

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of Westleton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 24 February 2025 in Westleton Village Hall.

Ian Haines
Clerk of the Council

There were Present

Cllr Andrew Turner (Chairman), Cllr Ian Johnson (Vice Chair), Cllr Julian Alexander, Cllr Barry Banks, Cllr J French, Cllr Paul Holmes, Cllr John Matthews, Cllr Nick Shearme, Cllr I Webber, Cllr David Watson

In Attendance

Cllr Richard Smith (SCC for minutes 25/24 – 25/27 only)

Cllr Paul Ashton (ESC for minutes 25/24– 25/27 only)

Ian Haines (Clerk)

25/24 Introductory remarks and apologies for absence:

An apology was received and accepted from Cllr Colin Fisher.

25/25 Declaration of interests

Council members to declare possible interests they may have in any items on the agenda, either pecuniary or non-pecuniary and to consider requests of dispensation.

Cllr D Watson in relation to discussion on future Allotment provision - see minute 25/31(c) .

2526 Open Public Forum – Contributions from Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

25/27 Pre Agenda Report from SCC Councillor

Local Government Reform – Cllr Smith advised that SCC are supporting a move for one unitary authority covering the whole of Suffolk.

An announcement had been made that day that SCC are ending the contract with Suffolk Libraries (which had been running since 2012) and to bring the service back under 'in-house' control. This will take place on 1/6/25.

The meeting was pleased to note that the planning application for the Medical Waste Incinerator at Hinton had now been formally withdrawn.

25/27 Pre Meeting Report from ESC Councillor

Cllr Paul Ashton gave an update on the District Council's stance regarding the Devolution proposals being considered for Suffolk.

Cllr J Matthews referred to the recent decision letter which had been received announcing that the Stranton planning application (DC/24/2307/FUL) had been approved under delegated powers. Notwithstanding, the Parish Council remained concerned on safety grounds about the exit arrangements onto the highway.

25/28 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 27 January 2025

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2025 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

25/29 Matters Arising from the Minutes 27 January 2025

The Clerk reported that, as requested, he had made enquiries and it transpires that the Parish Council are currently not covered under our insurance if a theft occurred of one of the portaloos which we hire. Action – Clerk.

25/30 Council Finances and Accounts

(a) **Projected Year End Figures** – Clerk submitted revised projected year end funds. Details **agreed**.

(b) **Income 2024/25** - Income to date was acknowledged and approved.

(c) **Expenditure 2024/25** - Expenditures to date were acknowledged and approved.

(d) **Bank balances** as at 27 January noted:-

Current	£58,148.36
Savings	£25,152.93
Total Bank Balance	£83,301.29

Invoices and Payments – The following invoices were **agreed** for payment:-

From	Item	Amount
Kompan Limited	Supply & installation of Carousel for Community Field Play Area	£6,665.14
Ian Haines	Clerk expenses (£47.30) & salary (£770.90) – Feb	£818.20

(e) **Audit of Accounts 24/25 – Agreed** – that SALC be appointed again as the internal auditor for the period 1/4/24 – 31/3/25 (estimated cost for the service = £282.00).

(f) **Finance Sub Committee** – **agreed** that Cllr I Webber to now take over as Chair of the group.

25/31 Feedback from Working Parties

(a) **Common** – Noted that a Working Party had been held the previous week and further clearance had been undertaken. Cllr Shearme to prioritise planned works to create additional fire breaks before the onset of summer.

It is hoped that NJB Contractors will be in a position to complete the new foot-path route from Black Slough to the top of the nearby ridge/viewing point before 31/3.

(b) **Community Field** – Cllr P Holmes reported that the new carousel had been installed. Clerk to verify warranty details.

Noted that a portaloos is now on site and this will remain in place until the end of October.

Nat Bacon has been asked to undertake the final area hedge cut.

(c) Allotments – as previously reported, the Parish Council are looking to negotiate with David Watson over a specific site. Before this happens, we need to double check on the numbers interested and contact will be made with the people who had previously responded to the survey (carried out in May 2022) in order to establish that there is still sufficient local interest. Action – Cllr B Banks.

