

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council  
Held via Zoom, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30pm

**Councillors present:** Cllr. N. Foster (NF) - Chair, 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. Louis Bussuttil & Cllr. Lance Stanbury - SCC.

David Wheeler & Andrew Douch – Freckenham PC, Michael Peachey – West Row PC & Richard Saul – Red Lodge PC

<b>ITEM</b>	<b><u>Public Forum – LGA 1972, Section 100(1):</u></b> Nine members of public were in attendance. The Chairman asked everyone present to join in a 2-minute silence in memory of George Pooley, who recently passed away.
<b>21/3/1</b>	<b><u>Accepted Apologies for absence – LGA 1972, Section 85(1) and (2):</u></b> Cllr. P. Merrick. The Clerk advised that Cllr. Merrick has taken the decision to stand down And resign from the PC with immediate effect, due to health reasons.  Cllr. K. Lucas. Could not get internet connection.  <b><u>Absent:</u></b> None.
<b>21/3/2</b>	<b><u>Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda) – LGA 2000 Part III:</u></b> None.
<b>21/3/3</b>	<b><u>To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021:</u></b>
<b>i)</b>	<b><u>Resolved 21/3/3.01</u></b> The minutes of the meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 were adopted as a true statement and were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting (NF).
<b>21/3/4</b>	<b><u>External Forum:</u></b>
<b>i)</b>	<b><u>County Councillor Report</u></b> Cllr. Louis Bussuttil informed the meeting that he will not be standing for re-election in May, he introduced Cllr. Stanbury as the Conservative candidate for County Councillor. Cllr. Bussuttil reiterated the stand point of SCC regarding the Sunnica Proposal, he stressed that the panels are too close to residential properties and the concerns raised over the batteries have not been sufficiently addressed by Sunnica. Cllr. Bussuttil also advised that he has raised Highways concerns over the West Mildenhall development for 1300 houses, he has concerns regarding traffic volume and speed on the Worlington to Mildenhall Road. He stressed it is essential that Barton Mills Pc and Worlington share their VAS data with Highways.
<b>ii)</b>	<b><u>District Councillor Report</u></b> Cllr. Brian Harvey gave a report; See Full Report in <b><i>Appendix 1.</i></b>

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council  
Held via Zoom, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30pm

21/3/5

i)

## Reports:

### **Play Area**

Quotes for the bark top up and a new cargo net are to be looked at the next meeting.

ii)

### **Parish Footpaths & Public Footways.**

#### ***Worlington to West Row Track (Ferry Drove)***

Michael Peachey from West Row PC advised that changes to law (Countryside Act 2000), allowed 25 years for definitive maps to be updated, this has to be completed by 2026, any Public Right of Way (PROW) not on the definitive maps, will automatically have their public rights extinguished. The two parishes are currently working on an application to properly record any public rights of way that are already legally in existence along the Ferry Drove and any such permitted rights that would have existed for decades if not centuries. Therefore, this application is purely about preserving any existing rights, so that they are not lost as of 2026 and not to create any new rights whatsoever. Concerns have been raised by the residents of Church Farm, but Cllr. Peachey has written to them to explain the process and answer their concerns.

#### ***Badlingham Lane Track***

This lane is also not recorded on any definitive maps as a PROW, further research has shown that it is on the Street List maintained by SCC, as a Green Lane (1968), also the 1824 Freckenham Enclosure Map has it recorded as No.7 to Barton Mills, it is also recorded as a U road classification (U6006). Freckenham PC and Worlington PC are working together to get this also on the definitive map.

The issue of the lane being closed off during construction of the proposed Sunnica, is a concern, therefore registering as a PROW has even more significance and urgency.

The Clerk has also been asked to raise the condition of the surface deterioration and tree/vegetation works that are needed in the Lane, with Highways.

iii)

### **SID (VAS) Data / Police Enforcement Update**

The Clerk confirmed that Police had been carrying out speed checks in the village in October 2020 and recent data has resulted in a further request for handheld speed checks to be carried out, the SNT confirmed that Worlington have received the most handheld speed checks out of all the surrounding villages.

The Clerk advised that after two FOI Act requests the Parish Council now had access to the last two years (September 2018-August 2020) prosecution data.

It was confirmed that CSW cannot issue convictions and only PCSO's & Special Constables can enforce the speed limit, not residents.

The Clerk has received a response from the Safety & Speed Team, and is working with Cllr. Harvey to complete the forms for the VAS post on Newmarket Road to be re-positioned.

iv)

### **External Meetings that Councillors may wish to report upon**

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council  
Held via Zoom, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30pm

Cllr. Osborn advised she had been attending the Freckenham PC sub-committee for Sunnica and gave an update on their last meeting.

