

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council

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

Councillors present: C Hall (CH) – Chair, Cllr L Osborne (LO) – Vice Chair, Cllr Tim French (TF), and Cllr S Foster (SF)

Present: Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP)

ITEM		Action
23/09/1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2)) CH welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were seven parishioners in attendance. Apologies were received from Councillors Alan Marshall, Nick Foster and Edward Kerr.	
23/09/2	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III) None.	
23/09/3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2)) The minutes of the meeting dated 6 th July 2023, having previously been circulated by JP, were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.	
23/09/4	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING JP confirmed that District Councillor, Dave Taylor, had confirmed that weed killing had been scaled back by West Suffolk Council (WSC) this year but it was under review for 2024.	
23/09/5	PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1) One parishioner commented that the footpath from the new cemetery to the church yard was very unsightly and growing over the boundary. This was discussed at 8.5.3. Another parishioner stated that two dog walkers had slipped on the steps at Kings Stauch from Worlington which are sloped and have big holes. There is no anti slip on them. Councillors noted that Suffolk Highways (SH) may not deal with the steps and SF will look into cost of anti slip material. A third parishioner explained that he uses the path to the bridge to cycle to West Row. Although slightly better now cut, the track is still too narrow as nettles droop when it rains. Councillors stated they have been and looked at it and should all be 1m width. Discussed further at 8.5.1. Lastly, another parishioner noted that a van parked on the Green today driving between the 'no parking' signs. CH will speak to them if he is there tomorrow.	SF CH
23/09/6	EXTERNAL FORUM	
6.1	County Councillor Lance Stanbury sent his apologies but his report would be available on WPC's website. CH explained that in his report LS spoke of the potential closure of A11 junctions. CH and TF attended a meeting on this matter and said that tempers flared and not much was achieved.	
6.2	District Councillor Dave Taylor (DT) sent his apologies and had told JP he would send a report, although there was not much to say until the full council cabinet meeting on 19 th September. CH commented DT had also emailed him concerning the A11 junctions.	
23/09/7	SUNNICA CH reiterated that the Secretary of State's (SOS) decision would be made at the end of September. SOS had asked questions of Sunnica and Natural England among others. SOS was also giving Interested Parties the chance to raise questions of Sunnica's feedback. WPC has chance to send their own response but only on the points raised by SOS. CH suggested raising the issue of the safety of the battery storage site between Worlington and Red Lodge and also the validity of Sunnica's soil tests and to request an	

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independent review. Councillors agreed that CH should send comments on behalf of WPC to which the attending parishioners agreed. **CH**

23/09/8 PARISH MATTERS

8.1 Registration of Parish Land

CH recapped that WPC needed to register all parish owned land, starting with the Recreation Field. Form FR1 needed to be submitted to the Land Registry's lawyers with the original document from 1921 and a value of the land needed to be decided upon. CH suggested a pasture land value of £10,000 per acre x 3 acres, totalling £30,000. This was agreed. The registration fee of approximately £45 was also agreed. **CH**

8.2 Defibrillator

8.2.1 Operational Status

CH explained that the defibrillator had been fixed and was back in service.

8.2.2 Site checks

CH noted that Community Heartbeat requested that it be checked weekly. CH will continue to do this. **CH**

8.2.3 Reply from District Councillor about funding the training

CH confirmed DT had replied to say he thought he could find locality funding for the defibrillator training session.

8.2.4 Defibrillator and CPR training

CH stated the need to limit potential numbers to ensure that as many parishioners who wanted to attend, could. A notice would be put in the Pump and posters put up in the village. Thereafter the Cricket Club coaches could be invited to attend. JP to speak to Basic Life in Beck Row and arrange a date in mid to late October. **NF**
JP

8.3 Community Emergency Plans (CEP)

CH explained the CEP again. After discussion, it was agreed that it wasn't necessary and that the village is a close enough community that they would pull together in a time of crisis without the need for a CEP.

8.4 Repairs to War Memorial Green/Letter to Anglian Water (AW)

LO explained that AW closed the road last month to repair a water leak. This was on a bend and many cars drove over the grass to either turn around or bypass the road closure altogether. One such incident resulted in a bollard being destroyed. She complained to AW as there were no lighting at the road closure using their emergency number but this line closed at 5.30pm. LO then called Suffolk Police who suggested calling Suffolk Highways, who then informed her that our new DC is the portfolio holder for Operations and Highways. LO spoke to DT who agreed it was unacceptable and said he would look into. LO heard nothing further. LO suggested WPC complain to AW regarding the insufficient emergency helpline and to Suffolk Highways about the lack of lighting. LO spoke to Brian Harvey who suggested copying Cliff Waterman and Ian Gallin at WSC. It was agreed that LO should write a letter to AW regarding their lack of assistance and another to SH for not attending to put lights, including photographs and seek compensation for the damage. It was noted that the signage for the closure was also inadequate. CH agreed to remove the bollard as it is a trip hazard. **LO**
CH

8.5 FOOTPATHS

8.5.1 PROW to Kings Staunch

It was agreed that TF would write to the landowner as they have mowed the area at the bottom to 1m but not gone further up where nettles are coming over and covering the path. LO had previously spoken to a family member of the land owner but only this small area had been cut since.

