

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall Worlington

Councillors present: 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), and Cllr Brian Harvey – WSC (BH)

ITEM		Action
23/03/1	WELCOME AND ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON (LGA 1972, SECTION 85(1)) There were seven members of the public present. The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting explained that Cllr Ken Lucas had sadly resigned from the Parish Council and that a new Chairperson needed to be chosen. GC proposed PM which was seconded by AM. There were no other nominations. PM duly signed a Declaration of Acceptance for the Clerk to file.	JP
23/03/2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2)) Apologies were received from Lance Stanbury (LS) (SCC).	
23/03/3	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III) PM - Items 7.3 and 9.3.	
23/03/4	APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2)) The minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd February 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairperson, having been previously circulated to the Councillors. <u>Resolved 23/01/4</u>	
23/03/5	PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1) A member of the public complained about the parking at the development at 5 Freckenham Road (item 9.3). PM left the meeting during this discussion. The parishioner stated that seven vehicles were parked on the village green opposite this week and where will the property owners park their cars once the houses are completed as the driveways were insufficient. LO stated that a local landowner had offered the developer parking spaces on his land. LO stated that we would reiterate to the developer and explain that alternative parking is available and they must not park on the green. The Clerk to draft a letter and copy in BH and Planning Department at WSC. AM will speak to site manager again. Another resident raised the development on land west of Mildenhall. The consultation runs until 20 th March 2023. He was concerned about the developer's transport assessment on the impact of the development and improvements to traffic management. Although they hope traffic will lead to the Fiveways roundabout, the likelihood is that most traffic will come through Worlington to get to A11 to Newmarket. He stated discussions needed to be held with WSC to get secure Section 106 funds to help mitigate this issue. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make this consultation known to the village via the noticeboard, website and FB. The Clerk to check what WPC have done in respect of this previously. BH stated town council have objected to the traffic management proposals. Clerk to draft a letter to Suffolk Highways, West Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and the developer. PM gave thanks to Ken Lucas for his tireless efforts in his 11 years as a Councillor and the other councillors echoed this sentiment.	JP JP
23/03/6	EXTERNAL FORUM	
6.1	County Councillor LS' report is available on the Parish website.	
6.2	District Councillor BH's report is also available on the website. BH reminded residents to bring photo ID to vote at the elections in May. BH explained about a publication from WSC titled 'The Story	

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So Far', covering the last four years' work at the Council. This is available on the website. BH also stated that there was support available for the Government's Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding for care homes, park homes, caravans, moorings and other off grid households. The deadline is 31st May 2023. Council tax is going up, effectively a Band F increased by £500, 4.9% in WS. 5.9% in SCC. BH said it had been an honour to serve the manor and the Councillors gave their thanks.

23/03/7 PARISH MATTERS

7.1 Safety concerns at Mildenhall Road/The Street/Newmarket Road T Junction

PM stated that a letter had been received from a resident living at this junction with concerns regarding the safety of the junction. AM stated this was not a new issue and CH reported that larger vehicles have to mount the pavement to turn. Suffolk Police had been invited to the meeting but were unable to attend. This letter has been forwarded to SCC and WSC. BH confirmed LS has raised the issue with SCC, that the Stop sign was being reinstated to the correct position and the road lines were being repainted. TF advised that if Sunnica's development goes ahead this problem will only be exacerbated.

7.2 The Hythe

CH confirmed that four people attended the tidy up session at the Hythe and PM reported that the Jubilee Bench had been installed at the Hythe by Nick Foster.

7.3 Sunnica update

PM reported that she had liaised with Chippenham Parish Council regarding the Statement of Common Ground (SOCG). If the development goes ahead the only clear route out of Worlington will be through Mildenhall. The SOCG will be available on the Parish website when it is completed. Regarding the open hall hearings, GC and LO had attended in PM's absence. PM to make a written representation after listening to all the recordings of the open hall hearings. She noted that Green Lane has been vastly underestimated as an 'unused footpath'. Trees with tree preservation orders will be cut down and cables laid there. Sunnica state this path will be closed for six weeks but PM suggests this will be more like two years. LO explained she attended the first day of the hearings. She reiterated Sunnica view Green Lane as a road suitable for vehicles rather than a footpath and they will use this as an access site to the solar panels when up and running. Golf Links Road to be used after development completed with HGVs but not during development. La Hogue Road to be used for construction and no one will be able to pass these vehicles. Passing places to be created. A haulier report is to take place on 3rd March 2023. Construction traffic to go through Snailwell. All information is on Worlington website under Sunnica. GC attended site visit, from Chippenham Park to La Hogue. Approximately 35 people attended. Discussions on landscaping and hedges were led by Sunnica with lots of specialists. Any questions asked were met with condescension with Sunnica stating their development was not as large as others and it was not about making make but meeting zero net carbon. BH advised that WSC's SOCG had been signed off, some items agreed but others not. Deadline 10 is on 10th March 2023. WSC concerned about access on A14/A11 and the Isleham Road issue was raised.

