

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Held on Thursday 1st September 2022 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall Worlington

Councillors present: Acting Chair, Cllr. K. Lucas (KL), & Cllr. L. Osborn (LO), Cllr Geraldine Ciantar (GC) & Cllr. Alan Marshall (AM)

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

ITEM

PUBLIC FORUM:

Sixteen members of the public were in attendance.

- Was there a possibility of a qualified clerk being employed?
GC responded that interviews were held, JP was the best candidate with sufficient all round experience. BH confirmed that the process of interview was done in accordance with all SALC regulations and training would be offered to all new clerks and it is not a legal requirement, training would always be offered.
- Did the other candidate have a SALC certificate or training? GC responded that they had some training but this was not complete. BH commented that Tuddenham had employed a new clerk on the same basis as Worlington and that the same training would be given.

22/09/1

Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and introduced the new Clerk of the Parish Council, Joanna Priestley, and thanked the outgoing Chairman, Nick Foster, and Councillor Steven Foster, for their contributions to the Parish during their time on the Council. The Chairman also gave thanks to Jan Foster for her work in leading the Worlie Cafe.

Accepted Apologies for absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) and (2):

Cllr. P. MacKenzie.

Absent:

None.

22/09/2

Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:

Item 7.3 Cllr. Osborne and Cllr. Lucas

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22/09/3

To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings:

To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2022.

Resolved 22/09/3.01

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14th July 2022 were adopted as a true statement and were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting (KL).

LO noted that the Clerk should make sure that the matters raised in the last minutes have been dealt with and asked if the hedge at Bell House had been cut back. A member of the public confirmed it had.

KL stated that he had not seen anyone camping at the Hythe since the last meeting and LO confirmed that the footpath sign on Bell Road was still down. The Clerk will chase this with SCC PROW.

22/09/4

(i)

External Forum:

County Councillor Report

Cllr. Lance Stanbury gave the following report to the meeting:

A11 crossing closures

Due to safety concerns, there is a consultation to close the crossings from Tuddenham to Barton Mills and Herringswell to Worlington. There have been multiple complaints from farmers that they will have to drive to Red Lodge to get to the southbound side of the A11 but LS is conscious that it will be much safer and reduce speeding. LS urges the public to look at the online consultation and submit comments. LS has asked Suffolk Highways for further information. LO enquired about the percentage of accidents for both illegal and legal crossing at those junctions and also whether the footpath from Tuddenham across the A11 would remain. LS to clarify.

Lowering of River Lark

LS reported that Mildenhall Town Council were looking into this. LS had received concerns from the public but that the Environment Agency would like to see the river returned to pre industrial levels as this would be good for wildlife and reduce flooding.

Kennett Railway Station

LS reported that Greater Anglia will not give answers to why there cannot be an hourly service to Cambridge. It is currently every two hours and Greater Anglia has deployed many avoidance tactics which may be valid but need to be understood. LS is to meet with the Strategic Committee regarding this to see what funding is available to appeal this.

Speeding surveys

LS reported that for all the surveys carried out the mean average speed was 35mph and the 85th percentile was 41mph (calculating the average speed of 85% cars in the survey). This data may

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be used to discuss with the Highways Agency ways of mitigating speeding and reduce it in general. A lengthy discussion ensued about the statistics of accidents and what can be done. LS suggested that volunteers could set up a community speed watch and BH commented that Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) do work and the Clerk will find the figures. (AMENDMENT: It was asked if a Freedom of Information request could be made of Suffolk Constabulary to establish the number of prosecutions of drivers exceeding the speed limit for the last twelve months. The Clerk to request this. – KL)

(ii) District Councillor Report

Cllr. Brian Harvey gave the following report to the meeting;

- West Suffolk Environment Report - Emissions are down 30%, trees are being planted, and waste is down by 50%. There is up to £150,000 of funding available and BH requested the Parish Council to think of ideas for environmental projects.
- County Lines is still a huge issue.
- Planning - BH urged the public to let WPC know about planning issues.
- BH invited questions and was asked about a breach of data protection by West Suffolk Council when an email was sent with multiple email addresses included. BH commented he was looking into this.

22/09/5 REPORTS:

(i) Sunnica Statement of Common Ground

LO explained the aims of the statement and GC confirmed that amendments need to be made to this and the Clerk is to request an extension to the deadline.

(ii) Report on meeting with Cricket Club re: pavilion

GC reported that the architect had not been briefed on moving the pavilion, only the changes to the existing pavilion. Another meeting is needed with Paul Marston and the architect to discuss the possibility of moving it. GC to attend. It was stated that these plans were still in the very early stages of discussion.

22/09/6 HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC CALMING:

(i) VAS (SID) Data

BH commented that the SID needed to be reinstated but due to an injury suffered by BH, he was unable to do it by himself. KL said he would assist. BH commented that regular volunteers were needed to move the SID, perhaps on a rota, every 21 days or moved to a different every two weeks. Two members of the public volunteered to assist, BH to give instruction.

ii) Traffic Surveys & Calming Update

BH confirmed he had, this evening, sent the Clerk the data from the Highways Agency. The aim is to reduce the speed limit from the 30mph section at Barton Mills going towards Worlington,

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where it is currently 60mph, to 40mph and to extend the 30mph as you approach Worlington from the hill to 40mph. The highest speed recorded on that stretch was 74mph. It was asked if the data on the number of speeding incidents and the action taken could be obtained from the Highways Agency and it was confirmed that this had already been requested. The Clerk is to look into this.