- v) **Clerks Report**  
None.
- 21/3/6
- i) **Planning Matters (For Information):**  
**Sunnica Energy Farm Update**  
Cllr. Harvey advised that no response from Sunnica had yet been received following the consultation. However, the Parish Councils had written to Sunnica regarding concerns over the unsatisfactory consultation process. The Parish group is also looking at costs and fundraising for legal representation.
- ii) **Worlington Neighbourhood Plan Update**  
The first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party is to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, via Zoom. First task will be to look at defining boundaries and perimeters. The Working party currently has 5 members, 3 Parish Councillors; Nick Foster, Paula MacKenzie & Lesley Osborn and two residents; Julian Campbell and Susan French. More volunteers are welcome.
- iii) **(For Consideration):**  
**DC/21/0216/LB Application for listed building consent - demolition and salvage of barn**  
**Location: Cranford, Mildenhall Road, Worlington IP28 8RX**  
Damaged during a storm, part removed for safety, now want to demolish fully and use materials salvaged for re-build.  
**Resolved 21/3/6.01**  
No objections to application DC/21/0216/LB.
- iv) **DC/21/0151/HH - a. single storey rear extension b. two storey rear extension c. garage**  
**Location: Pilgrim Cottage, 41 Church Lane, Worlington IP28 8SG**  
Applicant was present at the meeting and answered questions from Councillor's. The Clerk advised that one neighbour objection letter had been submitted to the LPA. Councillors disagreed with concerns raised over the proposed windows, it was noted also that the land is not a residential garden and has been dense with vegetation and nettles for years. It was agreed that the boundary line seemed a little close to the neighbouring property. It was agreed that damage to crops was unlikely and the office space needed was essential.  
**Resolved 21/3/6.02**  
No objections to application DC/21/0151/HH
- v) **NALC – Consultation Planning – Model Design Code**  
The Clerk is to email the consultation and link to Councillors for their response.
- vi) **(Formal Resolution passed between meetings):**  
**DC/220/2252/OUT Outline planning application (means of access to be considered) - one dwelling Location: Land South of The Chestnuts, Newmarket Road, Worlington**  
**Resolved 21/3/6.03**

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council  
Held via Zoom, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30pm

Objections submitted 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

21/3/7

- Parish Matters:**
- i) Consider Cleaning/Refurbishing of the War Memorial**  
The Clerk confirmed quotes from IMI and Mildenhall Monumentals still stand. It was agreed to defer to the May meeting.
- ii) Discuss Requirements for a Fully Compliant WCAG 2.1 Parish Council Website**  
The Clerk confirmed that our website provider; OneSuffolk.net, were WCAG 2.1 compliant and that the Clerk had been given a Guidance/Training checklist to go through to ensure that the website content and layout was also WCAG 2.1. Compliant; the Clerk is to work on the website over the coming days.
- ii) Discuss Possible Action for Ditch (draining the moat, running alongside the footpath) and the adjoining hedge (land South side of A1101)**  
The Clerk advised that concerns had been raised regarding the recent flooding of the parish ditch. The Chair confirmed that the trees had now been cleared and the ditch dug out to get it flowing. He confirmed he walked the stretch of the ditch to check for further blockages. It was confirmed that the ditch was cleared 10+ years ago when it last blocked. It was agreed that the Clerk should get quotes to clear the ditch and dredge, but that due to heavy rainfall this year and surface water on fields being bad, the work would only be carried out if really necessary, if the same issue arises next season too.
- The Clerk is to liaise with PROW-SCC to establish ownership of the hedge that runs along the ditch, before any decisions are taken regarding maintenance or replacement.
- iv) Possible Adoption/Moving of boundaries of Red Lodge/Worlington (Red Lodge PC)**  
Red Lodge PC approached the Chair regarding the new Housing Estate at Turnpike end, the estate falls within the Worlington Parish Boundary (Boundary Commission), but is actually closer to Red Lodge and its amenities.
- Resolved 21/3/7.01**  
It was agreed to submit a joint application with Red Lodge Pc to WSC to have the boundary moved, to allow the Turnpike Estate to come under the Red Lodge boundary/parish.
- v) Discuss Hythe Maintenance (Approve Heavy Plant Hire)**  
The Chair advised that the Hythe was 1/8 Picnic Area and the rest overgrown scrubland, made up of invasive bramble and dead trees. Some of this has been cleared to open it up, but heavy plant is needed to clear the remaining area.
- Resolved 21/3/7.02**  
It was agreed to hire a motor scythe (Heavy Plant) to clear the Hythe area, at a cost of £150 per week.

21/3/8

- Highways Issues:**
- i) Meeting with Highways, SCC Ref: Traffic Calming & Outstanding Highways Issues**

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council  
Held via Zoom, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30pm

The Clerk advised that no update on the meeting was imminent, the Clerk has chased Highways several times with no response received. It was suggested that the Clerk write to the CEO of SCC and copy in the MP, County & District Councillors, to make a formal complaint.

ii) **Golf Links Road Reclassification & HGV Traffic – Highways, SCC**

There has also been no response regarding the HGV traffic and damage to surfacing/verge deterioration from Highways, therefore the Clerk will include the concerns regarding the HGV traffic using Golf Links Road, with the letter of complaint to the SCC, CEO.

iii) **Quiet Lanes Scheme & SCC Funding**

The Clerk confirmed it is not too late to apply to the scheme, we've got until July at the latest, to have completed our parish consultation and formally submitted our nominations after the PC have voted and discussed at a public meeting. Proposals for the lanes to be included are; Golf Links Road, Badlingham Lane & Church Lane. The Clerk is to email the criteria to the Councillors for their information, and for any further lanes to be proposed. The Clerk will work with Cllr. Osborn on the application process.

