

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Held on Thursday 1st July 2021 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall, Worlington

Councillors present: Cllr. N. Foster (NF) - Chair, Cllr. K. Lucas (KL) (VC), Cllr. S. Foster (SF), Cllr. A. Marshall (AM), Cllr. P. MacKenzie (PM) & Cllr. L. Osborn (LO).

Present: Clerk – Vicky Bright. Cllr. Brian Harvey – WSC, Cllr. Lance Stanbury - SCC.

ITEM	
	<p><u>Public Forum – LGA 1972, Section 100(1):</u> Twenty members of public were in attendance. Resident’s raised concerns regarding the state of the roads, footpaths and speeding issues in the Village and lack of interest and support from Highways and the Speed & safety Team. Cllr. Stanbury reported that he is also having issues getting responses from the Highways Teams. He has requested an internal review of Highways and its procedures with the Highways Leader and Chief Executive of SCC and its Officers.</p>
21/7/1	<p><u>Accepted Apologies for absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) and (2):</u> None. <u>Absent:</u> None.</p>
21/7/2	<p><u>Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:</u> Cllr. K. Lucas declared an interest in Item 8.2. Cllr. MacKenzie declared an interest in Item 7.1.</p>
21/7/3	<p><u>To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 27th May 2021:</u></p>
i)	<p><u>Resolved 21/7/3.01</u> The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 27th May 2021 were adopted as a true statement and were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting (NF).</p>
21/7/4	<p><u>External Forum:</u></p>
i)	<p>County Councillor Report Cllr. Lance Stanbury advised that with the proposed closure of the White House GP Surgery and the closure of the Lloyds Bank Mildenhall branch, that the town centre will be less vibrant and people should sign the petition. Other items reported;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training for members on Committee’s is being undertaken.• SEND - undertaking a County wide review of processes.• Most SCC Officers are working from home still, with meetings online until 19th July 2021.
ii)	<p>District Councillor Report Cllr. Brian Harvey gave a report; See Full Report in Appendix 1.</p>
21/7/5	<p><u>Hythe Area Works - Green Space/Eco Initiative Scheme:</u></p>

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The Reed Bed beside the ditch, as you enter the Hythe, has started to re-establish itself after the removal of the Brambles which had suffocated the area and made it impossible for them to grow.

A litter bin has now been installed at the Hythe and should hopefully tackle the issue of rubbish being left around the picnic areas. This will be monitored and emptied by the Parish Council.

We are still waiting to hear back from the Environment Agency regarding the placement of a Canoe Pontoon and fishing platforms.

An issue that is repeatedly raised is the safety and suitability of the slope down to the river. Anyone who uses it will know that it very quickly becomes slippery and dangerous. We are hoping to install steps and a rail down to the river, for ease of access. We are seeking guidance on the best way to do this from the Environment Agency.

We had a site visit from an advisor from the Wildlife Trust, who suggested that we widen the natural habitat between the riverbank and the pathway. This has now been marked out, so that the contractors will allow this area to grow. The pathway has also been clearly cut all the way to the end of the site, leaving all the native species to grow up either side. There is also clear definition along the bank between those areas that will be kept short and those that in the future will be planted and left to grow. Our hope is to install a further 2 picnic benches and an extra bin also if the need arises.

We were successful in our application to the Woodland Trust and will be receiving saplings to plant the hedgerows in November. We are hoping to involve the community as much as possible, and volunteers are welcome.

With regards to the Wildflower planting, the lady from the Wildlife Trust first suggested we leave the site to see what native species will grow, although after a wander along the river bank, both sides, she agreed that in fact not much does grow natively. I suggested that we purchase a small amount of seed to plant this year, in a test area, with a view to sowing the whole area in Spring, depending on its success. A 50g bag will cover a large enough area to be able to see the results clearly.

We are waiting on confirmation of a site visit from 'Greener Growth', the not for profit community project company who will be able to help with things like; bat & bird boxes, information & wildlife signage and any other eco-initiatives they can recommend, that could benefit the site.

A local wildlife enthusiast has volunteered to carry out a bird survey, along with a bat survey that will be done soon. All information like this will help to create a sort of 'nature trail' as you walk through the site.