(d) Affordable Housing – a follow up meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, 4 March to provide feedback from the village consultation event held before Christmas. Orwell HA then intend to go through the process of drawing up final terms with the landowner prior to then submitting a formal planning application to ESC for determination.

25/32 Planning applications

From	Item	Details
Ronley, Reckford Road, Westleton IP17 3BE	DC/25/0198/FUL	Detached workshop and bike shed, timber framed with tiled pitch roof on concrete slab base
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 19/2/25 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
White Horse Inn, Darsham Rd, Westleton IP17 3AH	DC/25/0286/FUL	Replacement kitchen extraction system & relocation of cellar cooler
		Deadline for observations: 5/3/25 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
Westleton Village Hall, The Street, Westleton IP17 3AD	DC/24/3811/LBC	Listed Building Consent – Replacement of x10 windows & casements
		Deadline for observations: 5/3/25 Response: No objections

25/33 Other Planning Matters

Cllr J Matthews stated that he would be contacting the Water Company again about ongoing sewage odour issues in the village.

25/34 Tree & Footpath Warden Report

From	Item	Details
Stranton, Darsham Road, Westleton IP17 3AH	DC/25/0384/TCA	Removal/fell of cypress hedge
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 25/2/25 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
Quines, Dunwich Road, Westleton IP17 3AX	DC/25/0482/TCA	Fell x2 conifer & 1 elder
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 5/3/25 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
Old Smithy, Darsham Rd, Westleton IP17 3AQ	DC/25/0621/TCA	Reduce height of bay laurel hedge to 5 metres
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 10/3/25 Response: No objections

From	Item	Details
Land behind Little Oaks, Reckford Rd, Westleton IP17 3BL	DC/25/0676/TCA	Fell x1 horse chestnut
	Status:	Deadline for observations: 13/3/25 Response: To yet be determined.

25/35 Energy Projects

Lionlink Project - Cllr A Turner reported that National Grid Ventures had announced Walberswick as their preferred landfall site (as opposed to the other option to the north of Southwold). The underground cabling will run to the west of Westleton to provide a link up to the proposed Converter station to be built outside of Saxmundham.

25/36 Sizewell C B1125 Transport WP

Cllr A Turner had circulated notes/key points from the last meeting of the Northern Transport Forum which had been held on 5/2/25. Establishment of the Darsham Park & Ride will begin late spring/early summer. Willow Marsh Lane is already closed and will remain so for approximately 2 years. Work proper will also begin late spring/early summer on the Yoxford roundabout and it is anticipated construction of the new Sizewell Link Road will begin in the summer.

Several Members voiced disquiet about the unplanned closure of the Darsham level crossing which had taken place the previous weekend and the resultant large volume of vehicles which had been diverted through the village causing serious traffic issues.

25/37 Parish Council Surgery - 24/2/2025

A resident raised a concern about the condition of the bus stop shelter opposite the Village Hall. Cllr J Alexander was asked to undertake some repair work.

25/38 Future of the White Horse Inn

A letter had been circulated from Nick Attfield, Director of Property, Hospitality & Retail at Adnams noting a planning application for a kitchen extraction system and cellar cooler for the pub and adding that the application coincides "with advanced negotiations on the future of the pub, which will then see it reopen to serve the local community & visitors to the village". Members were encouraged by the response and it was hoped that a formal announcement on the future of the pub would be made soon by the Brewery.

25/39 Correspondence

Councillors were advised of the following:

- (a) Email from Mr & Mrs Sury the owners of The Cleaves in Mill Street regarding an issue with the mains electric supply. They are proposing as a temporary

measure to run a cable connection from the Studio to the main house. However, this will cross Common land. **Agreed** that they can proceed in the circumstances but, for safety reasons, must ensure that the area where the cabling will cross the Common from the Studio to the house cannot be accessed by the public.

- (b) Letter from Suffolk Coastal MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter about promoting her Advice Surgeries. We would also like to take up the invitation to set up a meeting with representatives from the Parish Council and so the Clerk will look to follow up and see if arrangements can be made.

25/40 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the Council next meets at 7.30pm on Monday 31 March 2025.