21/3/9

**Correspondence:**

i) **WSC Dog Fouling Campaign**

You may already be aware that there appears to have been a recent increase in the amount of dog fouling within West Suffolk. It is likely that this is due to the time of year (dog walking during dark evenings/mornings) and also the current lockdown, which is forcing dog walkers to stay closer to home and perhaps also spend longer outside. In order to raise awareness about this issue, promote responsible dog ownership and specially to encourage residents of affected communities to report offenders we have developed a campaign that will run through mid-February and March this year.

**For this campaign we will:**

Provide a 'self-help' dog fouling guidance document to all parish and town councils, which provides a practical guide for reducing dog fouling in their communities. A copy is attached for your information and it can be freely downloaded at [https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/street\\_cleaning/dogfouling.cfm](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/street_cleaning/dogfouling.cfm).

Run a social media based campaign that will launch on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February on Facebook. We will be encouraging parish and town councils to share our posts and it would be very much appreciated if you would consider doing the same if you feel able (the timings of the posts are attached). The posts will be using the 'Bag it and bin it - any public litter bin will do' tagline and range from gentle reminders of responsible dog ownership to pleas for the reporting of offenders.

We will be installing more signage at particularly problematic locations. The signage will be aimed at encouraging the reporting of offenders to the council as this has two positive effects. The first is that irresponsible dog walkers begin to think that they are more likely to be reported and secondly, we are more likely to actually receive reports allowing us to take action.

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council  
Held via Zoom, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30pm

Carry out some patrolling of areas identified as hotspots. This patrolling will involve talking to dog walkers directly (socially distanced of course) and providing bags to those without them. And of course if anyone is caught in the act then potentially issuing fines, although from past experience this is not likely whilst we are present.

One of the key messages that we want to get across is that residents themselves have a really important role and part of the campaign will be aimed at encouraging the reporting of offenders. This message is likely to have the largest single impact as offenders start to worry more that they could be caught and fined. I have listed below what residents can do:

1. Report offenders to the council – we need evidence in order to take action (as was the case in our recent prosecution in Haverhill).
2. Erect their own signage, either the downloadable copies from our website at [https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/street\\_cleaning/dogfouling.cfm](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/street_cleaning/dogfouling.cfm), or something homemade (warning of CCTV etc.). This is often enough to stop it.
3. Speak to neighbours, it is likely they will have the same issues and encourage reporting and vigilance.
4. Use social media to raise awareness of the issue (politely).

It was suggested that the Clerk raise the Hythe and Badlingham Lane as problematic areas, with WSC.

## ii) **Recreation Ground Gate**

The Clerk raised a concern from a resident that the gate to the Recreation Ground is often left open, which can be dangerous for animals and young children gaining access to the road.

### **Resolved 21/3/9.01**

It was agreed to purchase a 'Please Close the Gate' sign to be attached to the gate.

21/3/10

## **Finance & Policies:**

### **Parish Council Bank Reconciliation from List of Payments/Receipts**

- i) The Payments and receipts were scrutinised and approved. The Lloyds account balance was confirmed as £14,906.97 as of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### **Resolved 21/3/10.01**

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

## ii) **Parish Council Account Cheques for signing and approval**

### **Resolved 21/3/10.02**

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

SALC	Payroll	£54.00	000857	
Zoom	Annual subscription	£431.64	000858	
Mrs V Bright	Mileage, expenses & Letterbox for VH	£38.60	000859	

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council  
Held via Zoom, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30pm

- iii) **To Agree the Clerk's Annual Leave Entitlement 20/21/ to 21/22**  
**Resolved 21/3/10.03**  
It was agreed to allow the Clerk to carry over 9 days from 2020/21 entitlement to the 2021/22 entitlement.
- iv) **Asset Risk Assessment & Maintenance Report (SF)**  
Cllr. S. Foster confirmed that no issues had been identified.
- v) **Review of Parish Land Assets & to Consider Registration of all Land Assets with Land Registry**  
The Chair reported that he had located, in the parish archives, a Deed for the Recreation Ground from 1929, paperwork showing that the PC had sold part of the Parish Pit (Badlingham Lane) to pay for the Recreation ground. He also found a Parish Award from 1799 for the Hythe and a Statutory Declaration from the then Parish Clerk, stating ownership of the Hythe and Parish Pit. The Hythe track has already been confirmed as un-adopted, with the wood and track being unregistered and the PC has a history of maintenance records and invoices dating back to 2000. It was suggested that the PC start proceedings to register the Hythe & Track (up to wood end), Parish Pit (Badlingham Lane) and the Recreation Ground, with land Registry. The Clerk confirmed that the Hythe and the Recreation Ground are in fact their own registered charities with the Charity Commission.
- Next Meeting to be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 7:30pm, via Zoom.**
- Meeting closed at 10:27pm
- Signed:** **Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021  
**Chair, Worlington PC**