

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall Worlington

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

Present: Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP)

ITEM		Action
24/04/1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2)) There were four parishioners in attendance and LO welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllrs Edward Kerr and Tim French sent their apologies.	
24/04/2	ELECTION OF A NEW CHAIRPERSON LO explained that CH had decided to step down as Chairman and thanked him for his hard work for all that had been achieved over the last year. It was decided that, as a new Chairperson would be voted in at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May, LO would chair this meeting.	
24/04/2	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III) CH had previously declared an interest in Item 6 but subsequently withdrew this interest.	
24/04/3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2)) The minutes of the meeting dated 7 th March 2024, having previously been circulated by JP, were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Vice Chairperson.	
24/04/4	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING CH noted that 1 The Paddocks has cut back the overhanging hedge and JP confirmed that further works would be done in the coming months. LO confirmed she was still to add her sentence to 16.1 regarding the template letter to potential developers. AM explained he would chase up the quote for a beacon for the village. NF noted he was still waiting to hear back from WSC regarding ownership of path next to The Vicarage. CH explained that in respect of the Community Speedwatch – one volunteer still needed complete forms for the Police but has confirmed they will. Regarding the unauthorised hedging on verge on Church Lane, NF will send photos to JP to forward to Suffolk Highways.	LO AM NF NF/JP
24/04/5	PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1) A parishioner asked about the hedge planting along the verge on Church Lane and whether it was unreasonable to complain about it. Cllrs replied that these were a permanent fixture and other parishioners had complained so this needed to be verified with Suffolk Highways.	
24/04/6	PLANNING Land between Newmarket Road and Golf Links Road LO reiterated that this area is outside of the settlement boundary and a letter was sent to the landowner explaining that we would comment on applications when they come to the PC via WSC. JP received another email from the landowner stating that EK had contacted him with a view to buying the land, asking if we would not prefer to have orchards and allotments. JP again replied with the same stance as above. NF pointed out this was a breach of the PC's Code of Conduct and a vote was taken (four in favour) to write to EK to remind him of his obligations.	JP
24/04/7	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LO reported that the examiner should send his report soon and this will be read by the committed and a vote should be taken in May or June. JP to submit the end of grant report before paying the consultant's latest invoice which should be paid in the new tax year once any reimbursements are made to Groundworks UK.	JP

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24/04/8 SUNNICA

CH confirmed that the Secretary of State's decision was still due on 12th April.

24/04/9 FUNDING

9.1 West Suffolk Council Locality Budget

CH wrote to Cllr David Taylor who confirmed that the funding was no longer available for the defibrillator or the sign as promised. He apologised and made assurances the PC would have the money in this financial year. JP read an email from Lance Stanbury explaining that a further form would need to be completed to secure locality funding for the bat information sign at the Hythe. JP to complete.

JP

9.3 Decarbonisation Initiatives Fund

LO explained that funding for approximately £14,000 of new LED lights had been granted to Worlington and three of the posts have ivy and branches which need to be removed. SF and NF to take a look and see if they can do the works safely. Two of the posts have powerlines attached to them. JP to write to the resident whose branches are affecting one post at the Paddocks we will ask them to cut these back. CH suggested we thank Andy Neal at Mildenhall Parish Council and thank him for raising the disparity of funding on this issue and see if he wants to use WPC as a case study.

SF/NF

JP

JP

24/04/10 FINANCE

10.1 Approval to authorise payments of outstanding invoices

It was agreed to make the following payments online.

Online payments		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
Joanna Priestley	March Expenses	34.80
R H Landscapes & Maintenance	March grass cutting	354.00
SALC	Payroll (Sept 23 – March 24)	54.00
SALC	Annual Subscription 2024/25	262.47

24/04/11 EMAIL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MEETINGS

This item was suggested by EK and was postponed until EK was present.

24/04/12 AUDIT

12.1 Cllrs were happy to continue with Anthony Preece to do the internal audit again this year.

24/04/13 WEBSITE

13.1 JP confirmed that a security certificate had been purchased and the website was now fully operational and would satisfy all security protections.

24/04/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Cllr Edward Kerr

JP read an email received from EK shortly before the meeting asking the councillors if it would be possible to take a sabbatical from the PC until June when he would be able to fully commit to the role of councillor as he feels unable to do the role justice until then. Otherwise EK explained he would regrettably resign from the PC. NF suggested he reapply once he is settled into the village. CH felt that the responsibilities are unfairly distributed in general. AM stated that no one else wanted to take the role when EK asked to be co-opted in July last year. A sabbatical was considered unhelpful to the needs of the village. LO proposed that EK is asked to step down as a councillor until he is fully ready to give his time to the PC. Four of five councillors voted for this proposal and JP to send a letter to EK incorporating the issue at Item 6.

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14.2 Disability Forum

LO explained that an invitation to this forum had been received today and she felt it would be helpful for JP to attend online on 11th April as rural bus services are on the agenda which is of interest to the village.

JP

The Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall followed by the Annual General Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair, Worlington Parish Council

DRAFT