

Worlington Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall from 7.30pm Tuesday 22nd September 2015

Councillors present: Cllr. Rupert Osborn (RS), Cllr N Foster (NF), Cllr. K. Lucas (KL), Cllr. P. Merrick (PM) and Cllr B Harvey (BH)

Present: Clerk – Vicky Bright, Sue Dampier – Speed Watch, Den ?- Walnut Tree Pub

Item		
	Meeting opened at 07.30pm	
	Public Forum – LGA 1972, Section 100(1): 14 Members of the public were in attendance. Issues raised:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residents of the Meadows raised the issue that Speed Watch checks had not been carried out near their road. Sue Dampier confirmed she had not managed to cover all sites and would look into this.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One resident complained that the agenda's for the January & June extraordinary meetings had not been made public in the usual way or in the correct timeframe. The Clerk apologised and advised she would follow up on this with the Interim Clerk.	Clerk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The issue of the members Register of Interests not being updated and made public on the website was raised by a resident. The Clerk advised she would check this with FHDC and advise any members who needed to update their forms.	Clerk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residents complained that the website was not up to date. Cllr. Osborn advised that this was to be addressed later on the agenda.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residents raised an issue of flooding still being a problem in the following areas; Church Lane near the War Memorial, at the Pedestrian Crossing on Isleham Road and Walnut Grove. The Clerk is to raise this with Highways at SCC.	Clerk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One resident advised that the track at the Hythe is often obstructed due to parked cars and requested if No Parking signs could be installed. The Clerk is to establish ownership and look into signage if possible.	Clerk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A resident mentioned mature Oak trees in Green Lane being dangerous to branches falling. It was agreed the Clerk would look into ownership and address the issue accordingly.	Clerk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The access to the bridge crossing the Staunch has been addressed as Harry Dring has kindly installed a set of steps at no charge. This was agreed to be a public spirited gesture and thanks was given to Harry. The Clerk will also investigate ownership of the bridge.	Clerk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dog Fouling has been raised as a problem. The Clerk is to place notices (including legislation) in the Pump and on the website. Cllr. Lucas is to look at replacing the signs with new ones.	Clerk/KL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The building works at Alan Mayes Nursery was raised. Cllr. Osborn advised that an enforcement officer attended and works were suspended temporarily. Cllr. Harvey advised that under the new Town & Country Planning Act 2012, agricultural land and barns can now be applied for change of use to residential (up to 3 residences), this does not require consultation with Parish Council's or to submit details. This application was approved by West Suffolk Planning.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The unruly hedge on Bell Lane has still not been attended to; the Clerk is to chase this up with INL Landscapes.	Clerk

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- Cllr. Lucas advised of costing's for the Exit Mirror opposite the Hall.
Resolved
It was agreed to go ahead and purchase a 600mm Traffic Mirror at a cost of £100.

KL

15/16.029 **Chairman's Welcome & Acceptance of Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, Section 85(1) & (2)):**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 to consider the exclusion of the public and press for confidential items had taken place before the public meeting.

Apologies:

None

Absent: None

Cllr. Osborn announced the immediate resignation of the Chairman Cllr. Keith Lardner due to personal circumstances and the fact that Cllr. Lardner is leaving the village soon. The Clerk will write to him to express the Parish Council's gratitude for all the work that he has done on behalf of the village and the Parish Council. Residents also voiced their good wishes and wished for their gratitude for the work that he has done be minuted.

This leaves a vacancy on the Parish Council and the Clerk was instructed to advertise the vacancy in accordance with usual practice.

Clerk

15/16.030 **Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:**

None

15/16.031 **Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman**

Cllr. Foster proposed Cllr. Osborn for Chairman and Cllr. Merrick seconded. A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous for Cllr. Osborn as Chairman. Cllr. Osborn accepted and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was duly countersigned by the Clerk.

Cllr. Merrick proposed Cllr. Foster for Vice Chairman and Cllr. Harvey seconded. A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous for Cllr. Foster as Vice Chairman. Cllr. Foster accepted and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was duly countersigned by the Clerk.