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8.5.2 Footpath adjacent to road near the Post Box

This is a matter for Suffolk Highways and although it would be simple for WPC to cut this hedge back, it was agreed that it would be better to flag it with SH and await their response before setting a precedent.

8.5.3 Church Cottage

It was agreed that TF should speak to the owner of Church Cottage in the first instance regarding cutting back this footpath. Access for funerals is difficult with the overgrowth. If this does not resolve the situation, TF would then send them a letter.

8.5.4 PROW sign and post down in Bell Lane in Worlington

TF confirmed that SH had reported back to say it is their responsibility but they are very busy so this is not a priority.

23/09/9 FINANCE AND POLICIES

9.1 Parish Council Bank balances

JP confirmed that the Current Account balance as at 18 August 2023 was £23,104.47 and the Business Instant Account balance as at 10 August 2023 was £1,378.05.

9.2 Cheques for signing/approval to authorise payment of outstanding invoices

Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
Joanna Priestley	Expenses	47.79
Joanna Priestley	Wage Increase – July and August 2023	47.52
R H Landscapes	July Grass Cutting	354.00
West Suffolk Council	Election Expenses	81.91
West Suffolk Council	General Waste Collection Service	223.08
Steve Foster	Bag of postcrete for Hythe sign installation	6.00

Monthly outgoings - £216.74 to NPower – August electricity bill (street lights), £212.26 to NPower – July electricity bill (street lights) and Clerk's wages.

9.3 Raising funds through grants

CH suggested we should try and secure more funding as without Brian Harvey we are out of the loop somewhat. JP produced a summary of funding available and Councillors would look at this. LO heads the funding and explained that for the community chest funding you have to prove there is a benefit for the community at large, specifically families and communities, and need to have a project in mind or preferably up and running. CH suggested the play area and that rubber flooring would cost tens of thousands for which funding would be useful. Also, the play equipment was installed using concrete and modern ones use spikes. This could be updated or new equipment. LO said that match funding was also preferred where possible. LO thought the community orchard would have been a good candidate but the funding needs to be spent at the same time rather than building the orchard over time. CH also suggested the parishioners could be part of a committee regarding funding. The DC also needed to keep WPC informed of what was available. LO asked if anyone could attend a webinar regarding funding on Wednesday 13th September this would be useful. JP said she would attend.

JP

9.4 Online Banking

Councillors agreed to go ahead with this for both the WPC and Village Hall. JP explained that two councillors needed to complete the forms she had produced and decided whether to give JP full power to be able to make payments (as a non signatory) or just to view the accounts. It was agreed to do the former so that JP can set up payments and then two

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signatories log in separately to confirm the payment. CH and LO then signed the forms and CH would take them to the bank to start the process. CH asked if WPC had a petty cash float and JP confirmed we did not. After a discussion, it was agreed that JP would hold a small petty cash float to pay for small sundries (eg the postcrete to install the Hythe sign last month). **CH**
JP

10 HIGHWAYS

10.1 Street Lighting

JP explained that she had not had a great response from the lighting contractor as to the different lights and whether some were cheaper than others, just that each new LED unit would cost £220 plus VAT. It was decided to replace the lights at Walnut Grove and The Meadows where there are bus stops. JP to arrange with the contractors. Further to the meeting, it was discovered that Walnut Grove already has an LED unit. AM to advise on the next street lights to be upgraded. **JP**
AM

10.2 Community Speedwatch

CH confirmed that Suffolk Police have accepted a team of five rather than six. They will need to be vetted and trained by the Police which will take some time and locations for the speed watch will be decided by the them.

10.2 SID data update and ANPR update

TF circulated SID data for July and August. The highest speed was 80mph and 42% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph. Quarterly data would be put in the Pump and on the website in November. TF said he might change the parameters to above 75mph as this was showing the full picture. The ANPR is scheduled to come to Worlington in the near future. CH hoped that LS would attend the next meeting in November to discuss the results of the ANPR and invite Suffolk Police. TF has asked LS for the data from the ANPR to compare it to the SID data to see how many letters are sent out compared to how many speeders there are on the SID data. **NF**

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 5th October at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 8.45pm.

Signed: *Chris Hall*

Date: 5th October 2023

Chair, Worlington Parish Council