



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held **MONDAY, 13 MARCH 2023** at the Village Hall, Wickham Skeith.

Present: Cllrs T Rowe (Chair), K Knights, J Keable, and M Appleby.

Clerk: L Rogers.

District Cllr R Warboys

Also present: 5 members of the public.

1. 13/3/23: Apologies received from Cllrs T Thorogood and R Palmer
2. 13/3/23: a). To receive members' Declarations of Interest on Agenda items. Cllr Appleby planning item for Street Farm. b). To consider requests for dispensations. None received.
3. 13/3/23: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th January 2023 were approved and signed
4. 13/3/23: Village Forum. Question about how the zoning and maintenance of the Grimmer will work. Problems with fishing – cars, tents and overnight fishing, no toilets for public use. A resident wants to keep the rural setting of the village so no to lots of notices etc. Broken footpath sign post by The Entry has not been fixed and was reported 14/2/22 Clerk to follow up.
- 5 13/3/23: SCC: Cllr Stringer - no report received
- 6 13/3/23 MSDC: Cllr Warboys - report appendix 2
- 7 13/3/23: Planning Matters:
 - a) Application for Listed Building Consent - DC/23/00202 Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Repair to wall and gate following impact by vehicular damage Location: The Old Swan House, The Street, Wickham Skeith has been withdrawn
 - b) The councillors considered Application for Planning Permission - DC/22/06310 Proposal: Full Planning Application - Conversion of barn into 1no. dwellinghouse with single bedroom annexe. Conversion and extension of an existing brick garage into a workshop and double bay cart lodge. Location: Street Farm, The Street, Wickham Skeith and agreed to object to it on the grounds that more information about materials and finishes to the building is required to ensure that it is developed in a sympathetic way in keeping with a listed building in a listed building setting.
 - c) The councillors considered Application for Planning Permission without Compliance of Condition(S) - DC/23/00903 Proposal: Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/22/00448 dated 11/04/2022. Erection of 2No dwellings Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) amended scheme of plans. Location: Land To North of Bumbledown (& Forming Part of Previously Approved Development Site), Grange Road, Wickham Skeith and agreed not to object to the variation. However three concerns were raised; The site owners have poured concrete into the nearby ditch last week; the safety grids have been removed from either end of the culvert at the site which will allow rubbish to wash down the culvert; the large oak tree at the entrance splay appears to block the visibility splay. Clerk to report the issues.

8. Finance

8.1.13/3/23 SCC Cllr Stringer has kindly agreed to make a grant of £750 towards the purchase of a commemorative bench for the King's Coronation. Clerk to make an application.

MSDC Cllr Warboys kindly agreed to make a grant of £300 to cover the cost of buying coronation mugs for each child in the village. Clerk to email to arrange

8.2.13/3/23 The Councillors received the financial report and noted any income received. They agreed from the financial report authorise payments made since the last meeting and to be made.???? Para not clear??? See Finance report appendix 1

8.3. 13/3/23 The Councillors approved the Annual CIL statement for 2022-23 and the Chairman signed it.

8.4 13/3/23 The Councillors appointed Dave Crimmin as the Internal Auditor 2022-23

8.5 13/3/23 The Clerk has made an application to MSDC for District Council CIL funding to install solar panels and battery storage at the village hall. This is separate from the CIL money that the parish council have in their bank.

9. 13/3/23: CIL Community Infrastructure Levy Survey

The councillors are very pleased with the large response to the survey as 82 responses from the 252 people living in the village. The following order of priority resulted:

1. solar panels on village hall roof
- 2 clear the Grimmer of weeds
- 3 Put more benches on the green (King's Coronation bench has been ordered)
- 4 upgrade the village hall kitchen facilities
- 5 play area
- 6 SID with solar charger
- 8 Village hall extension
- 9 Extra litter and dog bins in the village
- 10 Screen and audio loop in the village hall
- 11 Upgrade the village hall toilets
- 12 Install electric vehicle charging points at the village hall
- 13 Extend the village hall car park

Other suggestions include: pétanque, cycle facilities, a padel court, repair guttering on village hall, The next stage is to obtain costings and details of works for each on the list The additional ideas included in the survey have provided good feedback for the parish council for a village improvement plan and what is important to people living in the village. Feedback to go in the newsletter. It is proposed to bring further planning of CIL spend to the May meeting

10 13/3/23: Village Green and the Grimmer.

The parish council is considering identifying zones round the Grimmer and the Green to assist future maintenance. These might include areas to be kept cut back for visibility, areas to encourage the orchids that have appeared and an area on the green to be managed for bees and butterflies. : It was agreed to look further at the problems with fishing, which could include taking soundings in the village about whether to continue to allow fishing into the Grimmer.

