

WESTERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 12th August 2025 in Westerfield Church Room at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors John Barber, Sue Peace, Michael Noble, Francis Street, Sophia Charalambous (Clerk), One member of the public Peter Miller.

1. Governance

1.1. Apologies and approvals of absence.

Jason Kirk (Chair), Peter Hudson (Deputy Chair), Brian Keyland. This was approved.

1.2. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

No comments.

1.3. Comments from members of the public on matters on the agenda.

Peter Miller stated that Suffolk County Council will look at the information presented to the members regarding the quarry application. Full reasons and evidence are required to make the decision as to why the parish object to the quarry.

Peter Miller recommended that key points are to be noted in the objection to Suffolk County Council. He recommended that a report is created which is concise, easily understood and to the point.

2. To note and discuss current planning applications

2.1 i) SCC/0093/25SC: County Council Consultation - Extraction and processing of sand and gravel with restoration to original ground levels, erection of associated infrastructure, solar photovoltaics and access to the public highway.

Councillor Street informed us that two stop the quarry meetings are taking place on 13/08/2025 in Westerfield Village Hall and on 14/08/2025 at Tuddenham Village Hall to discuss objections, timings and dates. The deadline has been extended until the 12th September 2025 to raise any objections and comments.

Councillor Street stated that £3800 + VAT will be required for the initial hearing application to Tru7, where they have a right to respond to any objections.

Suffolk County Council have the right of reply in September/October 2025.

Tru7 have the right to reply in January/February 2026.

If the initial hearing application is unsuccessful, £10000 - £12000 is required to fund a professional planning consultant.


Councillor Street stated that we require an overwhelming response to object to the Westerfield quarry.

Councillor Peace noted that all areas, not only Westerfield residents, can object to the Westerfield quarry and can have multiple objections per household.

£1400 minimum is required for an objection application to include a biotoxicity test.

Councillor Street agreed to draft an objection application. Councillor Peace has agreed to proofread the objection. This will then be distributed to the councillors by the clerk, Sophia Charalambous, finalised and sent to Suffolk County Council.

ii) 25/00514/REM: Submission of Reserved Matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the construction of a 420-place Primary School and 60 Place Pre-School, associated playing fields, parking, landscaping, drainage and other associated works; in relation to Outline Planning Permission IP/16/00608/OUT comprising up to 1,100 residential dwellings (use class C3); a local centre (to accommodate up to 250sqm (net) of convenience floor space (A1), up to 300sqm of comparison floorspace (A1), up to 250sqm in use classes A1-A5 and up to 500sqm community centre (D1)); provision of a primary school (D1); provision of sports facilities, Country Park (including visitor centre (D1)); open space (including amenity space, children's play areas and allotments) and sustainable urban drainage systems; associated landscaping, infrastructure and



engineering/earthworks; creation of 2No. new vehicular accesses from Henley Road, 1No. vehicular access from Westerfield Road (to serve Country Park only), and provision of access points to allow for pedestrian/cycle bridge over railway and vehicular bridge over railway. The Application also seeks the part discharge of Condition 20 (Construction and Environment Management Plan) and Condition 26 (the Arboricultural Method Statement) of IP/16/00608/OUT. IP/16/00608/OUT was an EIA development and an Environmental Statement was submitted with the application under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

Member of the public Peter Miller discussed the application and community members concerns regarding insufficient parking space and traffic concerns due to the primary school/preschool size.

The councillors discussed the plans for Red House Farm, including the dog park and wildlife area that has been designated a space in the nearby field to replace the woodland area that will undergo felling.

The council noted the application but have no comments or objections regarding the proposed plans.

3. Financial Matters

3.1 Bank Reconciliation at 30th July 2025

(Balances at 30 July: Treasurers account £1185.72; Business account £107,919.75)

This was confirmed by the PC.

3.2 Budget 2025/2026

The Parish Council looked at the budget set for 2025/2026 and noted that £2000 had been set for the Stop the Quarry fund. £1000 had originally been donated in 2024.

Public member Peter Miller noted that the Parish Council have the right to amend the current budget with good cause and explanation, working within the budget.

It was suggested by Peter Miller to build a Stop the Quarry Fund into the 2026/2027 budget.

3.3 Quarry donation

Councillor Peace stated that she has contacted 26 local Parish Councils to request donations for the 'Stop the Quarry' fund. Witnesham and Tuddenham Parish Councils have agreed to donate some funds as they are mainly affected, although they are yet to confirm the amount.

Ashbocking Parish Council have agreed to generously donate £1000 to the fund.

Public donations were also discussed as a possibility from Westerfield community members who support the objection of the quarry.

Councillor Noble asked about donations from other Parish Councils so far.

Councillor Peace confirmed that each parish had given £1000 each, including Westerfield, Witnesham and Tuddenham, including funds for 'Stop the Northern Bypass'.

Councillor Peace, Councillor Street and Richard Nickle, who are part of the finance committee discussed the donations. They confirmed that any unspent funds donated will be refunded on a pro rata basis to the parishes.

Councillor Peace confirmed that £600 - £700 has been spent so far on banners, with Westerfield Parish Council paying £300 - £400 for the initial banners.

Councillor Street and Councillor Peace are requesting £5000 from Westerfield Parish Council to access to enough funds to be able to act quickly.

Councillor Noble stated that as a refund had been agreed if not spent by the finance committee, a £5000 donation is an option.

Councillor Noble suggested looking at the budget vs spend so far for 2025.

Sue Peace stated that new banners will be displayed at Lower Road/Church Lane crossroads.

The councillors discussed the option for more banners to be distributed and displayed.

The outcome was that the councillors agreed for Westerfield Parish Council to fund £5000 donation to stop the quarry which is to be issued as soon as possible.

Councillor Peace and Councillor Street will confirm the £5000 agreed donation at the stop the quarry meetings being held at Westerfield Village Hall on 13/08/2025, Witnesham 20/08/2025 and Tuddenham Village Hall on 21/08/2025.

To note the date of forthcoming meetings: 16th September 2025, 18th November 2025,
20th January 2026, 17th March 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Charalambous', is located in the top right corner of the page.

Signed by Sophia Charalambous, Clerk & RFO, Westerfield Parish Council