



Wickham Skeith Parish Council

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held **WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2023** at the Village Hall, Wickham Skeith.

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

Clerk: L Rogers

County Cllr A Stringer

District Cllr R Warboys

Also present: 5 members of the public.

1. 15/5/23 Cllr Thorogood was elected as Chairman for this meeting.
2. 15/5/23 The Councillors each signed their Deed of Acceptance
3. 15,5/23: Apologies received from Cllr R Palmer
4. 15/5/23: a). To receive members' Declarations of Interest on Agenda items- None received b). To consider requests for dispensations. None received.
5. 15/5/23: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th March 2023 were approved and signed
6. 15/5/23: SCC: Cllr Stringer - report appendix 1
7. 15/5/23 MSDC: Cllr Warboys - report appendix 2
8. 15/5/23: Village Forum. A new footpath sign has been installed by the kissing gate footpath near the village hall. Since its installation, a large puddle has formed. The sign is on the opposite side to the previous sign and there is concern that it may have pierced the water pipe that runs on that side of the footpath. Clerk to report.
9. 15/5/23: Appointment of Councillors to Roles
Defibrillator – Cllr Keable
10. 15/5/23: Planning Matters:
 - a) The councillors considered the application for planning permission - DC/23/01725 Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of single storey side and rear extension. Location: Rose Cottage, The Broadway and agreed they have no objections
 - b) 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 Location: Street Farm, The Street - The application has been withdrawn
 - c) 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 has been approved
11. 15/5/23: Finance
 - 11.1. No finance report was available. Clerk to send later
 - 11.2. The Councillors approved the bank reconciliation for the year 2022-23
 - 11.3. The Councillors reviewed and approved the Internal Audit for 2022-23 and noted the recommendations
 - 11.4 The Councillors reviewed and approved the Annual Governance statement section 1 for 2022-23 and the Chairman signed it
 - 11.5 The Councillors reviewed and approved the Annual Governance statement section 2 for 2022-23 and the Chairman signed it
 - 11.5 The Councillors agreed to register with the Information Commissioner's Office as a cost of £40 per year to comply with Data Protection legislation
 - 11.6 The Councillors approved the purchase of a commemorative bench for the King's Coronation at a cost of (£750) and commemorative mugs at a cost of (£500)

- 11.6 Clerk to update the Asset Register for the next meeting
- 11.7 The Councillors reviewed the Plusnet contract and noted the business fibre broadband accounts are to end in 12 months. Clerk to explore the options

12. 15/5/23: Standing Orders
The Councillors reviewed and approved the Standing Orders.

13. 15/5/23: Financial Regulations
The Councillors reviewed and approved the Financial Regulations.

14. 15/5/23: CIL Community Infrastructure Levy Survey
The councillors have been advised by the Village Hall Committee that although the solar panels are the most popular improvement to the village, the village hall requires re-roofing before solar panels can be added. It was agreed to explore available grants towards the estimated cost of £33,000 plus vat. The application for 100% funding for solar panels has been made and it should be possible to pursue this at a later stage – Clerk to check. The Village Hall Committee will try to obtain two more quotes for the work. Cllr Appleby has obtained an estimated price of £2,000 for a new SID speed camera with solar panels. It may be possible to request funding towards this from the District and County Cllrs. An estimated cost of £45,000 was given for kitchen improvements. It was agreed to form a working party with people from the Village Hall Committee, parish councillors and any other relevant people to discuss this further– date to be agreed.

15. 15/5/23: Village Green and the Grimmer.
A plan with five zoned rotation areas has been made and work will be carried out on one zoned area each year to allow five years growth before cutting back. There are many self-seeded trees which need to be controlled. The priority is the large willow tree which also needs the ivy removed from it. Clerk to arrange an arboriculturist to inspect the trees on the green. Cllr Appleby shared the plan and asked for any comments to be made to her.

16. 15,5/23: Litter Pick.
It was agreed that the verges have grown too high to be able to do a litter pick now so it will be considered for late autumn when the growth has died back.

17. 15/5/23: Matters for next agenda.
Coronation Mugs – there are a few unclaimed mugs which will be sold at the fete if not claimed before.
Commemorative bench – it is set high and might need a foot rest to support people when they are sitting on it

18. 15/5/23: Next Meeting: Monday, 11th September 2023 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed: Date:

Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation. Suffolk County Council has announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation. The Independent Living Payment will be available to Ukrainian Refugees, who are moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. The funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county. Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment by visiting <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests> and completing the application form. Application forms can also be requested by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk Please note that applicants must provide a copy of their tenancy agreement for the property they are claiming for, in order to receive the support.

Cassius Digital Service Cassius, Suffolk County Council's digital care programme, has released figures for its first 18 months in action. Since its launch in July '21 Cassius has: reached 3,000 people with the installation of over 4,000 devices;

- saved residents of Suffolk a collective 67,825 days in care homes;
- avoided 400 ambulance call outs;
- prevented hospital admissions and amounting to a saving of 500 hospital days, freeing up beds for those most in need;
- saved £8.8 million of social care funding and £480,000 for the local NHS;
- achieved a happiness rating of 98.45% among Cassius users.