11. 13/3/23 Speed of traffic in village: update on ANPR camera.

Clerk to ask if Cllr Stringer has received the report from the ANPR about the week they were in the village as SCC won't send the results to the parish council directly.

12. 13/3/23: Matters for next agenda.

Can MSDC supply equipment for a litter pick in the village. Proposed that this might take place on the Coronation weekend instead of around Easter.

CIL spending and newsletter questionnaire.

13. 13/3/23: Next Meeting: Monday, 15th May 2023 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed: Date:
Appendix 1

WICKHAM SKEITH PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL REPORT 13 MARCH 2023

Schedule of Payments & Receipts from 1 JANUARY 2023

Income Received since 1.1.23

None	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>

Expenditure (movement since 1.1.23)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

				LGA
1.2.23	Wickham Skeith village hall	12.00	100661	1972
1.2.23	MSDC Bin emptying	133.67	100662	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
				LGA
1.2.23	L Rogers - laptop	411.21	100663	1972
				LGA
1.2.23	L Rogers Nov- March wages	700.00	100664	1972
				LGA
7.3.23	HMRC tax Nov-March	175.00	100665	1972
				LGA
7.3.23	L Rogers expenses	13.18	100666	1972
		<u>1,445.06</u>		

Unpresented cheques

				LGA
1.2.23	Wickham Skeith village hall	12.00	100661	1972
1.2.23	MSDC Bin emptying	133.67	100662	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
				LGA
7.3.23	HMRC tax Nov-March	175.00	100665	1972
				LGA
7.3.23	L Rogers expenses	13.18	100666	1972
		<u>333.85</u>		

Bank Reconciliation

Account	statement date	statement balance	actual balance	credit/transfers not shown	unpresented cheques
Community a/c	10.2.23	£26,803.70	£26,469.85	0.00	£333.85
Business reserve	10.2.23	£1,119.25	£1,119.25	0.00	£0
		<u>£27,922.95</u>	<u>£27,589.10</u>		

Appendix 2: MSDC Cllr Warboys Report:

Voter ID The local elections in May will be the first occasion that Photographic ID will be required at polling stations. Polling station staff are going to make judgements on whether voters' ID looks legitimate. Voters may be turned away if the presiding officer determines that the Photo ID presented does not show a good likeness. The name on the ID presented must match exactly the name on the register of voters. Full information on what are acceptable forms of Photo ID and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate are available on the government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate> Voters can also apply by post Mid Suffolk rural transport/electric minibus project. Despite having capital funds available MSDC Cabinet

approved the officer recommendation to pause the delivery of this project in order to allow more time to collate evidence to support the viability of a pilot scheme as limited evidence of successful schemes has been available to date across the local area and across the UK, accepting that further agreement with Gateway 14 Board may be required if the final scheme is linked to G14 delivery. This is a source of frustration to the Green and Liberal Democrat Group who initially sought the funds – these will be ringfenced. The working group accepted the officers' recommendations but there was considerable discussion. Community Development Funding Revenue or Capital up to 100% of total project costs (up to a maximum grant of £20,000) Examples of Eligible Projects 2022 · Provision of new or improvements to existing community facilities. · Creation of new or upgrading existing play areas and equipment. · Provision of new sport, cultural and recreation facilities. · Projects providing digital improvements that benefit communities. · Creation of new publicly available open space or projects which conserve, protect or enhance the environment. · Provision of activities that support communities to reduce isolation, improve social contact and improve wellbeing. · Vision and innovation in developing new cultural audiences or experiences - particularly those currently under-represented as users. · Installation of renewable or net zero energy projects. · Support for community groups with additional costs incurred in retaining a service/activity. New Areas of Eligibility 2023 · Cultural and heritage facilities which seek to expand their offer to the local community and support wellbeing. · Vision and innovation in developing new cultural audiences or experiences - particularly those currently under-represented as users. · Provision of costs for feasibility surveys/work where there is a demonstrable need. (Capped at £8,000). (A feasibility study will help to determine whether something can be done, should you proceed with it, and if so, how.) · Funding to enable professional support to develop a business plan/business strategy to improve the sustainability of VCSE organisations. · Support for community groups with additional costs incurred in retaining a service/activity due to the cost of living crisis. Digital Improvements New council websites will be launched in Spring providing a more modern and user friendly system. Followed by a review of the online forms. Resident will have a "my account facility." Live chat will be piloted and a call back feature. Cost of Living Crisis Winter Warmth funding supported 62 projects across B&MSDC's. 82 vulnerable adults were supported with housing costs through the Household Support Grant last round of funding, 142 will be helped through the current round via the Household Support Fund. Foodbanks, pantries and pop up shops have been mapped on the Suffolk Community Directory:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/results.page?qt=foodbanks&term=&sorttype=relevance> Much more information: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/benefits/cost-of-living-support/i-need-help/> Report from the Climate Change Manager Ian Bowers Started Sept 22 Carbon Reduction Management Plan – Actions Completed: HVO for Councils Fleet Solar car ports on 2 council owned sites. PV and other environmental improvements to leisure centres in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Development of a Sustainable travel Plan and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, LCWIP - Ongoing work with SCC Highways, Rights of Way, BMSDC Infrastructure team and planning officers to bring priority schemes forwards is underway. To come: a Carbon Resilience Plan with a community focus. Linking with the SCC pilot: "Plug in Suffolk" an EV implementation plan for a mix of community owned and operated and commercial EV charging sites. Working with Parishes to monitor wildflower growth in areas left to grow and mapping meadow management schemes. Appointment of a dedicated energy manager to oversee the councils' corporate assets including acting on the heat network feasibility study to serve 5 BMSDC buildings (including Stowmarket health and Leisure Facility) plus a range of existing and new build housing. Council Meeting 23rd Feb 2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2023/24 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK was approved by the full council, including the recommendation that: "at the General Fund Budget for 2023/24 is based on no increase to the Band D Council Tax," together with an amendment proposed by the Green and Lib Dem Group: "That council ring-fences £2 million from the Strategic Transformation and Infrastructure Reserve and other unspent reserves such as the Strategic Priorities – Housing Reserve to tackle the energy, cost of living and climate crises in Mid Suffolk." MSDC only retains 9 pence of

