

**Minutes of the Withersfield Annual Parish Meeting held at 7:00pm on  
Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in the village hall, Withersfield.**

Present: Cllrs Terry Rich (Chairman), Frank Eve (Vice-Chair),  
Julia Korona, Jaclyn Lake, Philip Stiles; Clerk: Laura Crump.

- 1. Report from Chair of Parish Council, Cllr Terry Rich**
- 2. Report from Chair of Traffic Working Party, Cllr Frank Eve**
- 3. Report from County Councillor, Cllr Bobby Bennett**
- 4. Report from District Councillor, Cllr Indy Wijenayaka**

All reports were shared and discussed among the PC. Copies of the reports can be found on the Parish Council website.

**5. Requested reports:**

**i. Secretary of Village Hall Management Committee, Sheila Horton**

The VHMC report can be found on the Parish Council website.

**ii. Chair of Sports and Recreation Committee, Denis Elavia**

Haverhill CC 3<sup>rd</sup> XI is using the ground for Saturday cricket. Playing in the two counties division 9. Wratting Lions CC are using the ground on a Wednesday night. Playing in the Haverhill and District mid-week league division 3.

The ground being flooded until early May is a common scenario and the clubs are having to plan accordingly. The 1<sup>st</sup> game will be on Wednesday 08/05/24, followed by Haverhill on the Saturday.

The ground itself is in good order with Haverhill & The Lions investing in the pitch to improve the facility.

The Square was re-seeded at the end of last season and spiked for aeration at the start of the year. The field inside of the boundary rope has been cut by West Suffolk Council at the club's expenses until the field is dry and grass length is manageable by the resident machinery. The outfield will also be rolled by Bradley Goss early next week now the rain has subsided.

The clubs have rented a Portaloo that will be behind the club house until the start of September as the current facilities are not fit for purpose. This is at the Cricket club's expense and we may need to review their match fees accordingly as it was always previously paid for by the sports and rec committee.

### **iii. Speed Watch, Chris Oaks**

The year under review saw two sessions only carried out in October 2023 by the Speed-watch team. With the threatening behaviour of some motorists including swerving towards team members during sessions the number of members prepared to turn out has dwindled.

There is also the feeling that the whole process is toothless with very few consequences for offending motorists who know this all too well.

Extra equipment was delivered by the village's allocated police officer (Cheryl) in early January including new forward signage, Hi-Viz vests and clipboards.

In contrast the VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) has been set out on several occasions collecting valuable data which can be used in support of the project to implement the 20 mph Zone scheme which was approved by Suffolk County Council Highways several years ago. The data shows, as predicted, that the volume of traffic through the village (particularly along Queen Street and Church Road) continues to increase and the speed of traffic along Rose Hill, passed Burton Green and along Thurlow Road remains significantly higher than the permitted 30 mph.

SCC Highways have made available a VAS with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) facility and this seems to visit the village once every six months for a week at a time. What the effect of this it is impossible to tell because no feedback is received from SCC on a location specific basis.

### **iv. Parish Tree Warden, Alexander Talbot**

None received.

### **v. Suffolk Police**

The PCC's most recent Annual Report for 2022-23 can be found at:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/police-and-crime-panel-annual-report-2022-2023.pdf>

The PCC presents his Annual Report to the Police and Crime Panel every October. The 2023-24 Annual Report will be available on their website in October 2024.

*The meeting closed at 19:30.*