15/16.032 **Minutes of the meetings held on 14th July 2015 - LGA 1972, Schedule 12, para 41(2):** **Resolved 15/16.032(1)**

The minutes of the meetings held on 14th July 2015 were adopted as true statements and signed by the Chairman (RO).

15/16.033 **External Forum:** 15/16.033.1 **County Councillor**

Cllr. Waters sent his apologies and Cllr. Harvey read a report on his behalf.
"Devolve Suffolk, the Government is transferring Finance & Responsibilities to local government. 18.5 billion off shore investment available. Industrial groups and partnerships are being set up. More info is available online".

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Cllr. Harvey will advise Cllr. Waters of the ongoing flooding for him to investigate.

BH

15/16.033.2

District Councillor

Cllr. Harvey advised;

“We are also involved in Devolve Suffolk.

The solar park farm was refused, it was insisted that proper due diligence be followed and this produced several show stopping developments, a vote was taken and it was recommended not to proceed.

Locality funding is available for spending in the local area for PC’s and Community Groups up to a value of £500-600, for the benefit of the community. Several projects have received funding recently including; Worlington Cricket Club for Winter Equipment for Winter Coaching, Mildenhall Library for Youth Reading Clubs & professional tutors * Barton Mills for football coaching.

The Town & Country Planning Act is now available it is designed to speed up development of agricultural land. It is suggested that PC’s read through this document”. The Clerk advised we have not received a copy yet, Cllr. Harvey is to chase this up with FHDC.

“The Long Term Strategic Plan is holding meetings for the public to attend. It shows packages of land available for development within Forest Heath.

There is an argument for charging for the collection of Brown Bins. This has been brought about by SCC removing the subsidy. The cost could be anything from £35-£50 per annum, it would be up to residents to decide whether to stay in the scheme if it is brought in. The current contract ends next year and FHDC have negotiated the subsidy being reduced on a sliding scale until then”. Concerns were raised about where brown bin contents will end up i.e. black bin or fly-tipping

15/16.034

Reports

15/16.034.1

Update from the Village Hall Committee

Chris Hall read a report for the Village Hall Committee, he has now rejoined and the committee comprises of him, Nick Foster, Jim Power and Michelle Farrers. The hall currently has outgoings of £6,500 per annum and needs to make £125 per week to break even. Last year the hall made a loss of £1,000.00. There is currently no budget and the Clerk is working on it along with the accounts for the next meeting. The Worlie Cafe re-opens on the 6th November. The Committee is currently reviewing Maintenance and repairs. The Fire Risk Assessment needs to be carried out. The Committee is always looking for grants etc that may be available.

15/16.034.2

Play Area and Maintenance of Parish Footpaths

Cllr. Foster updated the meeting on the following issues;

- The bark levels need to be re-addressed. There appears to be no weed membrane.

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- The baby swing seat has now been installed. It would appear, on closer inspection that the other swing seat probably needs to be replaced sooner rather than later.

Resolved 15/16.034 (1)

It was agreed to purchase the second swing seat.

- The bolts on the Multi-Play Unit are rusted and there is some rotten wood.
- The issue of the gate that is currently just propped up. This needs to be removed.
- Looking to realign the fence that goes through the middle of the play area.

It was agreed that a meeting on site should be arranged ASAP to look at and address these issues promptly.

NF

15/16.034.3

Village Speed Watch

Sue Dampier gave a detailed report on the Speed Watch. All admin associated with the Scheme is now in order. Relationships with PCSO Tristan Askew and the Police are good. New 3-sided triangular Speed Watch signs are in operation to improve visibility of the teams' presence. A3 Speed Watch signs will also be installed around the village soon. A letter was sent to Tim Lusher of the Firearms & Traffic Unit and as a result 3 official police checks were carried out towards the end of the last month; 3 drivers were dealt with for excess speed and a couple of verbal warnings were issued. The flashing variable speed sign is now circulated around 5 villages on a 12 week cycle, we deployed it during April and June and have just taken delivery of it again. The Scheme has carried out 6 surveys this year, identifying 38 speeding drivers. I am working towards setting up more regular checks, using all volunteers at the 7 approved locations.

15/16.034.4

External Meetings that Councillors may wish to report upon

Cllr. Harvey advised that the village ad 3 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and following a meeting he attended recently, the increase in break ins had been highlighted. Therefore, he asks that the schemes contact details be advertised in the Pump and on the website.

Clerk

15/16.034.5

'Worlie Cafe' Update

In his absence Jim Power gave a report to be read out. Apologies for the October cafe having to be cancelled, the good news is the new cafe season will start on 6th November. With taking over the cafe reigns from Gill Jones, I would like to say a big Thank You for all the efforts and time that Gill put in on behalf of our village. The November cafe opens at 12 noon, hoping our villagers will come along. If any volunteers wishing to give support to the cafe with time or food dishes, we would love to hear from you. The plan is to keep the cafe style the same, but we would like to have a theme each month; November = Autumn dishes, December = Christmas Fayre & January = Good English Winter Veg.

15/16.035

Planning Applications

15/16.035.1

DC/1549/EIASCR – Bay Farm

Cllr.Osborn explained that this was a proposal put forward to West Suffolk Planning for an Anaerobic Digester Plant at Bay Form (Red Lodge) adjacent to the existing Solar Farm on an 11 acre site at Upton Farms. All surrounding PC's had been consulted and Worlington have

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registered their objections. It was decided by West Suffolk Planning that an Environmental Impact Assessment was not required and therefore the formal application for consent is expected soon. The plant would take food stuffs (44 tonnes) and convert it to natural gas which is then sent to the pipeline. There are 2 main concerns with the proposal; 1)Smell and 2) Additional Traffic along the A11 corridor (Red Lodge).

15/16.036
15/16.036.1

Finance & Policies

Parish Council Bank Balances/Reconciliation from list of payments & receipts

Resolved 15/16.036(1)

That the bank balances and reconciliation of payments and receipts be received and adopted and initialled & signed as such by the Chairman (RO).

Treasurers Account	£4,983.70
Business Instant Access Account	£1,185.27

15/16.036.2

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

Resolved 15/16.036(2)

It was agreed to approve the payments of the following outstanding invoices and the cheques were approved and signed by Cllr. Merrick, the Clerk is to obtain a signature from Cllr. Lardner following the meeting.

22.09.15	673	Impress Express Ltd	Play area signage	£54.00
22.09.15	675	FLP Outdoor Solutions	Cradle swing seat	£148.80
22.09.15	676	Mrs V Bright	Mileage & Expenses	£12.41
22.09.15	677	INL Landscapes	Landscaping Aug, Sept & Oct 2015 invoices	£675.00
22.09.15	678	Pearce & Kemp	Street Lighting Jul/Aug 2015 invoices	£132.08
22.09.15	679	Mrs V Bright	Office allowance 2015-16	£62.50

Clerk

15/16.036.3

Approval of cheques and to authorise payment of invoices signed between meetings

Resolved 15/16.036(3)

Approved cheque payments since the last meeting.

31.07.15	668	DG Field	Works to VH Toilets	£6,453.15
04.08.15	669	Anglian Security & Fire Ltd	Maintenance	£408.00
04.08.15	670	BDO Audit	Audit fee	£156.00
11.08.15	671	Mrs S Field	August Salary	£72.23
18.08.15	672	Mrs V Bright	August Salary	£96.68

15/16.036.4

Renewal of Parish Council Insurance Policy

The Clerk presented the Council with a comparison spreadsheet for 3 Insurance quotations;

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Aviva, Hiscox & Ecclesiastical.

Resolved 15/16.036(4)

It was agreed to accept the quote from Aviva, through Came & Company for the annual premium of £521.19. It was decided not to take on the 3 year Long Term Agreement.

