

**WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm held at  
The United Reformed Chapel, Wattisfield**

**Present:**

- Councillor Geoff Wade (GW) Chair
- Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)
- Councillor Matt Vaughn-Williams (MVW)
- Councillor Cynthia Penn (CP)
- Councillor Ann Telford (AT)
- Councillor David Dyer (DD)

**In Attendance**

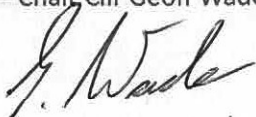
- County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF)
- District Councillor Richard Winch (RW)

**Also present:** 1 member of public. Cllr Richard Winch and Cllr Jessica Fleming

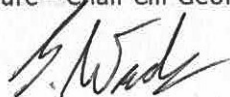
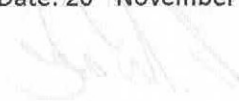
Item	Description
1.	<p><b>PUBLIC FORUM</b></p> <p>Members of the public are invited to comment on any agenda item for this meeting or any other matter concerning them and or the parish. After this opportunity, further comment during the meeting will only be allowed at the Chairman's discretion.</p> <p>MOP spoke at Agenda item 9 (a). Update from The Wattisfield Village Hall Redevelopment Group.</p>
2.	<p><b>REPORT FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</b></p> <p>County Councillor Jessica Fleming and District Councillor Richard Winch submitted reports have been previously circulated to councillors.</p> <p>Report from Cllr Jessica Fleming which included: - Shepherds Grove on-going planning application. Stanton Warehouse Development is still on-going. Solar Energy Developments. Highways Signage. Transport – Ely and Haughley rail junctions - planned improvements. Pylons meeting. Foster Carer recruitment.</p> <p>Full report available in <b>Appendix A.</b></p> <p>GW asked for Cllr Flemings view on the verges on Chapel Road, Wattisfield. Cllr Fleming said to report these issues on the Highways portal.</p>



	<p>Report from Cllr Richard Winch which included: - Blueprint for districts. BMSDC Priorities have been published for consultation. Joint Local Plan is now in consultation. Silver Sundays – volunteers to assist in helping older people to use technology also support for homeless people on budgeting and living independently. £81k Grant funding for public transport – MSDC welcomed comments on this strategy for rural groups. Email Cllr Winch with ideas.</p> <p>Full Report available in <b>Appendix B</b>.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive apologies and approve the reasons for any absences.</p> <p>Apologies received from Councillor Mick Elflain and the reasons approved.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> None declared</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</b> No requests received.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved unanimously.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p>AT asked to comment on 20 is plenty from the previous meeting. She had identified a road in village where the road has narrow and no longer has a footpath.</p> <p>AT asked if the next Warbler could include consultation on 20 mph limits for the village.</p> <p><b>Action for Cllr Elflain</b></p> <p>To consider matters arising that are not covered by subsequent agenda item.</p> <p>a) Walking Leaflet</p> <p>CP – A history of Wattisfield publication should be republished. Questioned why the parish needed a leaflet. It should be used in a welcome pack for new residents to show where the local footpaths are.</p> <p>CP presented a first draft of ideas which was welcomed by Council.</p>



	<p>Council requested that CP continue with her work to develop the leaflet to include more information of the history of Wattisfield. There may be some support from SCC as they have sponsored other parish leaflets in the past.</p>
	<p><b>Action</b> - Clerk to ask if there was any assistance from SCC.</p> <p>b) Community Garden – Probationary period review</p> <p>Discussion was held around the community garden and how it was being managed.</p> <p>AT – had consider the Community Garden positives and concerns. Feels that the garden is not easy maintenance. Worried that it is close to the seating and the play areas. The design is such that it makes grass cutting more difficult.</p> <p>AT proposed that decision on the future of the Community Garden is deferred until the VH plans are consulted on when the garden can be included in this consultation.</p> <p>CP felt that the community garden is contributing to the assets of the village and is enjoyed by many.</p>
	<p>RM felt that the Community Garden group should be applauded for what has been achieved. The group has asked for permission from the Council to create the garden which we need to consolidate.</p> <p><b>RM proposed that permission is granted for the Community Garden with the provision that the garden is maintained to a high standard and with the condition that all tree maintenance falls to the village hall. It should be noted that permission may be removed if not managed appropriately. CP seconded.</b></p> <p><b>All in favour and agreed.</b></p> <p>c) Diss Motorcycle Club Donation</p> <p>CP - The Diss Motorcycle Club would give further donations if specific project for use could be identified to invest the donation in.</p> <p>It was considered if further contributions could go towards the new noticeboard and possible additional seating in the bus shelter. Other ideas include street furniture for the pond area.</p> <p>d) Meadowside Field enforcement progress</p>

