

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Thursday 10th November 2022 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) and Cllr Brian Harvey – WSC (BH)

ITEM	Action
22/11/1 WELCOME AND ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE	
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Chris Hall and Tim French who joined as Councillors after the uncontested election last month. CH and TF duly signed their acceptance of office letters which were countersigned by the Clerk.	
22/11/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85(1) & (2))	
Apologies were received from Cllr Lance Stanbury (SCC)	
22/11/3 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III)	
PM declared an interest on item 7.3.	
22/11/4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2))	
The minutes of the meeting held on 6 th October 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman, having been previously circulated to the Councillors	
22/11/5 PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1)	
22/11/6 EXTERNAL FORUM	
6.1 District Councillor	
BH explained that SALC would be holding a Parish Forum on 15th and 16th November and encouraged members of the Council to attend, explaining it was a valuable tool to good management of the Parish Council and an excellent way to share ideas.	
BH commented that “County Lines” drug issues and the impact upon our rural communities is being actively pursued by Suffolk Constabulary. This is a cross border operation resulting in several arrests and prosecutions being made. Recent updates and presentations by Suffolk Police concerning the issues are being actively pursued by the Constabulary.	
BH stated that Suffolk Police reporting numbers have now been updated to include an additional service for the 101 number for Non-Emergency reports you can now also be reported online at www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something . BH also supplied two new email addresses to contact Suffolk Police as follows:	

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Inspector Connor Lyon – connor.lyon@suffolk.police.uk and Sargent Rich Smith – richard.smith2@suffolk.police.uk.

West Suffolk County Council Housing Team were looking at the numbers of rough sleepers in Suffolk and whilst this was not necessarily an issue in Worlington, surrounding towns such as Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds were experiencing increasing numbers of homeless people. BH stated that should members of the public find someone in this predicament, West Suffolk Council Housing Team can be contacted at dutyrefer@westsuffolk.gov.uk or via the Teams help desk on 01284 7632233 and help would be provided. In addition, you can still report via the rough sleeper's web site at www.streetlink.org.uk.

BH expressed his disappointment that Matt Hancock MP had decided to take part in I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here and he had shared his concerns with the Conservative Party.

BH explained that the process for planning application reviews had changed slightly. It was now very important if residents or Parish Councils have any concerns to ensure that these are raised with their Local Parish Council and the appropriate Planning Case officer with copies to BH at brian.harvey@westsuffolk.gov.uk or by telephone on 07801 472461.

CH commented that in the former St Edmundsbury area very few parishes were responsible for their street lighting. As we have parity with Council Tax, why not street lighting too. BH said it was a choice before but FHDC chose not to transfer this cost to parish councils but West Suffolk Council (WSC) had now decided to divert this cost to individual parish councils. BH made assurances that the villages have not been forgotten when it comes to decisions about funding but if the Parish Council decided that they would like this cost to be borne by WSC, it could cost the Parish Council up to £15,000 and it may be cheaper to fund it themselves.

6.2 County Councillor

The Clerk stated that Lance Stanbury's report would be made available on Worlington Parish Council's website to view.

22/11/7 PARISH MATTERS

7.1 Hythe Update

Nick Foster (NF) explained that work had begun on the winter cut back of the wildflower areas and boundary habitat to encourage new growth and the spread of plants in spring and to prevent the brambles taking over again. It will require a couple of further sessions to tackle this. The pathways have also been cut back and widened through the woods and along the riverbank and a fallen tree which was blocking a path was to be relocated to the deadwood habitat.

NF requested a sign be erected to welcome visitors to the Hythe before they return next year. He suggested that the sign should explain who owns the wildlife area and what it has to offer, dos and don'ts (littering, camping, perhaps fishing and open fires). It was agreed that NF should draft this and get an idea of the costs for the new sign and pass it to the Clerk to be proposed at the next meeting.

NF/JP

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LO asked how the trees that had been planted earlier this year had fared and NF explained that most of them had grown nicely but a few had died in the extreme heat of the summer.

