

Great & Little Whelnetham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council meeting held Monday 15 November 2021, 7.30pm at the Community
Centre. Risk assessment undertaken ensuring social distancing.

Present

Cllr Peter Royce, Chairman, PR

Cllr Howard Singh, HS

Cllr Tim Webber, TW

CC Cllr Karen Soons

2 members of the public

Clerk, Elaine Gorman, EG

1. OPENING – the Chairman, PR declared the meeting open and thanked all for attending.
2. APOLOGIES – from Cllr Attwood, noted and accepted.
3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS – none declared.
4. MINUTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 13 SEPTEMBER 2021. The minutes were approved and signed by PR as a true and accurate record, proposed by TW and seconded by HS.
5. PUBLIC FORUM – at the start ex WS Councillor Terry Clements joined the meeting and was given a card and gift by PR on behalf of the parish council in recognition of the number of years work and support he has provided to the residents of the parish. TC left the meeting.
 - KS introduced Nick Wiseman, standing for election in the parishes of Horringer cum Ickworth, Nowton, Hawstead, Sicklesmere Great & Little Whelnetham. Nick explained his interest in standing for election and what he hopes to achieve if elected.
 - PR discussed the issues relating to the drainage works and a lack of a bus service from Chambers for the duration of the works (until end of March 2021). KS acknowledged the problem and explained that Chambers do not want to alter their timetable. KS explained she has spoken to Suffolk on Board and is looking at trying to obtain some Community Transport. PR expressed his disappointment and frustration on behalf of the parish council as with previous works an alternative bus service had been provided by SCC but this was not forthcoming this time. It was noted that those in receipt of bus passes could relinquish them in order to obtain taxi tickets and that those seeking treatment at the hospital could claim the cost of travel from the hospital direct if they fulfilled certain criteria. See links here for further info [2811-NHSWSIES-NEPT-Leaflet.pdf](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs) ([westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs)), <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs>
 - PR mentioned the state of the diversion route along Bells Lane. KS suggested it be reported via the online reporting tool. EG to do this.
 - KS presented her report drawing particular attention to the Lorry Route survey requesting feedback, the Suffolk CC aims for a carbon neutral county and an update on vaccinations with Pfizer and Moderna booster jabs now being offered. KS confirmed her £1500 grant towards the TRO.

6. FINANCE –

- a) Payments since last meeting and bank reconciliation. The following payments were approved:

Detail	Cheque No	Net (of VAT)	VAT	Total
WSC grass cutting & flail R/Walk	843	215.60	43.12	258.72
E Gorman Exps	844			92.61

Total				351.33

- b) To approve bi-monthly statement for 14/09/21 – 15/11/21. Cheque account balance is £20,949.65 and Instant Access account is £1,135.45 less cheques to be authorised in the sum of £351.33. Total parish council funds available as at 15/11/21 is £21,73.77.
 - c) To consider and approve letter to Lloyds bank requesting closure of instant access account and transfer of funds to the cheque account. Interest has dropped significantly and parish council will consider options going forward. Approved.
 - d) To receive and consider draft budget estimates for 2022/23. PR asked if this item could be moved to January 2022 meeting. All in agreement.
 - e) To receive and consider half yearly accounts.
 - f) To consider the precept for 2022/23. Moved to January 2022 meeting.
 - g) Insurance renewal – Zurich. Following the late notification from Community Action Suffolk that the Parish Protect insurance cover previously provided by them could no longer be offered the clerk obtained 3 quotes and council decided to opt for an annual cover with Zurich at a cost of £433.17.
7. UPDATES –
- a) Deed of dedication. EG explained she had spoken to Anthony Holliday who will be providing a land valuation of the playing field for her to continue with registering the land. Once registered the process of applying for the deed of dedication can be actioned.
 - b) Play & Adult gym equipment from meeting held 18th October 2021. EG explained the parish council had met with a member of the Community Centre Committee to discuss the 3 options and quotes obtained. It was agreed to obtain further funding. EG applied for Terry Clements Locality budget and has been granted £1,000. EG currently completing a national lottery application for a grant of £10,000. The Community Centre Committee will apply to KS Locality budget for £1200 and continue to apply for pots of funding. Clerk will liaise with them to report back at January PC meeting with an update on progress.
8. RAILWAY WALK –
- a) Access of R/Walk by residents – PR explained advice had been received from SALC & NALC exploring the options available regarding the properties bordering the Railway Walk who have installed steps on the bank down to the walk. Council discussed the options and agreed clerk will write to the residents/owners requesting removal of the steps and reinstatement of the verge in accordance with health and safety liability.
 - b) Maintenance - EG explained the importance of this asset and asked how the PC wished to preserve this feature and maintain it. Council discussed how to proceed and agreed the clerk should research companies to ask for advice on the best way to preserve the various flora and fauna of this site and report back in January 2022.
9. COCKTAIL LANE – EG reported that confirmation re signage has been obtained from SCC. TW to let EG know which wording of sign he would like.
10. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING – Jubilee, Budget estimates and Precept.
11. CLOSE OF MEETING – 9.10pm
12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022 at 7.30pm.

Signed Chairman.....Date.....