As with all projects, there is no magic wand to get it done tomorrow, and so will therefore be a long process, which we hope will have fantastic benefits to the community and the wildlife once completed. We are diversifying the area in terms of habitat, and also making it usable for

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everyone; whether it's for educational use for local children, a place for families to picnic, somewhere quiet to sit and contemplate or a place to view and observe wildlife, or for water leisure activities.

21/7/6

i)

REPORTS:

Play Area Update

The Clerk and Chair raised the fact that the Annual RoSPA Report had many significant differences to the monthly inspection reports. Cllr. Harvey said he will look into this with the Inspector, Tim McGhee.

Cllr. Foster confirmed that the bench had been removed and the bark retaining wall has been repaired and replaced where needed. Cllr. Foster is looking into Buffalo Board to replace the Cargo Net. The bark has been raked and spread, and the bolt caps are on order.

ii)

Parish Footpaths

i) Worlington to West Row Track – Ferry Drove (West Row PC)

No update received from West Row PC.

iii)

VAS (SID) Data / Update on date to reposition N'Mkt Rd SID Post

The data is to be sent to the Police and put in the Pump. The SID is at the Red Lodge site this week and will be moved to the Freckenham Road next week.

iv)

External meetings that Councillors may wish to report upon

Councillors attended a tour of the new Hub facility on Thursday 17th June 2021. The Hub is now fully open, and Mildenhall PC are petitioning for infrastructure improvements.

v)

Clerks Report

No report.

21/7/7

i)

PLANNING:

Sunnica Energy Farm Update

Cllr. P. MacKenzie gave the following report;

This scheme will go ahead if we don't fight it. It is not already a done deal.

What Sunnica are now doing;

- Sunnica, planing application to be submitted on the 1st September (this now looks to be delayed until end September/October
- Sending out letters to residents regarding possible compulsory land access and compulsory purchase. Legal cost to fight this will fall with the affected resident. (advised by Action group)
- In talks with local planning and natural England. The action group have requested freedom of information regarding the both of these.

Action group and parish alliance both have groups looking into;

- Biodiversity including soil analyses where possible.
- Battery safety
- Carbon footprint
- Leisure/ recreational impact.
- Landscape/visual impact
- Food security

The Action group also are asking for help in regards to historical sites, monuments and listed buildings. They will be looking into the effects of traffic, installation and the effect of the immediate surrounding landscapes.

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What we can do;

Alliance and Action group are here to support. • Information displays, drop in events and stalls at neighbourhood planning events and beer fest. • Landscape and Visual Amenity fees.

In December 2020, the Joint response from the four councils (SCC/WSC/ECDC/CCC) to the Statutory Consultation made many negative points about the visual appearance and design of the scheme. The Parish Alliance's proposal is to have a survey of the appearance and effect on the landscape of the whole scheme. The Parish Alliance has identified a Chartered Landscape Architect to carry this out. This is to try and ensure that the scheme has the best design possible, if it must happen, and to ensure that no villages are disadvantaged at the expense of other villages by moving panels around. Michelle Bolger A qualified and experienced Landscape Architect has been identified. Michelle will produce images of the affected area with the proposed installation of solar panels, batteries, fencing and screening. She will also advise on how effective the screening will be and how long it will take to establish. This will be one of the most effective actions against Sunnica. It will be a visual statement for those who decide if Sunnica is to go ahead. It will not be local people deciding, we need to show them the full impact of this proposed scheme. The cost of the survey report is about £12.5K, and the cost of the architect attending the Examination hearings to answer questions about the report is about the same, bringing the total to £25k. The Parish Alliance has suggested dividing the cost equally among the 8 member parishes, so around £3k each. This means the cost is split between Suffolk and Cambridgeshire parishes. Some Parishes have offered the full £3k already using funds under Section 137.

Inadequacy of consultation letter to be sent to planners. There have been several points raised for inadequacies. ◦ Lack of Access to Information: ◦ Webinars ◦ Inadequate Time to Review Information ◦ Sunnica's Inability / Unwillingness to Answer Questions / Lack of Detail About the Scheme ◦ Misleading Statements and Claims/ Poor Advertising ◦ No Means of Tracking Consultation Response/ Ensuring that Questionnaire Responses Actually got to Sunnica ◦ Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

Consultations from now on will be with the Planning Inspectorate directly. Residents will need to register as interested parties to be heard, this can be done online or on a requested official form. The Planning Inspectorate will then know what to concentrate on during the Examination Hearings. Registration of interested parties. We as a parish need to support our residents throughout the next stages of the Sunnica application. Registration of residents is extremely vital. The action group have proposed a few drop in sessions where they will help residents register online or fill out their applications. Once Sunnica submit the proposal to planning, residents will have 28days to register.