TF asked if help was required at the Hythe and NF said this would be appreciated next year, preferably on a Sunday. BH asked if NF needed locality funding and NF agreed it would be a good idea for the sign. KL explained he had been asked by a member of the public about the possibility of wild swimming at the Hythe and if car parking was available. KL explained it was best to park at All Saints church. NF stated that once ownership of the land between the Church and the Hythe was established, the hedges could be trimmed back to provide better parking. The Council agreed to continue with the process of registering the land.

MP/JP

7.2

Police Public Forum

CH explained he attended this forum at The Hub in Mildenhall, led by Tim Passmore (PCC), Assistant Chief Constable and Inspector for Mildenhall along with a sergeant. CH stated it was poorly attended by the public and most of their concerns were about speeding. He noted that Suffolk Police's website had a section on neighbourhood priorities but this did not include speeding but just antisocial behaviour in the St John's area in Mildenhall.

CH explained that Suffolk Police are unveiling a new Automatic Number Plate Recognition device (ANPR) which takes the registration number of speeding vehicles together with MOT, tax, insurance and details of the driver. Repeat offenders can then be visited by Suffolk Police and fines may be issued. There are about seven or eight of these devices available. BH stressed that the Parish Council needed to send a request to Lance Stanbury to arrange to have one installed in the village. CH stated that Suffolk Police explained that proactive speed enforcement is only really established in high risk areas where there are deaths or complaints. He urged members of the public to complain more to the police using the email address at Item 6.1.

7.3

Sunnica (Examiners) Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) report

CH attended the accompanied Sunnica East site B visit last week which gave the Examiners an opportunity to actually visualise the magnitude of Sunnica's proposed development and also allowed members of the public to gain a better perspective of the site. CH was able to see the battery site just north of Elms Road near Red Lodge and they were also granted access to the travellers' site which is only approximately 750 metres away from the battery site. CH questioned Sunnica about resulting fumes from a potential catastrophic fire at the battery site and was referred to their most recent air pollution report.

BH explained that the examination commences in December; compulsory purchase discussions are to be held on 6th December, then open forums all that week held at the Memorial Hall in Newmarket. These forums can be attended in person or online but parishioners must register at:

www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sunnica-energy-farm/?ipcsection=relreps&relrep=45715 and obtain a unique reference number. If residents need any assistance, they should email the NIP at

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NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. The following form must then be completed by **Tuesday 22nd November**:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=mN94Wlhvq0iTIpmM5VcljY-2438NOopGs4adS_Hhs8dUOUZKMUJaN0NMRE9LVUVGVTg1MUxMTVIHWiQIQCN0PWcu

BH noted that WSC and four other councils had submitted their written representations and a Local Impact Report had been approved and submitted. All written representations must be sent in by 11th November. BH stated he would be attending on behalf of WSC and Manor Ward and he urged the public go on the website and look at open forums. He also confirmed Lance Stanbury would also attend the forums on 8th and 9th of December.

7.4 Quarry Meeting

KL attended the last meeting and enjoyed a good walk around the site. KL explained that the ground will revert to farming land and soil is being put back. It was explained that they are slowing down their processes as the USAF no longer needed such great quantities as before. It was estimated that there would only be another three to four years left at this site.

7.5 Poppy Appeal

KL explained that two wreaths had been purchased as in previous years, one for All Saints Church and the second for the war memorial in the village. However, it transpired that the Church had bought their own this year and it was decided that KL should keep the second wreath in its box and it could be used next year. The Clerk is to liaise with the Church next year to see if they still require the Council to purchase one on their behalf.

JP

7.6 PROW at Bell Lane

This issue is ongoing and LO reported that the sign at the other end of Bell Lane was also broken. The Clerk will visit the site to gain a better idea of the exact locations of the signs and to report to Suffolk Highways.