Clerk

15/16.036.5 Updated report on Village Hall bank accounts and expenditure

The Clerk advised that in her absence the Interim Clerk had not been updating the Village Hall Accounts spreadsheet or carrying out Bank Reconciliations, the Clerk hopes to get the accounts updated and reconciled for the next meeting

Clerk

	July 2015	August 2015
Expenditure	£155	£200
Income	£80	£80

15/16.036.6 Clerks Hours / Hourly Fee Review

The Clerk advised that after review of her hours over a 7 month period, it has become apparent that she is being paid for 20 hours pcm, but is averaging between 21-22 hours pcm. The Clerk also advised that she is currently being paid NJC pay scale 20 £9.900 per hour, which was the previous Clerks salary, however with her CiLCA qualification and extensive experience in local government she should be paid at NJC pay scale 22 £10.527 per hour.

Resolved 15/16.036(5)

It was agreed to increase the Clerks hours to 22 hours pcm and to raise her salary in line with NJC pay scale 22 £10.527 per hour with immediate effect.

15/16.037

Councillor Vacancy

FHDC has advised that the vacancy from Gill Jones resignation is now able to be filled by co-option. The Clerk advised she had received an application from Mr. Steve Foster. Cllr. Lucas proposed the co-option of Mr Foster, Cllr. Harvey seconded the proposal and a vote was taken with a unanimous for the co-option of Mr. Foster. Mr Foster signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, which was duly countersigned by the Clerk. The Clerk provided Cllr. Foster with a Register of Interests Form and a copy of the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders etc. The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Foster to the Parish Council.

15/16.038

Website

Cllr. N. Foster proposed the onesuffolk.net Website. It was agreed that Cllr. N. Foster would set up the village hall/community pages and the Clerk would set up and manage the PC pages.

NF/Clerk

15/16.039

Village Sign Competition

The Clerk was asked to chase the progress status of this item with the Interim Clerk.

15/16.040

Planting Scheme

The Clerk was asked to chase the design/plan with Ed Lubbock.

Clerk

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15/16.041

Highways Issues (Traffic Calming)

Highways identified the Walnut Tree to Red Lodge road, but felt that Freckenham and Mildenhall entrances were within acceptable levels. The Clerk suggested she follow up with Highways (Charlie Mitson) about Traffic Calming options/costing's and with the County Councillor regarding funding options.

PCSO Tristan Askew advised the Clerk that the Fatal accident was now in the hands of their Serious Collision Incident Team and he is unable to comment further at this time.

Clerk

15/16.042

'Walnut Tree' Parking

PCSO Askew has advised that he spoke with the landlord on 20/08/15 and since then there have been no further incidents of unnecessary obstruction.

Den? stated that he wished to work with residents and was prepared to suggest some ways to improve the situation, but stressed that he would appreciate residents only contacting him when it is a genuine case of illegal obstruction. He went on to suggest several ways to help;

- Allow customers to park at the village hall, as suggested previously by the police. Cllr. Nick Foster objected to this, as he felt it would impact on users of the hall and functions hiring the hall and affect our insurance. Therefore the PC rejected this suggestion and asked for the signs suggesting customers to park at the village hall be removed.
- Rental of reserved spaces at the village hall to be considered.
- Determine the exact legal standing from the police, meeting to be arranged with PCSO Askew, to ensure signage at the pub has the correct information.
- Look at land for extra parking.
- Consider getting quotes to tarmac the land at the pub and have marked bays.

He wanted to reiterate that the parking issues were due to the business growing and more traffic and not because land was used for the B&B, many residents refuted this statement. Cllr. Merrick voiced that he was pleased that such a successful business existed in the village and he was glad it was growing.

15/16.043

Correspondence

Letter from a resident stating that Highways had not been cutting the grass at The Paddocks. Other sites were also mentioned; Golf Links Road, Isleham Road and The Meadows. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Highways.

The Clerk advised that the FHDC Local Plan consultation deadline for comments is 6th October 2015.

Clerk

15/16.044

Items for next Agenda – next meeting on Tuesday 10th November 2015.

Planting scheme.

Speed Watch update.

Village Sign "competition".

Grass cutting/Landscaping Tender

Play Area repairs update

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Meeting closed at 9:14pm.

Signed: Rupert Osborn, Chair

Date: 10th November 2015