

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall Worlington

**Councillors present:** Cllr K Lucas (KL) - Chair, Cllr A Marshall (AM), Cllr L Osborne (LO), Cllr Geraldine Ciantar (GC), Cllr Paula MacKenzie (PM), Cllr Chris Hall (CH) and Cllr Tim French (TF)

**Present:** Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP), Cllr Lance Stanbury – SCC (LS) and Cllr Brian Harvey – WSC (BH)

ITEM		Action
23/01/1	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85(1) &amp; (2))</b> There were seven members of the public present. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year. The Clerk explained that the Council's email address had been hacked this week and that she would look into a new, more secure email address. The website and Facebook page had been updated and she urged people not to send any emails to <a href="mailto:worlingtonparishcouncil@live.com">worlingtonparishcouncil@live.com</a> .  There were no apologies.	JP
23/01/2	<b>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III)</b> PM - item 6.2 and KL – item 6.9.	
23/01/3	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2))</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman, having been previously circulated to the Councillors.	
23/01/4	<b>PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1)</b>	
23/01/5	<b>EXTERNAL FORUM</b>	
5.1	<b>County Councillor</b> LS stated that the Sunnica open forums held last month had gone well and that the examiners understood the concern of the locals. He also tried to clarify the situation of the funding of street lights and explained that there was an anomaly after Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury amalgamated to become West Suffolk Council. This resulted in different funding for street lighting, drainage, foot paths and other amenities and they were looking at better harmonisation. CH asked if street lighting would be looked at down to parish level and LS confirmed it would and a committee would be sitting in March.  LS commented that there were 250 warm room schemes now set up in Suffolk. He also stated that adult social care takes up most of SCC's budget to protect front line services and after feedback from 3,000 people, just over 50% backed council tax increases to protect services.  LS explained the devolution of power from Government in Suffolk over the next two years, transferring £0.5b to Suffolk in return for an elected leader instead of a mayor. He stated there would be more money to develop brownfield sites, a settlement on transport, £3m towards home energy efficiency all of which would give more benefit and control to Suffolk. LS's full report is available on the Parish's website.	
5.2	<b>District Councillor</b> BH confirmed that Worlington Parish Council had received £3,000 in the Warm Homes incentive. Regarding Sunnica, BH added that the team was pleased with how the Sunnica forums had gone but there was still lots of work to do, although the public's role in this had now ended. The polytunnel application (see item 8.4) would run through the middle of Sunnica's proposed area and it would be interesting to see how this would affect it.	

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BH explained there was a sum in the locality budget still available and all applications must be made by the end of January. He also stated that ID would now be necessary at the polling station and electorates would need to show a driver's licence or passport to be able to vote. BH's full report is also available on the Parish website.

### 23/01/6 PARISH MATTERS

#### 6.1 Hythe Update

Nick Foster (NF) explained that an advert went in the Pump regarding a clear up day on 22<sup>nd</sup> January to cut back and prepare the Hythe for spring. All welcome to join.

KL proposed a vote on the sign for the Hythe to state no camping or open fires but with no mention of fishing. All voted in favour. NF to produce draft wording the sign. **NF**

#### 6.2 Sunnica Update

PM explained that she had attended all the hearings either in person or virtually and had spoken at the open floor hearing behalf of the Parish Council. She stated that these are all available to watch on the Public Inspectorate's (PI) website. PM added that we had reached Deadline 4 with further questions of Sunnica due on 13<sup>th</sup> January. The PI timetable states there are further site inspections and hearings in February and PM's report is available on the Parish website with useful links.

#### 6.3 Broken PROW post in Bell Lane

TF confirmed that the broken PROW sign needed to be reinstated and there was also a damaged street sign. TF to report these to Suffolk Highways. **TF**

#### 6.4 Ferry Drove update concerning the footpath registration

No update.

