

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Held via Zoom, on Thursday 15th September 2020 at 7:30pm

Councillors present: Cllr. K. Lucas (KL), Cllr. A. Marshall (AM) & Cllr. L. Osborn (LO)

Present: Clerk – Vicky Bright. Cllr. Brian Harvey – West Suffolk Council.

ITEM	Public Forum – LGA 1972, Section 100(1): 17 members of public were in attendance.
EM20/09/1	Accepted Apologies for absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) and (2): Cllr. P. Merrick, Cllr. N. Foster & Cllr. S. Foster Absent: None.
EM20/09/2	Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III: None. <i>*Meeting Adjourned due to technical interference at 7:47pm, the meeting reconvened at 7:51pm.</i> <i>Present: Cllr. Ken Lucas, Cllr. Alan Marshall, Cllr. Lesley Osborn. Vicky Bright, Clerk. Cllr. Brian Harvey – WSC.</i>
EM20/09/3 i)	Planning Matters: DC/20/1284/FUL – Change of use to Gypsy & Traveller Residential Area, providing 12 pitches with concrete pads, 12 dayroom/amenity buildings, vehicular access and 12 parking spaces, play area, post & rail fencing. LOCATION: Land opposite Pen Villa, Isleham Road, Worlington Resolved EM20/09/3.01 Worlington Parish Council objects to application DC/20/1284/FUL, with the following concerns; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GTNA 2016 does not currently identify any need for additional pitches within the Forest Heath area. There are currently 6 Traveller sites within Forest Heath with a total of 67 pitches. The Beck Row site currently has vacant pitches, and both the sites at Beck Row and Red Lodge can be expanded.• The application states that there are 12 families with strong local links, however, the occupants of sites 6,7 & 9 are single female occupancy, and do not meet the requirement/definition of having a nomadic habit of life. It is also clear that the applicant is from Diss, Norfolk, which is not in our opinion a local enough link.• It is also apparent that the landowner resides on the Beck Row travellers site, which we have already stated has vacant pitches, there is therefore questions arising as to why the applicants cannot set up site on the Beck Row site?• The development site is outside the settlement boundary and is not included within the Local Plan for development (JDMP DM5).• It is felt that the site would also be classed as over-development, as the application states that each pitch will have two caravans (1 mobile and 1 static) and that up to another 12 travelling caravans may be on site for up to 28 days a year. This means that there will be in excess of 20 caravans on site at any one time. We ask how this will be enforced and monitored, and what is to stop further caravans being on site more than

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28 days in the year. As such there are great concerns regarding the impact upon the nearest community settlement along Isleham Road and on the Farms locally.

- The village of Worlington, does not have any facilities, such as a shop, school or doctor/hospital or health services. With the nearest GP being 3.6km away in Mildenhall Town centre with no local transport link on the Isleham Road. The local schools are also at full capacity, so where will these 27 children go to school. This raises concerns over the vulnerable occupants and the 27 plus children which will reside on the site, and the lack of care and support that they will have (JDMP DM2 (e)).
- In light of the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm development, which will be in very close proximity to the site, if approved, and the fact that there is no evidence or data to support either way whether there could be any health implications for the occupants (especially in light of the fact that some of the occupants are vulnerable, or have “significant health issues”), we would ask that investigation and studies/surveys be undertaken to establish a definitive answer on whether there may be any risk or not, before the application for the site is approved. There should also be concerns regarding the high voltage risk of the Energy Farm, for the 27 children who will reside on the site, with easy access to the Energy Farm (JDMP DM 2 (I)).
- Serious concerns regarding the lack of footpath along the Isleham Road, and the fact the road is a National Speed Limit road, and is already prone to speeding, should be considered. As this appears to be a wholly inappropriate road to have access to a site, in which will reside 27 plus children. Especially as there are no transport links on the Isleham Road.
- The fact that we have already mentioned concerns regarding overdevelopment of the site, are strengthened when you consider that each site will have parking for 1 car and 1 large goods/people carrier vehicle, and there may also be further vehicles on site at any time, due to the possible 12 visiting caravans 28 days of the year, no explanation has been given for the parking for these additional vehicles.
- It is also felt that further clarification should be given regarding the lack of mains sewerage. There are concerns that the suggested system is to be drained into a drainage field, what impact will this have on neighbouring agricultural land and the water table? (JDMP DM6).
- We understand that the land has also been identified as lowland grassland habitat, and ask if any consideration has been given to the impact on the biodiversity of the land (JDMP DM10).
- The applicant has stated (Section 2.8) that since the cessation of the land being used for Dog Training, that the land has been used for fly-tipping, this is inaccurate, and both the Parish Council and local neighbours would testify to this.

ii)

West Mildenhall Development Update – SCC

The following concerns have been raised at the Parish Council Briefings with WSC; traffic increase and lack of infrastructure and its impact upon Barton Mills roundabout, & Police Station Square, and the unsuitability of the Queensway and West Row/Isleham Road junctions to deal with the extra traffic flow. The Traffic Surveys and Traffic Counts are still pending. There was also concerns raised over the large volume of HGV traffic during construction, that will affect Folly Road, North Terrace, Queensway, it was suggested that a diversion via St John’s may be considered. There is a need for additional footpaths and cycleways, that are yet to be confirmed in any detail. The

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increase in traffic volume due to the Nursery/School and access into the town for shopping & facilities is not correctly reflected and needs to be considered in more detail.

The application is pending and Public Consultation is expected late October 2020, date to be confirmed.

**Meeting Adjourned due to technical interference at 8:17pm, the meeting reconvened at 8:19pm.*

Present: Cllr. Ken Lucas, Cllr. Alan Marshall, Cllr. Lesley Osborn. Vicky Bright, Clerk. Cllr. Brian Harvey – WSC.

EM20/09/4

i)

Parish Matters:

To discuss HGV Traffic (Tractor/Trailer) travelling through the village to the Bio Digester (Bay Farm).

The Council has received several concerns regarding Tractors and Trailers travelling through the village at all times of the day, on their way to the Bay Farm Bio Digester. Cllr. Marshall advised he had seen 4 Tractors with Trailers travelling through the village and turning left at the Walnut Tree pub and entering into Bay Farm.

It was confirmed that Condition 4 DCON/ (1)/15/2109 (Amendment 10th May 2016), sets the condition that all produce taken at the plant must not come from outside Zone, and traffic should travel down the A11 to Red Lodge roundabout and into Bay Farm.

The Clerk is to write to WSC Enforcement Team to ask them to check the conditions and investigate.

Signed: *Nick Foster*

Date: 22nd October 2020

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Next Meeting to be held on Thursday 22nd October 2020 at 7:30pm, venue to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8:39pm

Signed:
Chair, WPC

Date: