

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of Worlington held on Thursday 5th May 2022 at 7pm at the Village Hall, The Street, Worlington

Present: Nick Foster, Steve Foster, Ken Lucas, Paula MacKenzie, Alan Marshall (WPC) & Clerk-Vicky Bright

Also Present: Cllr. Brian Harvey-WSC, Cllr. Lance Stanbury-SCC, Paul Marston – Cricket Club.

1. Election of Chairman for Annual Parish Meeting:
Cllr. Nick Foster was appointed to Chair the Annual Parish Assembly.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2019:

Resolved

It was agreed that the Minutes of the APM held on 16th May 2019 were a true statement and were adopted as such, and duly signed by the Chair (NF).

ANNUAL REPORTS

3. District Councillor Report (Cllr. Brian Harvey, West Suffolk Council)
Cllr. Brian Harvey attended.

- Main portfolio holders are;
 - a. Deputy Leader & Resources - Cllr Sarah Broughton
 - b. Deputy Leader & Community Hubs - Cllr Jo Rayner
 - c. Housing – Cllr Sara Midway-White
 - d. Governance - Cllr Carol Bull
 - e. Regulatory & Environmental - Cllr Andy Drummond
 - f. Local Plan & Sunnica - Cllr David Roach
 - g. Families & Communities - Cllr Robert Everitt
 - h. Growth - Cllr Susan Glossop
 - i. Operations - Cllr Peter Stevens
 - j. Civic Chair of WS Council - Cllr Mike Chester
 - k. Vice Chair of WS Council - Cllr John Augustine

- The West Suffolk Draft Local Plan “Issues and Options”
This draft local plan has now been published and issued for Public Consultation the closing date for responses 26th July 2022.

Full details have now been sent to all Parish and Town Councils.

Public Exhibition events throughout West Suffolk have been issued.

I will be attending the Red Lodge event on the 22nd June 3pm – 6.30pm

- Sunnica’s Adequacy of Consultation has now been accepted by the planning inspectors. Their application in full can be viewed via [- Sunnica Energy Farm National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk).

The SCC/WSC & CCC/ECDC have now submitted their respective Relevant Representation reports 17th March 2022.

We now await the Inspectors time frame for further submissions. Currently we are preparing the “Local Impact Assessment” report.

4. County Councillor Report (Cllr. Lance Stanbury, Suffolk County Council)
Cllr. Lance Stanbury attended.

- Thanks to the Parish for the support shown at the Say No to Sunnica march and for the use of the Village Hall.
- Schools – 99% of primary places got their first place – transport Suffolk Award for most sustainable – froze cost of school transport.
- Speeding – working closely with Cllr. Harvey on data and surveys – meeting with officers to work on a proper scheme for proper checks and monitoring – Funding next months speed surveys, for County data to justify traffic calming measures.

5. Police – (Inspector Connor Lyon)

In the absence of Inspector Connor Lyon, Cllr. Harvey updated the meeting;

- ‘Spot stopping’ being actioned as Number 1 priority for Inspector Lyon is ASB & Speeding control through villages.

6. Parish Council Chairman’s Annual Report (Nick Foster)

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming. It’s been a strange few years and it’s nice to finally feel as though we are getting back to something normal. This year has seen the Parish Council move forward with quite a few projects. We are progressing well with our neighbourhood plan, which will be spoken about later on.

The Hythe has been tidied up enormously. The area is now much more usable for the parish and a long term maintenance plan has been put in place, whilst also allowing habitats for wildlife, plants etc. The river has been improved, with reinforced steps and a platform covering the now dangerously exposed timbers left from a previous project, so far all feedback has been very positive. We received an anonymous donation to purchase another bench for the area which will be installed when it arrives and we also have a bench coming to commemorate the queen’s platinum jubilee.

Speeding continues to be an ever present issue within the village. Our SID machine is working overtime collecting data which is regularly forwarded to the relevant parties. We continue to press for traffic calming.

This year also saw our War Memorial professionally cleaned and repaired and I think you will agree it now stands as a proud reminder of those who fought for us all those years ago. Thanks to Ken Lucas who regularly maintains it.