Cassius has also been recognised with a hat-trick of awards from leading health technology publications. Last month, Cassius was awarded 'Best Innovation Project of the Year' in the Health Tech Digital Awards 2023 and 'Best New Assistive Technology Solution of the Year' at the Assistive Technology Awards 2023. Meanwhile, Cassius+, which is being trialled in West Suffolk and introduces additional health monitoring and assessment tools, such as blood pressure monitors, oximeters, scales, and thermometers alongside the established care technology offered by Cassius, has won 'Best Innovation Project of the Year'. As the UK's leading digital care technology service, Cassius delivers more safety, independence and confidence to Suffolk people and their families. A range of care technologies – video carephones, smart watches, monitoring sensors and falls wearables – support users to live their normal lives around their home and makes it simpler for loved ones to check in with them. The devices also give care professionals valuable insights into people's habits and vulnerabilities, helping build more personalised, empowering and less intrusive care packages that also reduce costly interventions and deteriorations in wellbeing. Crucially, Cassius relieves worry and increases wellbeing at a time that can be fraught with anxieties for more vulnerable people and their families. Increased face-to-face connectivity via the video smartphones, and peace-of-mind delivered by wearable devices and sensors that enable carers and families to check their loved one is up and about, bring huge benefits to people's lived experiences. The user happiness rating (98.45%) sits alongside endless user and family testimonies to show how Cassius really can be life enhancing. If you think that someone would benefit from this service please look it up on the SCC website.

Appendix 2: MSDC Cllr Warboys Report:

Local Elections 2023 In Mid Suffolk, 34 councillors have been elected, with 24 seats for the Green Party, six seats for Local Conservatives, and four for the Liberal Democrat The first meeting of the newly elected MSDC will be its Annual Council Meetings later this month where councillors will elect their leader and chair. Each councils' cabinet is then appointed by its leader. Mid Suffolk District Council meets at 5.30pm on Monday 22 May The turnout for the election in Mid Suffolk, was 30,855, representing 37% of the electorate.

Results Gislingham (electorate – 2622):

Anne-Marie Hogan Local conservative 315

Rowland Warboys 792

12 Ballot Papers were rejected.

Turnout: 42.8%

These elections were also the first locally since The Elections Act 2022 introduced a requirement for voters to show photographic ID before being issued with a ballot paper in polling stations. All necessary data around the impact of the new legislation will be submitted to the Secretary of State and Electoral Commission.

Cost of Living Support MSDC is continuing to provide support for those who are struggling with the ongoing rise in the cost of living. Further information can be found online:
<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/benefits/cost-of-living-support/>

Community Grants available in Mid Suffolk A range of grants are available for projects that have a clear and beneficial impact on our local communities. These include: Capital Grants – these are aimed at assisting community groups in making improvements and repairs to village halls, play areas, sports clubs, recreational facilities and other social infrastructure. They can cover to up to 100% of total project costs to a maximum grant of £10,000. Capital Grants are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 2nd June 2023.

Community Development Grants – provides financial support to help with the delivery of local place-based initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified. The grants is available towards either revenue (ongoing) or capital (new or one-off) projects. It can cover up to 100% of project costs to a maximum of £20,000. Applications are open for applications from the 1st April 2023 to 23rd June 2023. Councillors Locality Award – the award will be open for applications towards the end of May 2023.

WICKHAM SKEITH PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT 13 MARCH 2023

Schedule of Payments & Receipts since 9.1.23

17.3.23	VAT refund	223.29
27.3.23	Cllr Stringer	750.00
27.3.23	Cllr Warboys	300.00
11.4.23	MSDC	2,017.50
		3,290.79

Expenditure (movement since 13.3.23)

Schedule of verified invoices agreed for payment

27.2.23	Plusnet	28.87
27.3.23	Plusnet	28.87
1.2.23	Hall hire	12.00
1.2.23	L Rogers	411.21
1.3.23	L Rogers	700.00
7.3.23	HMRC tax	175.00
7.3.23	L Rogers expenses	13.18
23.3.23	Bench deposit	50.00
27.3.23	Genesis bench	675.00
27.3.23	Suffolk cloud website	120.00
14.4.23	L Rogers April wages	175.00
14.4.23	Hall hire	30.00
14.4.23	SALC Subs	186.26
11.5.23	R Palmer mugs	487.00
11.5.23	Newsletter subs	250.00
11.5.23	Heelis & Lodge audit	220.00
11.5.23	MSDC bins 2203-24	95.35
11.5.23	L Rogers expenses	35.40
15.5.23	L Rogers may wages	175.00
		1,020.00

Unpresented
cheques

23.3.23	Bench deposit	50.00
27.3.23	Genesis bench	675.00
14.4.23	L Rogers April wages	175.00
14.4.23	Hall hire	30.00
14.4.23	SALC Subs	186.26
11.5.23	R Palmer mugs	487.00
11.5.23	Newsletter subs	250.00
11.5.23	Heelis & Lodge audit	220.00
11.5.23	MSDC bins 2203-24	95.35
11.5.23	L Rogers expenses	35.40
15.5.23	L Rogers may wages	175.00
		<u>2,379.01</u>

Bank Reconciliation

Account	statement date	statement balance	actual balance	credit/transfers not shown
Community a/c	12.4.23	£29,707.90	£27,328.89	0.00
Business reserve	10.2.23	£1,120.64	£1,120.64	0.00
		£30,828.54	£28,449.53	