

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council

Thursday 8th June 2023 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall Worlington

Councillors present: Cllr Chris Hall (CH) – Chair, Cllr L Osborne (LO) – Vice Chair, Cllr Alan Marshall (AM), Cllr Tim French (TF), Cllr Nick Foster (NF) and Cllr Steve Foster (SF)

Present: Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP)

| ITEM | | Action |
|---------|---|--------|
| 23/06/1 | WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85(1 and 2)) There were five members of the public present and the Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence. | |
| 23/06/2 | DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III) LO – item 11.2. | |
| 23/06/3 | APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 9 MAY 2023 (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2)) The minutes were amended to note that no costs had been provided at item 19.2 to repair the play equipment in the play area. The minutes were approved as amended and signed by the Chairman. The Clerk noted that costs must be approved with figures determined as the budget is limited. CH asked the Clerk to circulate the latest Financial Regulations to assess the emergency spending provisions. | JP |
| 23/06/4 | PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1) Former chairman Ken Lucas gave thanks to former councillors, Paula McKenzie and Geraldine Ciantar, for their work on the parish council and CH added that he had also done this at the annual meeting. Mr Lucas then suggested that a local landowner was happy to assist in respect of the tree growing in the staunch on the river. Another parishioner enquired about Quiet Lanes and LO confirmed that she had spoken to a man in Tuddenham and was awaiting information regarding Green Lane. LO informed the PC of a national campaign which she is investigating called 20's Plenty where 600 towns and villages have signed up to bring down the speed limit in built up areas. Another parishioner asked who was responsible for cutting back the verges on Ferry Drove and CH confirmed it was the landowners. He asked the Clerk to write to them to ask them to cut back the track to make it accessible to public. | JP |
| 23/06/5 | CLERK'S HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT AND PAY INCREASE CH informed the PC that the Clerk has 39 hours of holiday to use before the end of August and LO suggested that, as there are no meetings in August, the office could be closed with any urgent issuing being dealt with by Councillors. This was agreed. Councillors also agreed to amend the standing order to reflect the increase in the Clerk's wages which she would arrange. | JP |

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23/06/6 CHEQUES FOR SIGNING AND APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING INVOICES

The following cheques were approved and signed:

Clerk's expenses for April 2023 - £67.83
Clerk's expenses for May 2023 - £34.80
Internal Auditor's invoice - £150.00
R H Landscapes May invoice - £354.00
Steve Foster – Play area repairs - £100.58

23/06/7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) UPDATE

The consultation closed on 30th May 2023 and 27 responses were received. Further funding has not been released yet for the NP and the consultant is unwilling to risk doing any further work until this has been secured. The next stage will be written up when funding is allocated. Hopes were expressed to keep the NP task force going for other projects.

CH read a letter from resident regarding two proposals. Firstly, to provide an allotment to the village and secondly, a suggestion for a small group of single storey retirement homes, both to be sited on their land. It was agreed that the retirement homes idea had come a bit too late for the NP and CH stated that the parishioner should have made this suggestion to West Suffolk Council during their consultation of their Local Plan (which closed in July 2022) as it would mean moving the settlement boundary. The feeling from the NP consultation is that villagers do not want the village to be stretched. LO stated that the previous idea was to lease the allotment land which was agreed in principal but never took off. It was suggested to perhaps have allotments or a community orchard separately from NP in the future and gauge interest.

23/06/8 SUNNICA UPDATE

There is no update at present.

23/06/9 REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT PROCEDURE

This was approved by the Chairman.

23/06/10 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGAR SECTIONS 1 AND 2) 2022/23

These was approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. The notice would be put on the website next week.

NF

23/06/11 PLANNING

11.1 DC/23/0712/FUL - Barn Ferry Lane - Planning application - agricultural barn for storage and new access

This application is only just inside the boundary of the village. No objections.

11.2 DC/23/0802/HH - 12A Church Lane - Householder planning application - a. single storey front extension (following demolition of existing porch) b. replacement windows to front elevation c. two storey side extension d. installation of new window and window replaced with door to side elevations

LO left the meeting. No objections. LO returned to the meeting.

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11.3 NMA(A)/21/0981 - Pilgrim Cottage 41 Church Lane - Non-material amendment to DC/21/0981/HH - Insertion of window to south east elevation at ground floor level
No objections.

11.4 DCON(B)/21/1906 - Land Opposite Pen Villa Isleham Road - Application to discharge condition 10 (Biodiversity lighting scheme) of application DC/21/1906/FUL
No objections.

12 PLAY AREA

The Chairman gave thanks to SF and NF for the repairs made to the roof of one of the items in the play area. CH confirmed that the bark was delivered today. Volunteers will be spreading the bark on Sunday at 10am. CH also gave thanks to the landowners who gave access to the field for delivery.

13 GRASS CUTTING

LO reported that two parishioners had complained to her about how badly West Suffolk Council's contractors had cut the grass in the village. The grass was cut but not strimmed and was very untidy. NF confirmed that on speaking to a member of WSC, strimming may be done next month. Clerk to write to WSC to seek clarification on this.

JP

14 DEFIBRILLATOR

CH stated that he had checked the equipment while AM recovers and found it was not working. It had been collected to be technically assessed by Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) who provided the defibrillator and hoped it was just the battery. CH was unsure of any costs involved or whether the unit was under any warranty. There is a 14 day wait for the diagnosis.

CH updated the PC that the Clerk had received a quote for defibrillator training from CHT for £175 plus VAT. The Clerk had spoken to Basic Life, a locally based organisation, who quoted £50 for a two hour session for as many attendees as necessary. This training also included CPR. It was agreed that Basic Life was the best option (including the third quote of £40 per person obtained previously) but it was best to wait until the equipment is fixed, if it can be. It was agreed that the parish are to be prioritised but, after that, perhaps invite the Cricket Club and Worlington Hall Hotel to the training session. The Clerk will write to District Cllr Taylor to see if there is any funding available for this.

JP

Meeting Closed 8.30pm.

Signed: *Chris Hall*

Date: 6th July 2023

Chair, Worlington Parish Council