Work has also been done by Michael Peachey of West Row PC to official recognise ferry Drove as a PROW. We have obtained 130 user evidence forms and the info has been submitted to SCC. SCC have given this the highest priority to investigate which means they will start to look at the application within the next 2 years, although a final answer is likely to take much longer.

We were approached by Highways with the possibility of improving the path link between us and Mildenhall via the tarmac path that runs behind Wamil Hall, talks are ongoing about how best to do this.

The children’s play area has had some essential works done to ensure it is safe and usable, we are currently looking into more cost effective solutions for surfacing.

7. Friends of Village Hall Report (Nick Foster) & Statement of Accounts 2021/22 (Clerk)

The Village Hall is slowly coming back to life after its Covid hibernation. Although, regular users are still not that great we are seeing an increase in party and event bookings, which is great. We adopted a new fee structure and did some work on making bookings more straightforward. We have moved the Village Hall/Play Area sign to a more visible position

(where the phonebox used to be), and have purchased a new sign for above the front porch door. The windows desperately need replacing and we are hopeful that this year with the necessary grants we will be able to get them done. Later in the year we are looking to reduce the height of the holly trees at the front of the hall.

The Friends of the Village Hall basically arrange fundraising etc., through community events. The Café resumed in November 2021 after a long absence and despite our reservations as to whether or not our customers would still attend, they did not disappoint. As always, the café ran once a month since November through to April and in that time we raised £1051 clear profit, which goes towards the upkeep and improvements to the village hall. I would like to thank the café team for all the hard work they put in. We have recently started doing food themed quizzes. Our first one in March raised over £400 profit. The second which is being held tomorrow night promises to be just as successful with over 40 people booked in. People from the village and further afield continue to support us in our fundraising efforts so I would like to thank everyone for their support. The more we raise the more we can improve the building and facilities for the community to use, so it is really positive that we have regular money coming in on top of bookings.

I mentioned the windows earlier, but we also hope to give the décor a bit of an overhaul in the near future, as its looking a bit dated and could certainly benefit from a lick of paint. As with all things it's a slow process, but we are slowly getting there and making positive improvements.

Statement of Accounts Year End 31st March 2022

Balance Carried Fwd 1st April 2021 = £10,028.55

Expenditure £3,079.82 Income £880 Interest £0.38

Balance Carried Fwd 31st March 2022 = £7,829.11

8. Church – PCC Annual Report

No one attended or submitted a report on behalf of the PCC/Church.

9. Community Groups/Organisations Reports

Paul Marston gave a report for the Cricket Club;

- 3 Adult Teams – 1 on a Saturday and 2 on a Sunday.
- There is now a full squad on the Ladies side.
- Youth Club – approx.80 on a Friday, with girls only side introduced, with 15 girls.
- Investment in coaches.
- Funding to develop the clubhouse is being looked at.
- The Beer Festival last summer raised £4,500 with half being donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

10. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Working Committee is made up of 6 volunteers and is led by the Planning Consultant, Ian Poole (Places4People). They have monthly meetings and full details are on the PC website on the Neighbourhood Plan. There is an application in process for a Boundary change at Turnpike Estate (A11 Red Lodge). It is hoped the Draft Plan will be ready for submission this time next year, with the public consultation being held in November 2022.

11. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Sunday 4th June 2022 11am-4pm.

Picnic with; bouncy castles, children's games, sports day races (organised by the Cricket Club), Face Painting, Crafts and Make Your Own Crown competition, Ceramics Workshop. Ice Creams for the kids, with Coffee/Tea and sausage rolls.

The Parish Council, supported by Cllr. Brian Harvey and Cllr. Lance Stanbury are also purchasing a Commemorative Bench and Tree in honour of her Majesty.

PUBLIC FORUM Members of the public will have an opportunity at the end of the meeting to address the Council on any issues or concerns. The public are welcome to stay and observe the Annual Parish Council meeting but are not permitted to speak once the Chairman has opened the meeting.

Meeting Closed at 7:50pm

Signed:

Chris Hall

Dated: 9th May 2023