#### 6.5 Neighbourhood Plan update

LO advised that the draft Neighbourhood Plan was ready although littered with errors and spelling mistakes. LO wanted to prevent the plan being delayed further by the boundary change on the border with Red Lodge from 1<sup>st</sup> April and preferred to consult with the parish on the proviso that, once the plan is agreed, it can be sent to WSC on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, rather than starting a six week consultation then. LO explained that, although no part of the plan relates to any part of the parish within the boundary change, it cannot be sent to WSC with a non legal boundary. All voted in favour of starting the consultation as soon as possible. LO confirmed that all funding would be received before fees were due. **LO**

#### 6.6 Camping at the Hythe

See Item 6.1.

#### 6.7 Coronation

GC previously circulated a list of ideas to the Parish Council including picnic with entertainment, refreshments, competitions, children's crafts and entertainment, live music and a barn dance or similar. GC confirmed there was no funding available for the this and BH advised this could not be included in the precept. LO suggested that the event be run by the Village Hall Charitable Trust rather than the Parish Council. The date was agreed for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May which was a Bank Holiday.

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### 6.8 Play Area

LO to give the Clerk contact details for the company providing bark (50/50 rubber and wood) to the school where she works. She explained that over time the rubber will replace the wood but this way the costs are lower. **LO**

### 6.9 Beer Festival

TF cautioned that he wanted to progress the conversation rather than go over old ground between residents and the Cricket Club so they could coexist. A representative of the Cricket Club advised that without the festival, the club would not exist and that it had grown within its licence, adding that changes were made last year after feedback. The Club was happy to discuss any further problems, although they could not police the public roads. He also agreed that toilet facilities needed to be moved away from the fence. An affected resident, also in attendance, agreed to further discussions and the Cricket Club also invited them and the Parish Council to participate in planning for the 2023 event. The Cricket Club representative advised that as the event is called Worlington Beer Festival, he would be happy to work with the Parish Council to make this a joint event. TF proposed to draft a letter to the Cricket Club asking them to increase oversight and policing to minimise the impact on residents which was unanimously agreed. **TF**

### 6.10 Registration of all Parish Land

PM stated that she had not made much progress but she handed CH the work she had done and the Clerk confirmed she would assist CH as necessary. **CH/JP**

## 23/01/7 FINANCE AND POLICIES

### 7.1 Banking update

The Clerk explained that in the coming weeks she would complete further mandates to remove former and deceased council members as signatories from both the Parish Council and Village Hall accounts.

### 7.2 Parish Council Bank balances/reconciliation and income and expenditure

Worlington Parish Council Treasurer's Account	£18,703.54
Worlington Parish Council Business Instant Account	£1,371.16

### 7.3 Cheques for signing/approval to authorise payment of outstanding invoices

Payee	Subject	Amount
Michelle Bolger Expert Landscapes	Sunnica Photovoltaic Development	£758.70
Joanna Priestley	Expenses	£27.60
SALC	Clerk training – modules 1 & 2 and Parkinson Budget Training	£98.40
R H Landscapes	November Invoice - Grass Cutting	£324.00
TDP Limited	Jubilee Bench	£637.27

These payments were approved and cheques signed accordingly.

### 7.4 Data Protection Policies review

The Clerk explained that these policies could not be updated until the new email address had been created and incorporated into these documents. **JP**

### 7.5 Approval of 2023/24 Budget and Precept

The Budget was analysed by the Parish Council and the options for the precept figures were discussed at length. The Clerk advised that due to the boundary change agreed last year, 80 houses were lost from the parish causing the tax base to decrease by just over

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£40 per household. Election costs and the reserves for street lighting were discussed and it was agreed that the reserves for the latter should be spent on replacing lights to LED in the coming year. It was noted that to break even the precept would need to be increased by £11.60 and it was debated if this was necessary, or if the unallocated funds could make up the difference or if the budget could be decreased further. An amended budget was approved by the Council.

A vote was taken on the options provided by the Clerk. Option 2 (£11.60 increase) - 4 votes, Option 3 (£16.08 increase) - 1 vote and Option 5 (£2.04 increase) – 2 votes. It was therefore agreed to submit the Precept request at £17,758. The Parish Council discussed how highly undesirable it would be to increase the precept above 3%, and that the increase needed to balance the 2023 budget was significant (in percentage terms). However, the Parish Council expressed concern they could not set a budget deficit and the items for proposed 2023 spend were considered important. This led to the majority voting for an above inflation increase which equates to 97p per month for Band D households.