Proposed closure of A11 central reservation gaps

- iii) BH commented that a rat run of traffic will occur between Red Lodge and Worlington along Golf Links Road if these closures go ahead and advised that Worlington Parish Council needed to respond to this.

22/09/7

PLANNING:

- (i) **DC/22/1360/HPA - Householder prior approval - single storey rear extension which extends beyond the rear wall of the original house by 4 metres with a maximum height of 3 metres and a height of 2.3 metres to the eaves (received 01.08.22)**

Worlington Parish Council have no objections as laid out in the planning application. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

- (ii) **DC/18/1398/FUL - Application to discharge condition seven (details of boundary treatment) - Building behind 21 Mildenhall Road, Worlington, Suffolk**

This relates to a discharge of a condition of a previous application. No further action required.

- (iii) **DC/22/1261/HH - Householder planning application - first floor rear extension**

Worlington Parish Council were not quorate to discuss this proposal at the meeting and an extension has been granted in this matter. GC and AM to look at the plans and respond.

- iv) **AP/22/0019/STAND - Planning application: a. change of use to gypsy and traveller residential use; b. 12 residential pitches each accommodating a day room/amenity building, up to two caravans and parking spaces; c. vehicular access; d. play area**

Appeal is currently with the Inspector and awaiting Inspector's Report. Hearing to be held at the Hub on 8 September. BH stated he has not been invited. Worlington Parish Council has objected to the application. The Clerk is to check if we have received an invitation to the hearing. Travellers have complained they have not been consulted by Sunnica regarding their development and the Examiners have acknowledged this.

- v) **Update on Sunnica Plan**

Discussed in item 5.1.

- vi) **Update on Boundary Change Consultation – Turnpike Estate & WSC Local Plan Consultation**

Members of the public looked at the plan where the proposed boundary change is shown in red. LO commented that the residents in that area were shocked to learn they lived in the parish of

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Worlington and not Red Lodge. BH stated that in addition there has been an application for no waiting or parking on the road leading into development on the same piece of land which should be part of the Red Lodge Parish Council and not Worlington.

vii) Update on Church Lane Enforcement EN/21/0237

There are breaches to the planning application at Church Farm where white UPVC windows have been installed without planning permission. The Enforcement Officer could not see it from a drive by inspection. A formal complaint has been made to West Suffolk Council. The Clerk is to chase this if we have not received a response.

22/09/8 PARISH MATTERS:

(i) Introduction of new Parish Clerk

See item 1.

(ii) Parish Council vacancies

Notices for Councillor vacancies are to be put up in the village notice board and in the Pump. KL invited members of the public to apply.

Adverts will be prepared for the vacancies of caretaker and cleaner for the Village Hall and that a volunteer will look after these positions until the vacancies are filled to ensure that the hall is ready for bookings. Interviews will be held in October.

Suffolk Coffee Caravan will take over from the Worly Cafe until a permanent replacement is found, serving hot soup and coffee in a warm and welcoming environment. Dates and times to be announced.

iii) Hythe Update - Maintenance

LO asked if Nick Foster would continue his good work as Project Leader at the Hythe and report to the Parish Council once a month. He agreed to continue.

iv) Playground maintenance

KL stated that he was happy to maintain the playground but it was agreed that an advert should be prepared to go on the notice board and in the Pump for a voluntary but expenses paid role in the long term. The roof of the climbing frame needs to be replaced, bark needs replenishing and the contact number on the sign to be updated.

v) Neighbourhood Plan update

LO presented a draft analysis and design guide before a meeting to be held on 15 September. There are misspelt road names and incorrect species of trees in specific locations which need to be altered. LO asked members of the public to look at the guide and is happy to make black and white copies as there is no digital copy of the draft but the final document will be available online.

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CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman read a letter from All Saints Church, Worlington expressing thanks for the Parish Council's donation towards the cost of a printer for the Pump newsletter and the offer of £100 per annum including Parish Council news. They have requested more comprehensive accounts of the Parish meetings to include within the Pump. The Clerk to organise for All Saints' Church to receive a copy of the minutes of Parish Council hereinafter.

22/09/10

FINANCE & POLICIES:

- i) **Online Banking**
LO commented that cheques were becoming outdated and the Parish Council needed to make transactions and payments online. At least two councillors will need to have access to the online bank account and the format would change at the meetings. The Clerk will be able to see the online activity but the councillors will be responsible for all income and expenditure.
- ii) **Lloyds Bank mandate for signatories update**
At present KL is the only signatory and will introduce the new Clerk to Lloyds Bank with another two councillors to add them as signatories. BH commented that Nick Foster will have to be present in order to add more signatories to the account. BH recommends at least three signatories on the account.
- iii) **Discuss Clerk's training and approve payments for registration**
The Clerk is to organise her training with SALC. Due to the previous clerk's ill health, the handover process had been very limited and so there is an inevitable backlog. The cost of the registration is £140 and each module of the course is £26 plus VAT. Data Protection training and Budgetary Control training were the most urgent modules to complete. The Clerk is already in the process of registering with SALC and NALC. BH stressed it was important to adhere to SALC/NALC regulations at all times.

22/09/11

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

- i) **Items for next Agenda and Councillor's Reports**
- Quiet Lanes - LO apologised that she had missed the deadline, although the application had been submitted, and had made enquiries on how to rectify this. Awaiting response.
- The Clerk is to register portal planning and request reports.
- Village Hall update. The Village Hall meeting is to be delayed. A quote has been received to fix the broken window. The Clerk is to look into this.
- SID update

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Meeting closed at 9:11pm

Signed

Ken Lucas

Date: 6 October 2022

Chair, WPC