JP

7.7 Ferry Drove update concerning the footpath registration

CH explained that the application to record this as a public right of way went into SCC about a year ago with a lot of historical evidence and around 120 user evidence forms. The application was given high priority but SCC said there would be a two year wait before they were able to look at it, so about one year remaining. CH added that it was too soon to appeal and, when SCC actually start investigating, SCC officers will put together a report, which will then go to a committee which will hopefully vote to make the legal order adding the route to the Definitive Map and be publicised. If there are any objections, they will be reviewed and at best will slow things down further. The Clerk would speak to Cllr Michael Peachey at West Row Parish Council and their Clerk, Sharon Vale, to see if they had any updates. TF asked about its status and CH explained it is currently a narrow track but it used to be wide enough to accommodate tractors travelling from Worlington to West Row.

JP

7.8 BT cover on footpath on The Street, adjacent to the paddock

This had been reported to Suffolk Highways on 7th November and had been fixed this week.

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7.9 Neighbourhood Plan update

LO reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was moving along nicely and that on Saturday 19th November from 10am-1pm the public would be able to view all the information. This will probably be the last opportunity before consultation to make changes or amend any errors. Worlington Parish Council will vote on it first and then WSC will do the same in the new year. LO urged members of the public to come and view the plan and ask any questions as it will last for the next decade or so, affecting planning applications and it will highlight the decisions made of how parishioners want Worlington to be and what it should develop into.

7.10 Camping at The Hythe

It was felt there was a real risk of open fires causing great damage to such a valued site and was suggested that 'no camping or open fires' was signposted either separately or as part of the sign discussed at Item 7.1. A discussion ensued as to whether this included disposable barbecues and it was agreed that it should. CH noted that if camping were to be allowed, a risk assessment would have to be done by WPC and that if a fire were to break out, the fire and rescue service would be unable to access the Hythe. LO reported that inappropriate camping had taken place during the beer festival this summer on the parish land adjacent to her house which had made one of her elderly neighbours feel vulnerable and frightened. GC proposed that a vote should be taken for any signage to state no camping and no open fires including barbecues. This vote was agreed unanimously. There was a subsequent debate as to whether fishing should be allowed or if this should also be prohibited on the signage. LO suggested the Council should check with the Environment Agency as to fishing rights as it was thought there was no right to fish on parish land.

JP

22/11/8 FINANCE AND POLICIES

8.1 Banking update

The Clerk explained that the Lloyds Bank had finally completed the mandate to remove and add signatories to the Parish account and she expressed her thanks to WSC for their help in resolving this issue.

8.2 Parish Council Bank balances/reconciliation and income and expenditure

Worlington Parish Council Treasurer's Account	£24,725.48
Worlington Parish Council Business Instant Account	£1,371.16
Village Hall Treasurer's Account	£5,821.23

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

The Clerk circulated a list of payments made and those outstanding which was approved by the Council. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

8.4 Approval of temporary payment of Village Hall invoices

The Clerk explained that, due to historical errors, the mandate for the Village Hall Charitable Trust had to be redrafted and signed by previous members of the Council in order to add new signatories before cheques were able to be signed. She proposed that the Parish Council sign cheques to pay invoices on behalf of the Charitable Trust until such time as the signatories were added and then the Council would be reimbursed. This was unanimously agreed.

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8.5 Financial Regulations update

The Clerk stated that all Councillors had been sent a copy of the latest Financial Regulations and asked them to confirm that they had read them and were happy with their content. This was agreed.

22/11/9 PLANNING

9.1 Update on Church Lane Enforcement EN/21/0237

CH asked how this issue could be escalated by way of a meeting, or site visit as this had dragged on far too long. BH suggested the Parish Council write to Andrew Smith at WSC's Enforcement Office to request an on site meeting at his earliest convenience. The Clerk will check for any photographs the Council has to back its claims that there has been a breach. TF asked how the Council should follow up matters like these when they are not resolved by a complaint. Would it trigger a response from our County Councillor. BH confirmed the next stage would be a formal appeal.

JP

22/11/10 HIGHWAYS

10.1 SID Data

No update.