	<p>Enforcement order in place for containers, concerns now for the number of caravans occupied on the site now since the summer.</p> <p><b>ClIr RW to follow up with BMSDC officers.</b></p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>ADMINISTRATION</b></p> <p>8a) To note the re-declaration of the new clerk with the Pension Regulator</p> <p>The Clerk explained that changes to employees of the Council need to be updated with the Pension Regulator and that these changes need to be noted by Council and minuted.</p> <p>8b) Clerk requests approval of attendance for the SALC conference.</p> <p>The Clerk requested approval of the SALC Conference on the 29<sup>th</sup> November which would continue professional development. The costs of £15 for the conference and approx. £40 travel expenses were approved and will be met from the training budget.</p> <p><b>Council approved for the clerk to attend the conference and associated travel costs.</b></p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND</b></p> <p>9a) Verbal update from the Wattisfield Village Hall Redevelopment Group</p> <p>Chris Allen gave an update regarding the meeting with the architects. Discussions have been around the options for Do Something, Do More, Do Most. Full List in <b>Appendix C.</b></p> <p>Awaiting proposals back from Purcell's</p> <p><b>Action for Clerk – Circulate TOR to Chris.</b></p> <p>Chris asked for original plans of the VH from 1973 when it was first built to identify where the cesspit was. DD said he would be able to identify where the cesspit and other drainage was located.</p> <p><b>Action for Clerk – to ask MSDC Planning for original plans from the original application for building.</b></p> <p>Council thanked Chris for his report and were pleased that progress is being made.</p> <p>RM – Reported about financial plan for taking the project forward. From the lease to funding for the project.</p>

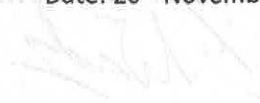




10.	<p><b>VILLAGE POND</b></p> <p>Update following meeting with MSDC by Cllr Meyer.</p> <p>Meeting attended by Cllr Meyer and Elflain.</p> <p>Actions agreed To remove brambles and repair wall.</p> <p>Discussions around the parking at the grass – MSDC agreed to investigate how this can be improved.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - Clerk to update resident of meeting and discussion regarding parking.</p>
11.	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>11a</b> - To confirm the issue of cheques for the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vch 71 – WURC – Hire of Hall - £90.00</li> <li>• Vch 72 – Payroll Fees P1-6 – £45.00</li> <li>• Vch 73 – Staff Costs P7 - £241.85</li> <li>• Vch 74 – HMRC – PAYE P7</li> </ul> <p><b>The payments listed above were approved by Council</b></p> <p><b>11b</b> – Bank reconciliation – The Clerk explained that statements not for August and September had not been received due to difficulties in changing the business address of the Council with the change of clerks. She hopes that this will be available for the November meeting.</p> <p><b>11C</b> – Budget Monitoring report to 9.10.23 – <b>Noted.</b></p>
12.	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS</b></p> <p><b>12a.</b>To consider any response to any planning applications notified by the District Council.</p> <p>None received.</p> <p><b>12b – Planning Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) DC/23/03773 – Cutting Cottage, Bobby Hill, Wattisfield – Change of use - Approved.</li> <li>(ii) DC/22/06309 – Anglian Water Service – Bury pipeline – Approved</li> <li>(iii) DC/22/06352 – Anglian Water Service – Bury pipeline – Approved</li> </ul> <p>AT reported the road closures in relation to these applications which will impact on the village.</p> <p><b>The planning decisions were noted.</b></p>