7.4 Lease of play area land

GC reported that a copy of the lease was requested from the landowner. This was sent to him and is a 25 year lease from 1st January 2001. He commented that all the named trustees are no longer on the Parish Council and the rent of £1 per annum has not been paid. The Clerk is to draft letter to the landowner to request changing trustees, pay rent if requested and if he will renew the lease before any further sums are spent on the play area. TF proposed to formally seek to extend the lease for another 25 years, LO seconded and all voted in favour. GC will now be dealing with the play area with PM assisting.

JP

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7.5 Broken PROW post in Bell Lane

TF stated there was no update although the issue had been logged with Suffolk Highways.

7.6 Neighbourhood Plan update

LO advised that Places4People did not meet the deadline to provide the Plan. AM suggested as the deadline was not met, a reduction in costs should be sought for this oversight. All voted in favour and the Clerk will draft a letter. LO stated she needed agreement that the Councillors were happy with the factual content. PM asked about a contradiction between wording and graph. CH confirmed that the graph was incorrect. PM also asked if the Hythe land is actually owned by WPC as anyone can be a trustee for Hythe. LO confirmed WPC were trustees of all Parish Council assets, including the Hythe. LO also confirmed that 'worthwhile views' do not include Hythe as it is not a vista from outside of its location. PM asked why Green Lane was not considered a 'green space' and CH confirmed that unclassified roads are not the hedgerows either side are. LO proposed a vote on the draft plan to go to consultation, all voted in favour, LO abstained. **JP**

7.7 Coronation

GC had received offers of support from Church. LO stated that DKW Ceramics Studio will provide up to four hours of their time for the children to paint gongs. It was decided that the event should be in the afternoon. AM suggested approaching cricket club who have agreed to the field being used to see if they would assist. **GC**

7.8 Play Area

GC confirmed she has received a quote for a sign, £40 plus VAT. All voted in favour. GC stated she had received WSC's monthly report which stated the roof on the larger slide needs to be replaced and some of the steps and fencing and bark needs replacing. The playground was still considered safe and all items are low risk. The Clerk confirmed there is £500 in reserves. GC will get quotes for replacing the bark. BH suggested looking into grants that may be able to help. **GC**

7.9 Beer Festival

TF confirmed that he had written to the Cricket Club and was awaiting a response.

7.10 Registration of all Parish Land

CH gave a brief overview of the land to be registered in the village owned by WPC. CH has done a lot of reading and the matter is ongoing.

23/03/8 FINANCE AND POLICIES

8.1 Parish Council Bank balances/reconciliation and income and expenditure

The Clerk stated that the balance stood at £15,523 as at 17th February 2023 and LO noted this was a healthy sum as the end of the financial year approached. The Clerk confirmed that a direct debit for £195.59 was paid for street lighting in February.

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

A cheque for the Clerk's expenses for £71.79 was agreed and signed.

8.3 Data Protection Policies review

The Clerk asked the Councillors if they had all read and agreed upon the updated GDPR policies and these were duly approved. The Chairperson signed these and they will be filed and put on the website. **PM/JP**

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23/03/9 PLANNING

- 9.1 Church Lane Enforcement EN/21/0237
CH confirmed the Enforcement Officer had confirmed there had been no progress. CH to draft a letter to her superior to try and move this along. **CH**
- 9.2 **7 The Paddocks Worlington, IP28 8SB - DC/23/0161/HH**
PM stated no public comments had been on this application on WSC's online portal. CH stated the property had made the same application in 2020, 2021 and 2022 but that no alterations had been made to the property yet. PM asked if the car port was a new application. CH stated it was in 2021 and it does not go up to boundary. No objections. The Clerk to write to the Planning Officer accordingly. **JP**
- 9.3 **Freckenham Road Worlington, IP28 8SQ - DC/22/0796/FUL**
No objections. The Clerk to write to the Planning Officer accordingly. **JP**
- 10 **HIGHWAYS**
- 10.1 **SID data update and speeding update**
CH explained that Suffolk Police had advised there were 26 speeding vehicles in January. They have stated that the village is a priority. CH wrote to them last week with SID data from 2020-22 showing a total of 61% of vehicles were speeding.
- 10.2 **Review proposed content of future SID reports**
TF reported that he was now responsible for reporting SID data and wanted to present this in a new format. Examples were circulated to the Councillors and public and it was agreed that the new graph format was easier to digest and showed more effectively the speeding trends in the village with the location of the SID next to each graph. This data would be added to the website and retrospective data would be shown in table form in the Pump.
- 10.3 **Street Lighting**
LO stated that she had been advised that a branch was obscuring the light outside The Old Rectory. AM to establish whose responsibility this was and make the necessary arrangements. It was also agreed that two lights currently not working, at The Chestnuts and opposite the Worlington Hall Hotel, should be replaced with LED fittings. This was unanimously voted in favour. AM to give the Clerk details of those lights and she will liaise with the maintenance contractor. **AM**
JP

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 6th April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 9:15pm.

Signed: *Paula MacKenzie*

Date: 6th April 2023

Chair, Worlington Parish Council