It was agreed by members of the PC that a village consultation needs to be held regarding the use of £3k of parish funds to be used as a contribution towards the Landscape Appraisal Fee, before the Pc can make that decision. The consultation is to be held ASAP, with the PC vote being held at an Extraordinary meeting on 29th July 2021.

Resolved 21/7/7.01

The Council agreed the Draft letter and points to be sent regarding the inadequacy of the Statutory Consultation.

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- ii) **Worlington Neighbourhood Plan Update (NF/LO)**
The Working party met this week, the group have been split into two separate groups with;
- Group 1 working on the Household Surveys, there will be two surveys one for age 16+ and a youth survey (8-16yrs). There will be a copy delivered to every household in mid-August. With return to the Village Hall letterbox, or collection for those who need it. It will also be available to download online.
 - Group 2 are working on identifying green spaces to be included in the Plan to be protected.
 - Any volunteers are still welcome to join.
- iii) **Update on the Boundary Change (WSC) – Turnpike Estate (Red Lodge PC)**
No update. Clerk to follow up with the Red Lodge Clerk.
- iv) **West Mildenhall Development Update**
No update.
- 21/07/8
- i) **PARISH MATTERS:**
Worlington War Memorial Cleaning & Refurbishment – Funding Update
The Clerk confirmed the quote with Mildenhall Monumentals and is awaiting a works start date. The Clerk is working on an application to the Memorial Trust.
- ii) **Worlington Annual Beer & Cider Festival & Car Show Update**
The Cricket Club confirmed that the licence has been approved, but are awaiting the July 19th Covid announcement from the Government, before confirming if the event will go ahead. The concerns regarding late night noise and music on a Sunday, noise and disruption from late night revellers leaving the event and broken glass, were raised again. The Clerk is to approach the Cricket Club again to reiterate the concerns raised and suggest alternatives for glass to be considered and earlier hours/family fun day for the Sunday.
- iii) **Kings Staunch Bridge/Kissing Gates Update**
SCC ownership has been confirmed. This has been reported online, with Cllr. Stanbury being copied in.
- 21/07/9
- i) **HIGHWAYS ISSUES:**
Highways Ref: Traffic Calming & Highway Issues in the Village Update
The Clerk is to continue to chase up SCC Highways and will report any issues online for a reference, she will then cc. Cllr. Lance Stanbury-SCC.
- ii) **SCC Footpaths – (Worlington to Mildenhall & Church Lane to the River Lark)**
Both reported and confirmed the works have been carried out.
- iii) **‘Quiet Lanes’ Scheme Update**

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Cllr. Osborn has completed the forms online to declare an interest for two lanes; Church Lane & Walnut Grove. Signage needs and locations are next to be agreed and submitted. A 'No Through Road' sign has been denied as there is already a 'Dead End' sign there.

21/07/10

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

21/07/11

FINANCE & POLICIES:

i)

Parish Council Bank balances/reconciliation from list of payments & receipts

The Payments and receipts were scrutinised and approved. The account balance was confirmed as £26,593.12 as of 25th June 2021.

Resolved 21/07/11.01.

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

ii)

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

Resolved 21/07/11.02

It was agreed to approve the payments of the following outstanding invoices and the cheques were approved and signed by Cllr. N. Foster and Cllr. K. Lucas.

Mrs V Bright	Mileage & expenses	000868	£31.23
Mrs V Bright	Printer cartridges	000869	£329.41
CAS	Onesuffolk website	000870	£60.00
K&M Lighting	Street lighting maintenance	000871	£835.75
RH Landscapes	Grass cutting	000872	£294.00
S Foster	Play area repairs	000873	£9.96

Approval of cheques signed between meetings

Resolved 21/07/11.03

Approved cheque payments since the last meeting. Signed by Cllr. N. Foster and Cllr. K. Lucas.

Mrs V Bright	Salary increase difference	000867	£101.84
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iii)

Asset Risk Assessment & Maintenance Report (SF)

Cllr. S. Foster advised that no issues had been highlighted on the inspection. The Big Table is to be removed from the Asset Register by the Clerk, following its disposal.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed: *Nick Foster*

Date: 2nd September 2021

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Chair, WPC