13.	<p><b>REWILDING GROUP UPDATE</b></p> <p>Lots of enthusiasm at the last meeting. A constitution was passed by the group.</p> <p>Agenda notices for the next meeting will be published inviting positions within the committee including Parish Council representative.</p> <p>Now the group is moving to a formal setting it has lost some of the initial group members.</p>
14.	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</b></p> <p>To consider any correspondence previously circulated.</p>
	<p><b>14a –Wattisfield Town Estate Charity – Council to approve nominated Council representative on the WTEC</b></p> <p><b>The nomination for Council representative on WTEC was approved</b></p>
15.	<p><b>QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN</b></p> <p>CP - Limes Equestrian – condition on the house and land which must be of an equestrian business. AT to pass details on to clerk to log with the planning enforcement.</p> <p>Have your say survey – AT happy to print CP to put these in the notice board.</p> <p>Walsham have asked to liaised regarding the Shepherds Grove application this has already been stated on our objection to this application.</p> <p>Recreation ground – line under ditch with cable. UK Power network need to put a notice regarding underground live cables. <b>Action for Clerk – Notify UK Power network of the issue.</b></p> <p><b>Tree Survey – Clerk to bring forward as agenda item to the next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Agenda item for next meeting – comment on the BMSDC Public Transport Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>Agenda item for next meeting. Agree the plan for the Village Hall going forward.</b></p>
16.	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30 pm.</p>
17.	<p><b>Meeting closed at 21:55</b></p>

Appendix A  
County Councillor Report



Wattisfield Parish Council, October 2023

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division Tel. 07714-597980 [Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk)

**Stanton - Jaynic-Co-Part DC/23/1154/OUT** – Copart are terminating their commitment to the site and will not now be pursuing their proposed vehicle disassembly proposal. Despite this, Jaynic remains committed to developing the other proposals within the planning application, which include the additional 4 x smaller development plots and the associated highway improvements and new road linking through the site to Shepherds Grove West. West Suffolk Council may continue to progress the application pending resolution of outstanding matters including air quality, drainage and consultee comments (SCC Highways and Fire Service). If successful Jaynic intends to identify a suitable employment use for the former Copart section and make further applications on plots within the remaining (hybrid) section in due course.

**Stanton - Equation Warehouse Development DC/23/1154/OUT** – I have discussed access arrangements with SCC Highways and currently the application proposes to use a spur leading to the roundabout that Jaynic may construct assuming this goes ahead. If it does not, then the fall back is Summer Road. According to the application form, 2,903 employees are anticipated. Suffolk Highways is developing its response to the application.

**Solar Energy Developments** - Energy developers bringing forward large-scale energy projects without speaking to councils or communities were criticised by Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader of Suffolk County Council following the latest publication of National Grid's Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register. National Grid connections have been offered at Bramford and Yaxley. These are large scale solar panel and battery storage proposals similar to the 2,500-acre SUNNICA scheme in West Suffolk; details are not yet available. The government has a target to increase solar capacity 70GW by 2035 as part of its net zero targets, and is also looking at increased use of commercial roof space. Solar capacity in the UK as of February 2023 was 14.43G: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/untapped-potential-of-commercial-buildings-could-revolutionise-uk-solar-power>

**Highways Signage** – This is a good time to report missing or damaged road signs as they are being reviewed. Please report with photographs on the Highways reporting tool along with a photograph: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

**Funding for Ely and Haughley Rail Junctions** – Following the cancellation of Phase 2 of HS2, the Government has announced funding for upgrades to these junctions as well as other rail improvements. The outdated infrastructure currently acts as a bottle neck for all rail traffic, upgrades have been long sought and the investment will enable greater rail freight to be carried from Felixstowe and improved passenger services between Ipswich and Peterborough.