JP

### 23/01/8 PLANNING

#### 8.1 Update on Church Lane Enforcement EN/21/0237

CH updated councillors that this issue was escalated in late November 2022 and the planning officer at WSC confirmed that an onsite meeting had taken place with the Planning Inspector and the UPVC windows are to be replaced with wooden ones. However, when asked for a further update on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, the planning officer replied that there had been no progress although the owner is aware of what is required.

#### 8.2 Application to discharge condition 16 (materials - samples/details) of DC/22/0796/ FUL - 5 Freckenham Road Worlington

No issue

#### 8.3 Non material amendment to DC/22/0281/HH - Addition of cladding to west gable and revise orientation of cladding from horizontal to vertical - Fairways 9 The Paddocks Worlington

No issue

#### 8.4 DC/21/0217/FUL Poly tunnel development, Red Lodge Road

Recommended for approval. BH suggested the Clerk email the case officer to this effect.

JP

### 23/01/9 HIGHWAYS

#### 9.1 SID Data and Speeding Updates

TF advised that he had written to LS seeking priority access to the new ANPR devices available in the area. An acknowledgement had been received but no definitive answer as yet. TF to chase LS next week and BH suggested TF also make contact with Cllr Richard Rout at Suffolk County Council on this matter.

TF

BH confirmed TF and CH have taken over responsibility for the SID and TF would receive the necessary training. CH showed councillors the SID data for the last three years explaining that, between 2020-22, 1.8m vehicles had passed through the village and, within the last twelve months, over 700,000 of them were speeding. CH requested approval to write to Suffolk Police to request that they increase speed enforcement in the village, quoting the information in the freedom of information request received and also the SID data to the end of December. All voted in favour.

CH

#### 9.2 Verges and hedgerows

No update

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- 9.3 Street lighting**  
AM confirmed that he had reported faults to the Clerk. It was agreed that a notice should be placed in the Pump advising residents to notify Worlington Parish Council of any faulty street lights, once a new email address has been arranged. **LO**
- 23/01/10 FUNDING**
- 10.1 Cost of Living Grant and Winter Response Fund**  
LO explained that these two grants had been received and LO confirmed that they were ringfenced. As the Coffee Caravan was a charity and there was no charge for the Village Hall, this Cost of Living Grant would cover those costs.  
  
LO had found the glitch in the small print from Non Profit Growth in that they offer to do up to 24 funding applications for £5,000 and, if they don't raise more than this amount, this sum is refundable. This was therefore not a viable option.
- 10.2 Jubilee Bench**  
PM advised that the bench had been ordered and a cheque raised with the bench due at the end of January. NF offered to help transport it to the Hythe and the councillors thanked him for this. **PM/NF**
- 10.3 Queen's Jubilee Tree**  
LO confirmed that the tree had been planted and a picture was required to register it on the Queen's Canopy website. Regarding signage, LO questioned whether, since the death of the Queen, this should become a memorial tree. It was agreed that as it was part of the Jubilee it should stay as such. **LO**
- 11 VILLAGE HALL**
- 11.1 Frontage**  
CH recapped that at the last meeting it was agreed that the frontage should be tidied up by the holly trees being cut back and the fence replaced. The timescale was tight due to the imminent return of nesting birds. CH had obtained two quotes; one was £2,154 (inc VAT) and the other, from RH Landscapes, totalled £990 (inc VAT) in which they had included a donation to the village of the materials for the fence. CH noted that UK Power Networks would need to attend as an overhead line comes to the Village Hall and their waiting times can be up to six weeks. A vote was taken and all were in favour of the lower quote with two abstentions. The Clerk confirmed she would call RH Landscapes to accept the quote with the Council's thanks for the donation of the materials. **JP**

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 9:30pm.

Signed: *K Lucas*

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

**Chair, Worlington Parish Council**