10.2 Speeding update

CH explained that the Clerk had put in for a Freedom of Information request last month which revealed a total of 38 drivers having been caught speeding in 12 months, 3 of which were cancelled as the statutory time limit had expired. The maximum speed recorded was 47mph. CH noted that this evidence was equivalent to about 2 hours of a community speed watch or similar to 2 hours (or less) of SID data. It was agreed it was imperative that the Parish should have access to the new ANPR device and the Clerk should copy in WSC to her email to Lance Stanbury. TH to assist the Clerk and a copy of the SID data should be attached to the email.

JP

10.3 Verges and hedgerows

PM noted that the pathway on Freckenham Road, particularly near number 19 was covered in soil and that the verge was severely eroded. Generally, the verges are not regularly maintained and it was proposed that councillors should assess the verges around the village. It was stated that Suffolk Highways attended and said wasn't significant enough for them to send out a team to widen the path to its original width. The path is very narrow but there is no funding to deal with this. PM asked BH whether work permits were available from WSC in order for the Parish Council to take responsibility to deal with verges etc. BH confirmed that the PM would need to speak to Mark Walsh at WSC to ask to carry out maintenance with accompanying photographs and WSC would respond. PM asked about grants for machinery or renting the same. BH suggested she speak to Suffolk Highways first.

PM

KL noted that the hedge at Bell House needs cutting back again and to a better standard. Ideally the canopy needs to be raised. There are safety concerns that disabled people are unable to use the footpath. LO commented that the hedge at

JP

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No. 1 The Paddocks was also obstructing the pavement and, again, BH suggested the Council write to Mark Walsh. The Clerk will report this to Suffolk Highways.

10.4 Street lighting

CH stated that the stop sign outside the Walnut Tree has an access area covered by a metal plate which had come off some time ago. This access is for the electrical fittings. Suffolk Highways repaired this at the time using a cable tie which broke off again last week. It was reported and fixed again with two cable ties by Suffolk Highways. CH noted they should have a special key to access the electrical fittings inside and this is an electrical safety issue as cable ties are not acceptable. BH said photographs should be kept as evidence for Worlington's written representation to Sunnica. The Clerk will give PM the photo of the electrical problem for the written representation. **JP**

22/11/11 FUNDING

11.1 Cost of Living Grant

LO explained that Non Profit Growth is a charity offering to prepare all the Parish Council's funding applications, free of charge with no hidden fees. They are independently funded to provide this service to charities and non profit organisations. They state that if they are involved with any funding applications requests, the Parish Council is more likely to be successful.

11.2 Jubilee Bench

PM commented that now the Council is able to sign cheques, the bench can be purchased. The Parish Council has already received a quote for this and BH stated that this should be done as soon as possible before funding is reabsorbed by WSC.

11.3 Winter Response Fund

The Clerk stated that she had completed a form for this but was awaiting a response.

The Next Parish Council Meeting to be held on Thursday 5th January at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 8:50pm.

Signed:

Date:

Chair, Worlington Parish Council

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Appendix 1

Cheques signed prior to meeting		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
RH Landscapes	May, July and August invoices	1,032.00
Suffolk County Council	Traffic Survey contribution	189.00
SALC	Payroll service	54.00
Michelle Bolger Expert Landscape Consultancy Ltd	Sunnica Development Consent Order Process contribution	762.30
Community Action Suffolk	Annual website hosting	60.00

Cheques to be signed		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
AJG Community Schemes	Parish Insurance	788.70
SALC	Clerk training	124.80
RH Landscapes	September and October invoices	708.00
West Suffolk Council	Election fees	101.34
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	40.00
Parish Online	Digital Mapping	54.00
Ken Lucas	Remembrance wreaths	40.00

Cheques to be signed by Worlington Parish Council on behalf of Worlington Village Hall in absence of signatories on Village Hall Treasurer's Account		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
Ashill Fire Protection	Fire extinguishers service	68.40
Floheat	Boiler service	110.40
Browns of Burwell	Oil delivery	532.27