

Wilby Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Wilby Parish Council held at 7 pm on Wednesday 30th June 2021 in the Coronation Hall, Wilby

Councillors attending: Cllrs Ian Williamson (Chair), Karen Collins, Robin Cross, Steve Lee and Rebecca Regis.

Also attending: Three members of the public (partial only)

72.21 Apologies. Julie Collett Clerk and RFO

73.21 Declarations of Interest. None

74.21 Dispensations approved. None

75.21 Approval of minutes. It was unanimously resolved that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting held on 5 May 2021 were a true and accurate record.

76.21 Progress Reports. Not available, deferred to next meeting (Charging Point, Locality Budget, Application of CIL funds)

77.21 Public Participation Session. Members of the public present did not raise any issues and no reports were available from County and District Councillors, Footpath Warden or Tree Warden.

78.21 Review of Policy on Wilby Green including future of signage

(i) Council received a briefing paper outlining the history of Wilby Green, describing its status and the Council's powers and matters relevant to the question of ownership. Council then proceeded to review whether the decision to seek ownership through adverse possession, started in July 1997 but rescinded by Council on 5 July 2011, should be reinstated.

(ii) It was noted that there had not been any illegal incursion since 1998 . A new multi agency protocol giving prominence to human rights and welfare issues as a precursor to eviction action by the Council or a private landowner had been introduced in 2011.

Wilby Parish Council

(iii) Council considered the potential benefits of seeking ownership (greater control, speedier and more economic eviction process as a private landlord) as against the perceived liabilities (responsibility for the site and its regular maintenance, upholding of grazing rights, and the costs of securing ownership and undertaking essential maintenance). Council resolved unanimously that there were no grounds to change its current policy not to pursue ownership.

(iv) Council had withdrawn funding for the annual maintenance of Wilby Green (ditch clearance and removal of brambles etc.) in 2018/19. The owners of The Corner House at the Green, who were present, advised that subsequently they had mowed the part of the Green closest to their property (to prevent the ingress of brambles and weeds into their garden) but they were not taking responsibility for the maintenance of the Green. The owners of Oak Farm had employed a contractor to clear the Green in the vicinity of their house. Currently only two of the four dwellings at the Green were permanently occupied as main residences. The owners present also advised that the public footpaths were heavily overgrown and that the signage for Footpath 12 needed re-siting. Council agreed to follow up the footpath issues with Suffolk County Council.

(v) Regarding the maintenance of the Green, Council agreed to make an annual donation towards the costs of maintenance on the presumption that the maintenance would be organised by the residents and that payment would be made against a suitably authorised account from a bona fide contractor. This would be effective forthwith but subject to review on an annual basis when the Council's budget was set.

(vi) Regarding the current signage, Council determined that this should remain in place as a potential deterrent to illegal activity but would be removed should the circumstances demand.

(vii) The decisions of the Council recorded above would be conveyed to the four householders at the Green by the Chair.

79.21 Footpath Warden. Ms Holly Dunn joined the meeting having offered her services as the Parish's Footpath Warden. This was warmly welcomed by Council. Ms Dunn was briefed on the role and arrangements would be made for her to be added as a user on the wilbypc.org.uk network.

Wilby Parish Council

80.21 Planning applications and decisions.

Prior approval granted DC/21/01372 The Business Centre Messuage Farm

- a. Planning permission granted DC/21/01979 The Old Forge
- b. Listed building consent granted DC/21/01980 The Old Forge
- c. Discharge of conditions application accepted. DC/21/01863 The Old Forge
- d. Planning permission granted DC/21/01787 Bullrush Barn, Messuage Farm
- e. Planning permission granted DC/20/04915 Russell House
- f. Prior approval granted DC/21/01372 The Business Centre Messuage Farm

Noted

81.21 Finance

(i) Finance report was deferred for consideration at the next meeting.

(ii) Receipts received were noted and listed payments authorised.

i	Wilby Village Hall	Donation	£100.00
ii	Groundwork UK	Repayment	£220.00
iii	J Collett	Salary	£564.48
iv	J Collett	Expenses	£44.60

Receipts HMRC Repayment of VAT £189.76

82.21 Chairman's Succession. Following Cllr Williamson's wish to stand down by the November 2021 meeting of Council, nominations were sought for the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Cllr Steve Lee offered to stand as Chairman and Cllrs Karen Collins and Robin Cross as Vice Chairman. An election would be held at the September 2021 meeting of Council to allow the new office holders to assume their posts by the 1 November 2021 Council meeting. (**After Note:** Cllr Karen Collins has subsequently withdrawn her nomination as Vice Chairman in favour of Cllr Robin Cross.)

83.21 Purchase of Laptops for Councillors. Noting the potential cost was for 7 laptops at £500 each and that no Locality budget funding was forthcoming, it was agreed that this proposal should not be pursued at this time.

84.21 Review of Internal Control. The statement of Internal Control was approved. The proforma recording undertakings would be completed by the Chair in consultation with the Clerk and RFO.

Wilby Parish Council

85.21 Correspondence received.

(i)*Village hall.* Grateful acceptance of Council donation of £100 in lieu of hiring charges foregone and commitment to joint working with the Council.

(ii)*Play Area Church Close.* A resident had requested a play area be provided. The development allowed for an open space but not the provision of a play area. This would be considered further in conjunction with residents and Orwell Housing Association (owners of the site) to establish equipment desired, potential costs, availability of grants etc

(iii)*Plaques on Roadside Footpath Signs.* Proposal from SCC to be referred to Footpath Warden.

(iv)*Intensive Poultry Units.* Substantive letter to SCC and MSDC from Horham group noted.

(v)*Festival of Suffolk 2022 and HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.* Letter from Lord Lieutenant encouraged participation in Festival of Suffolk 2022 aimed at recovery, resetting and recharging Suffolk's communities, businesses etc. following the Covid pandemic. The Chair agreed to act as the Council's Festival champion. The festival would run in parallel with the Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed that the Council should liaise with the Village Hall (and other village organisations) and the community in considering how best to mark the Jubilee.

86.21 items from Parish Councillors

(i)*Neighbourhood Plan.* A final version had been issued by MSDC and should be placed on the website. Cllr Karen Collins expressed concern at reports that developers and District Councils were not necessarily taking into account Neighbourhood Plans when preparing proposals.

(ii)*SID.* Cllr Robin Cross proposed the SID be reactivated from 1 July 2021 on a bi-monthly rota. Agreed.

(iii)*Plastic signs in Stradbroke.* Cllr Steve Lee deprecated the plastic signs wrapped around lampposts in Stradbroke to encourage walking and cycling, the signs already proving non resistant to adverse weather.

(iv)*wilbpc.org.uk.* Three councillors continued to have problems using the wilbpc network. Cllr Robin Cross would circulate contact details for the Help desk in Diss.

87.21 items for Next Agenda

Items carried forward: Progress Reports (Charging Unit, Locality Budget, CIL funds) and Finance report.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Platinum Jubilee

Play area Church Close

Parish Online

Wilby Parish Council

88.21 Next meeting. The next meeting of Council would be held at 7 pm on Wednesday 1 September 2021 in the Coronation Village Hall, Wilby.

Meeting closed at 9 pm
Minutes signed as correct record

Chairman _____ Date _____