further to the west but which had been rejected at the Extraordinary meeting of the 22nd April.

At this point Cllrs Gresham and Hobson replied that Mr Gallagher's suggestion had indeed been carefully considered at the meeting of the 22nd but had been rejected on the technical advice of Coeval and LCCH, principally that the road siting at this suggested alternative would not allow the efficient operation of the VAS equipment.

Mr Gallagher asked why no technical survey had been carried out.

Councillor Hobson responded that a detailed and careful site survey had in fact been conducted by both Coeval and LCCH and that this informed the Parish Council's decision.

Councillor Mear pointed out the significant disadvantage of moving the VAS site further west in that it allowed west bound traffic to increase their speed to that point.

Mr Gallagher asked why the VAS site had been moved from its first location to the east of the bus shelter. Councillor Mear respond that the Parish Council had been advised by LCCH (at least) that the surrounding artifacts at that point would detract from the visibility of the new equipment.

Cllr Gresham as Chair thanked Mr Gallagher for his input and that the Parish Council would carefully consider the points he had made. He stressed that the Parish Council had followed due diligence in the lengthy process of this decision to instal the new VAS equipment and that Mr Gallagher would be a beneficiary of the installation when it had the result of reducing traffic speeds at this point along Main Street.