**Pylons Meeting in Wortham/ Royden** – The public protest meeting on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September sent a strong message was sent that the project needs to be reviewed, options and costs disclosed, and National Grid made accountable to the public. It was noted that exploratory drilling has already been initiated for potential pylon locations.

**Council Seeks Foster Carers** - If you are interested in becoming a foster carer please get in touch and find out about training and support, carers are needed for children and young people of all ages: [Visit the foster page](#) Phone: 01473 264800 or Email: [fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk)

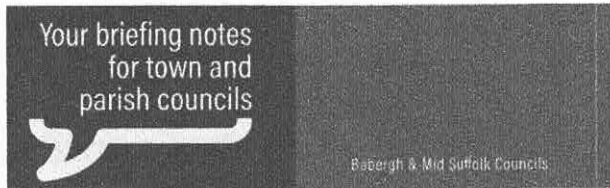
Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: [Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk) Tel: 07714-597980  
Twitter: @jesstfleming

Signature – Chair Cllr Geoff Wade

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Wade".

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Appendix B



October 2023

### Help shape our priorities for the next four years

Now both administrations have set out their initial vision and priorities for the next four years, it's time for our communities to tell us what they think...

We are embarking on a major engagement exercise with residents, communities, businesses, stakeholders and partners – so they can tell us whether they think we are focusing on the right issues.

Feedback will be sought in a range of ways, both online through a survey and in person workshops. This will then help shape our priorities and our refreshed Corporate Plan. We will promote any consultation through all our usual channels and would be grateful for the support of our town and parish council colleagues in helping to spread the word.

### Blueprint for districts' development 'sound'

Planning Inspectors have delivered their verdict on Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan – the blueprint for the districts' future development until 2037, providing clarity for communities and developers. [Find out more](#)

**Councils bring organisations and residents together to inspire climate action** Residents can find out more about the climate action they can take within their communities at a series of community roadshow events. [Find out more](#)

**Developers provide cash boost for community projects** More than £705,000 collected from developers in Babergh and Mid Suffolk is set to be injected back into communities – funding projects including play areas, cycle paths and village hall improvements. [Find out more](#)

### Councils help to tackle loneliness for older residents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joining forces with local groups to help tackle loneliness for older residents, by bringing generations together for free sing-alongs, games and fun. [Find out more](#)

### Councils introduce new project to improve wellbeing of young people

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils have introduced a new scheme to improve the wellbeing of young people in schools and connect them with their communities. [Find out more](#)

### Councils join forces with Jobcentre Plus

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have launched a new partnership with Jobcentre Plus to bolster the local economy with a series of recruitment fairs. [Find out more](#)

### £50,000 awarded to help improve mental wellbeing

Mid Suffolk District Council has responded to a county-wide survey which identified Stowmarket and surrounding areas as an 'emotional and physical needs hotspot' by awarding £50,000 to local projects supporting residents' wellbeing. [Find out more](#)

### Pets as prizes banned in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

The giving of live animals as prizes will be banned on land owned by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. [Find out more](#)

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Signature – Chair Cllr Geoff Wade

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Wade'.

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023



## **Appendix C**

Wattisfield Village Hall Refurbishment – Additional details for the three options.

### **Do Something**

- New sustainable heating system
- PV Panels
- Improved insulation
- Lower internal ceiling
- New kitchen
- Improved parking
- Refurbish bar area
- Maximise use of area to south of building
- Improve external appearance
- Refurbish play area
- Refurbish toilets
- Increase storage

### **Do More**

- More flexible space with movable internal walls
- Install garden area to south
- New kitchen and bar to east of building
- Extension to east to link with play park
- Café capability
- Toilets capable of supporting flexible division of space
- PV panels with battery storage
- Disabled access to field
- Internal storage

### **Do Most**

- Terrace at first floor level with disabled access
- External catering access
- Multi-use games area.

