

## MARKET WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Market Weston Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm in Market Weston Village Hall

Present: Cllrs P Freeman, M Martin, C Snelling, P Barham & C.Cllr J Spicer

### 1. **Apologies for absence** Cllrs D Fulcher, A Hall & W.S Cllr C Bull

In the absence of the Chairman, Darryl Fulcher, Cllr Martin Chaired the meeting.

### 2. **Co-option of new Parish Councillor.**

Phil Barham was welcomed and co-opted on as a Councillor to the Parish Council. The relevant paperwork was completed and the Clerk will ensure this is sent to West Suffolk Council.

**Action Clerk**

### 3. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

3.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. See under Item 11.4, item received after the agenda was posted.

3.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

3.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None.

4. **Minutes** - Minutes of the Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Parish Council meeting confirmed and agreed as a correct record.

### 5. **Meeting open to the public**

None present.

### 6. **Report from County Councillor: J Spicer**

Cllr Spicer reported that there is a lot of flooding prevention works being undertaken in Coney Weston and The Street may be closed for a period of time. Work will be starting on the new housing development in Hopton soon. Cllr Spicer has some maps of the SCC County Farms in Market Weston that she will share with the Councillors for information. Cllr Spicer gave a brief outline of the planning application for Shepherds Grove in Stanton. The old air site, on the Upton side of Stanton is fully occupied. Unfortunately, there are no good road links from here West to East. The proposal would see an area off the A143, currently semi-derelict, being developed and a new link/spine road being built that would take traffic away from Stanton village. This would bring industry to the area but would also bring quite an increase in vehicle movements

### 7. **Report from West Suffolk Councillor: C Bull**

Cllr Bull was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

It has been confirmed that Voter Photo ID for the May elections will definitely be needed. The Council will be doing a big publicity campaign to make sure people are aware. Cllr Bull has provided some info on this with posters and copy that can be used in newsletters and on websites and face book etc. It also gives a list of acceptable forms of photo ID and what to do if you do not have any of this. People can also be reminded that they can apply for postal votes and this is very simple process. Cllr Bull also sent out some very useful info on Council Tax and Energy support which is available on request. West Suffolk Council have agreed to stop the general use of Glyphosate weed-killer to protect the environment and wildlife from April 2023. Cllr Bull will be happy to discuss this further at another meeting if we want.

### 8.1 **Chairman's Report**

8.1. Update post for dog bin post repair. This matter is in hand.

**Action Clerk/Chairman**

## **9. Clerks Report**

9.1 To discuss appointment of a History recorder for Market Weston.

Following on from a discussion at the last meeting, Cllr P Freeman has agreed to take on the role of History Recorder for Market Weston. This is much appreciated. **Action Cllr Freeman**

9.2 Introduction to PARISH.UK Network request for information, advice from SALC.

The Clerk has been contacted by the PARISH. UK network, asking for information pertaining to the Parish Council. All the information requested is in the public domain but SALC reported that a number of councils across England have contacted their local County Association querying about this company. The National Association of Local Councils are investigating, and they will provide further details in their e-bulletin once they know more information. At this stage, they would advise councils to be very cautious.

9.3 Information on walks in England website and to discuss Market Weston Walks leaflet.

Our walks leaflet are not on this site. It was agreed to ask if these could be added. It is unclear who has the spare leaflets. The Clerk will look into this. **Action Clerk**

9.4 To discuss works required to update the website.

Cllr Barham will have a look to see if he can do some work to update the website. The Clerk will make the arrangements so he can access the site as an administrator. **Action Cllr Barham/Clerk**

9.5 Update on footpath post repair.

SCC have contacted the landowner (as they are responsible for Gates and Stiles on their land) and expect to resolve this issue soon. If the landowner is unable to repair this, then SCC will get their contractor to repair it. It was reported that the gate is very difficult to open. The Clerk will inform SCC of this fact. **Action Clerk**

## **10 Finance.**

10.1 The following accounts were approved for payment.

Admin	Various	£658.51
Community Heartbeat trust	Defibrillator	£151.20

10.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report.

The Clerk provided an up to date bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and budget report for the Councillors information.

10.3 To discuss ongoing issues with HMRC.

HMRC have been in contact they have cancelled the charge they had set against the account.

