**Councillors present**: Cllr. N. Foster (NF) (Chair), Cllr. K. Lucas (KL) (Vice Chair), Cllr. S. Foster (SF), Cllr. A. Marshall (AM), Cllr. G. Ciantar (GC), Cllr. P. MacKenzie (PM) & Cllr. L. Osborn (LO).

**Present:**  Clerk – Vicky Bright. Cllr. Brian Harvey – WSC.

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| **ITEM**  **22/2/1** | |  | | --- | | **Public Forum – LGA 1972, Section 100(1):**  Five members of public were in attendance.  Mr. Don MacBean read out the following statement regarding the Hythe works;  “I have a short statement to make about the Hythe, which I will read to avoid any subsequent  disagreement on what I actually say. In his Hythe update in the current Pump the Chairman says;  “---any further clearance will be left until the winter months.” I welcome this commitment and  ask that what I have said be minuted please.” | | **Accepted Apologies for absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) and (2):**  None.  **Absent:**  None. | |  |
| **22/2/2**  **22/2/3**  **22/2/4**  **i)**  **ii)**  **22/2/5**  **i)**  **ii)**  **iii)**  **iv)**  **22/2/6**  **i)**  **ii)** | **Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:**  Cllr. MacKenzie declared an interest in Item 5.1. Cllr. MacKenzie, Cllr, N. Foster and Cllr. Osborn declared an interest in Item 5.2.  **To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 2nd December 2022:**  **Resolved 22/2/3.01**  The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December 2022 were adopted as a true statement by all members and were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting (NF).  **External Forum:**  **County Councillor Report**  Cllr. Lance Stanbury not present. Report circulated by email before the meeting. See Full Report in ***Appendix 1.***  **District Councillor Report**  Cllr. Brian Harvey gave a report; See Full Report in ***Appendix 2.***   * Local Plan update – The dates for the Preferred Options Consultation have been moved to May-July 2022. Cllr. Osborn confirmed with Cllr. Harvey that the parish boundary change for Turnpike should be raised at this stage. * Traffic survey – awaiting confirmation of approval of funding and dates TBA.   **PLANNING:**  **Sunnica Energy Farm Update**  The Landscape surveys, which WPC contributed to, have been carried out over 2 days. The following bullet points have been raised by Michelle Bolger;  Landscape and Visual Impact:   * Site selection process issues:   + The process was flawed, alternative sites were not investigated   + The process did not take into account all relevant factors known to the applicant   + The methodology was based on a pre-determined outcome   + The result included areas that are unsuitable on landscape and visual grounds, particularly around Sunnica West A&B and Sunnica East A. * Requirement to find 1000 hectares has driven the site design:   + Sites are too spread out; hence effects are felt over a much larger area than for a compact development   + Unsuitable rural areas are included, resulting in a change of landscape character over a large area from rural to industrial   + Key viewpoints are harmed and/or permanently changed   + Scheme uses Best and Most Versatile agricultural land contrary to Government policy and applicants own site selection criteria. * Landscape and Visual Impact issues:   + Fails to follow best practice   + Underestimates impacts   + Ignores cumulative impact of multiple sites   + Incorrect analysis of infrastructure such as the BESS compounds and substations   + Many areas marked as "Green Infrastructure" also contain cables and drainage meaning they can only be grass. * Missing details:   + No details of BESS compounds, and numbers of battery containers   + No indication of location of substations   + Missing information means that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the scheme is flawed.   John Still, QC has offered his services FOC to write our representation.  The Action Group are to distribute an A4 leaflet to very household by 17th March 2022 (10,000 copies have been printed), to advise on how to register as an interested party and to make comments. Any resident can make comments on the application, but they must register! The group are compiling a report on the loss of Agricultural and fertile land.  Cllr. Harvey updated the meeting with regards to concerns that have been raised by the team regarding the Landscaping and layout, there is no indication of energy storage size or battery details, the Team are pursuing this for more detail. Fire Safety have made comments regarding Transport concerns and the Team are also pursuing this. The issue of Sunnica and the Hydroponic Farm sharing mitigation for the Stone Curlew nests has been raised. Sunnica have been reported for releasing grid reference of stone curlew nesting sites. Road closures planned (temporary), this is also being challenged. It also appears they may have breached GDPR by publishing people’s names & addresses online.  **Worlington Neighbourhood Plan Update (NF/LO)**  Cllr. Osborn explained that no meeting had been held in January, but there is to be a meeting on 21st February 2022, when we will also be meeting with AR Urbanism, the company who will be doing the Village Design Guide. Cllr. Osborn advised she had to amend the Quiet Lanes application as 2-way data was required, the deadline is the end of this month.  **West Suffolk Local Plan Update**  As already mentioned by Cllr. Harvey,  the [timeline for the preparation of the West Suffolk Local Plan](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/upload/Local-Development-Scheme-web-January-2022.pdf) has been amended and the preferred options consultation is now scheduled to take place between May-July 2022.    If you have any queries in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact us at West Suffolk at [planning.policy@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@westsuffolk.gov.uk) or by calling 01284 757368.  **West Suffolk Community Governance Review**  West Suffolk Council has published Terms of Reference for an interim review  of community governance arrangements for parish and town councils. The interim review is designed specifically to consider potential improvements to the warding arrangements for the town councils in Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Newmarket so that, where possible, they may be coterminous with the current district ward and the new county division boundaries which will be laid in Parliament in the New Year. However, undertaking a review provides the Council with an opportunity to look at any small anomalies to parish arrangements and parish and town councils have been asked to think about what anomalies, if any, should be addressed as part of the CGR. A wider and targeted consultation will be undertaken on the draft recommendations to ensure that any person or body who has an interest in the issue, or is affected by the issue, has an opportunity to submit their views. The consultation on issues and draft recommendations will take place between April and June 2022.  **FINANCE:**  **To Agree & Adopt the Projected Budget for Financial Year 2022/23**  The projected budget for 2022/23, was scrutinised and approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr. N. Foster. With projected expenditure of £17,221.00.  **Resolved 22/2/6.01**  It was agreed to adopt the budget for 2022/23 with expenditure of £17,221.00.  **To Agree and Set the Precept Figure for 2022/23**  Cllr. S. Foster proposed adopting Option 3, this was voted on with 6 For & 1 Against.  **Resolved 22/2/6.02**  It was agreed to submit the Precept request at £17,893.00, a 10.01% increase, due to the anticipated expenditure for the Sunnica Campaign and to build back up reserves for street lighting and play area surfacing. |  |
|  | **Next meeting: Full Council meeting to be held on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall, followed by the Village Hall Trustee Committee Meeting**  **Items for next agenda:**   * Queens Jubilee / Festival of Suffolk * Cllr training   **Meeting closed at 8:09pm**  **Signed Date:**  **Chair, WPC** |  |