every £1.00. council tax collected. 4p – Parish councils, 13p – Police and Crime commissioner, 74p – SCC. It is worth noting that: “The budget setting approach for 2022/23 recognised that the Council has tended to underspend the budget that has been set in recent years, primarily due to additional income being received. Managers have traditionally used a worst-case scenario when putting their budget proposals together. Amalgamating these assumptions across the whole organisation has, in recent years, resulted in under-spends.” So, for 2022/23 stretching, but realistic, assumptions were used when putting budget proposals together across both expenditure and income. However, global events, rising inflation and interest rates have created an unprecedented financial challenge for the Council resulting in a likely overspend against budget.” That will be met by reducing the 23/24 contribution to “The Growth and Efficiency Fund ” to £3.158m (to be known as Strategic Transformation Infrastructure Fund). There is a new fund – Community Development Fund - 500k the purpose of which is to provide financial support to local communities and organisations in the district with the delivery of local place-based initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified. HRA Budget agreed – includes a 7% increase in rents – there has been an increase of 46% in the total cost of service. RTB – “The money received from RTB sales can only be used as a 40% contribution towards the cost of a replacement home. The remaining 60% of the replacement cost must be found from other HRA resources.” A new joint depot for council operations is to be investigated as the current ones no longer fit for purpose. Finally SHELF – We were updated on the ongoing development of the full business case for the Stowmarket, health, education, and leisure facility (SHELF) scheme. There has been significant progress on the scheme since the Cabinet report in June 2022.1.2 and It was agreed to fund further progress including submitting a full planning application, detailed design, and full cost plan for the scheme to the amount of £250,000 from the Growth and Efficiency Fund. The facilities currently include:▪ 3G football pitch▪ Mini athletics track▪ Sport pavilion▪ Well-being hub▪ Two multi use games areas▪ A new 4 sport courts hall▪ Improvement to all grass pitches▪ Community track▪ Outdoor provision (trim trail and children play area)▪ Additional parking at the Wellbeing hub and pavilion. Holiday Activity & Food Programme Eligibility Holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to year 11 who receive benefit-related free school meals (FSM, 15% of the funding available can be used for children and young people who do not meet the free school meal criteria but are in need. All holiday provision is encouraged to be available for any children not receiving free schools meals who can pay to attend. There is a voucher code in place to enable FSM children to book onto the activities, this process happens each School Holiday. The Christmas Programme only reached 130 out of over 2200 children. Easter programme 2023 The provision for Easter is currently being put together, with the programme due to start on Saturday 1st April for a two week period. Schools are asked to refer eligible children. Cllr. Rowland Warboys (Green Party) MSDC Email: rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel. 01379 783412 Mobile: 07484 186121