10.4 Report on action taken to inform Barclays for their periodic review.

The Clerk has been in communication with Barclays bank regarding a periodic review. Despite providing the information requested, Barclays are still threatening to restrict the account. The Clerk is continuing to deal with this matter. **Action Clerk**

10.5 To ratify Precept amount for 2023/24

The Precept amount of £8,500 was ratified. This will represent a 4.31% £3.44, increase on the annual Council Tax bill. As discussed at the last meeting an increase was needed to meet the ongoing and increasing costs currently being experienced.

10.6 Thank you from MWVH

A letter, thanking the Parish Council for their donation, has been received from Market Weston Village Hall management committee.

10.7 Request for information, The Pension regulator

To remain compliant the clerk has been asked to carry out re-enrolment duties to the Pension Regulator. This matter is in hand. **Action Clerk**

**11. Planning Matters** to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.

11.1 DC/23/0003/HH Householder planning - a. two storey side and rear extensions; b. single storey rear extension, 5 Church Road, Market Weston. **No objections**

11.2 DC/22/2127/HH | Householder planning application - a. installation of open porch b. two storey side extension c. alterations to existing dwelling including replacement roof tiles, external wall insulation with render finish and alterations to fenestration, 2 Church Road Market Weston. **No objections**

11.3 DC/22/1867/FUL | Planning application - partial change of use of existing garage/storage outbuilding (class C3) into holiday let (sui generis) | Liberty House Hepworth Road. Permission **Granted** by West Suffolk Council

Cllr P Barham declared an interest in the following item, information about which was received after the agenda was posted.

11.4 DC/22/1176/FUL Alkira House, New Common Road. Permission **Granted** by West Suffolk Council

**12. The Green/Play area report**

12.1 Continuing maintenance of The Green. 12.2 To discuss the option to use a grass contractor for the Green.

Things on The Green have been quiet over the colder months. The lawn mower is still awaiting repair. It was agreed that the price for repair should be discussed before any decision is made. The Clerk has obtained some prices, for comparison against the repair/purchase of a new machine. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with a lawn mower dealer to discuss what would be a suitable mower for The Green and to look at prices. This will be re-visited at the next meeting.

**Action Clerk**

**13. Emergency Plan**

The Councillors will all look at the draft document the Clerk has repaired and update any information that they can.

**Action Clerk**

**14. Tree Warden Report.**

To receive any update from the Tree Warden  
There was no report this month.

**15. Councillors reports and items for future agenda**

It was reported that the footpath sign, on New Common Road, is broken and in the ditch. The Clerk will report this.

**Action Clerk**

It was requested that we include an event for the Kings Coronation on the next agenda. In the meantime Cllr Snelling will make enquiries as to whether Tony's band are available to preform if an event is to go ahead. Cllr Martin will speak to the Village Hall Committee, who are meeting soon, about any plans they may have about hosting an event. **Action Cllrs Snelling/Martin**

It was suggested that we should look at holding a fund raising event to help with the upkeep of the Green, especially if it was decided to purchase a new mower. The Clerk will look at the logistics of this. **Action Clerk**

**16. Correspondence for information**

16.1 Information from West Suffolk Council on Suffolk's provisional devolution deal. Noted.

16.2 PCC proposes increase in precept to fund Constabulary in 2023/24, survey. The Councillors present could not agree on this matter and the casting vote, by the Chairman was Used. By split vote, the Councillors supported the increase suggested by the Police commissioner of increasing the precept by 6%, which would add approximately £3.9m to the annual policing budget in Suffolk. **Action Clerk**

16.3 WSC Voter communication material.  
See under item 7.

#### 16.4 About Multiply Suffolk

Multiply Suffolk aims to help people improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work. The Clerk has requested a digital copy of information regarding this initiative. **Action Clerk**

#### 16.5 Delivering affordable rural housing across West Suffolk Questionnaire

The Councillors did not feel they had enough time to canvas residents in order to answer this questionnaire in an informed manner. Therefore, they decided not to complete the questionnaire. These comments, about the limited time frame, will be passed on to the organisers. **Action Clerk**

### 17. Aide memoire

17.1 Tree planting project, Cllr Hall.

17.2 Flooding issues, Cllr Hall.

Cllr Spicer would like to set up a meeting in the spring to discuss these issues. The Clerk will organise this. **Action Clerk**

18. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Clerk will prepare a schedule for the year and post it on the website and noticeboard. **Action Clerk**

### 19. **To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of The following items:**

19.1 Personnel Issues. None.

19.2 Legal Issues. None.