

**WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

# Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall Worlington

**Councillors present:** Cllr Chris Hall (CH) – Chair, Cllr Lesley Osborne (LO) – Vice Chair, Cllr Tim French (TF), Cllr Alan Marshall (AM), Cllr Nick Foster (NF) and Cllr Steve Foster (SF)

**Present:** Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP)

ITEM		Action
23/12/1	<p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2))</b></p> <p>CH welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were three parishioners in attendance. Apologies were received from Councillor Edward Kerr (EK).</p>	
23/12/2	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III)</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
23/12/3	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2))</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, having previously been circulated by JP, were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
23/12/4	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING</b></p> <p>LO confirmed that she had received no response from Anglian Water regarding the damage caused at the War Memorial. Cllrs agreed to fix the damaged bollard and send the invoice to AW, estimated cost £60.</p> <p>CH confirmed that after the polling station consultation carried out by WSC, they confirmed that the Village Hall will remain as the polling station for Worlington.</p> <p>TF advised that two thirds of the path at Kings Staunch was clear to at least 1m, Cllrs agreed to keep an eye on this.</p> <p>CH stated that he had cut back the head along the footpath next to the post box after Suffolk Highways said they would not do this.</p> <p>SF confirmed that he had replaced the PROW post on Bell Lane.</p> <p>CH asked AM and LO when they were going to carry out the condition survey on the street light in the village for the funding available as now columns could also be included in the application. CH advised that 50% of lights are on telegraph poles carrying a 3-phase electricity supply and he estimated £1,000 for UKPN to install each new streetlight post as this would also need a new electricity supply. LO and AM to do survey on Monday.</p> <p>TF stated clarification needed as photographs taken by the ANPR device are much less than the figures taken from WPC's SID. 2,754 pictures were taken and two thirds of those were speeding. TF will email SCC with his questions and he will report further at the next meeting.</p>	<p>NF/SF/JP</p> <p>LO/AM</p> <p>TF</p>
23/12/5	<p><b>PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1)</b></p> <p>Parishioner asked if speed bumps were an option as in Fordham. TF stated that Cambridgeshire councils take speeding more seriously than SCC. He also asked if our County or District Councillors were going to attend any meetings. CH explained that this was an interim meeting and hopefully they would attend the next full parish meeting.</p>	
23/12/6	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>DC/23/1577/OUT - Land North of Acorn Way Manor Wood Red Lodge</b></p> <p>No objections.</p>	
23/12/7	<p><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b></p> <p>LO confirmed that the plan has been submitted to SCC for comment and she is not expecting any issue to arise. Once complete, about March 2024, the village will be able to vote.</p>	

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### 23/12/8 SUNNICA

CH reported the news received today that the Secretary of State had delayed announcing their decision for the second time. CH added that in their original application, the use of deer fencing had been proposed by Sunnica. Due to thefts at other Solar installations both the Police and Insurance companies have advised this is not good enough and so if it goes ahead, high security fencing will probably be used.

### 23/12/9 RECLAIMED RESTRICTED BYWAY – FERRY DROVE, WORLINGTON

CH reiterated this item related to a proposed alteration to the definitive map changing Ferry Drove to a public right of way. Suffolk County Council had recently asked for any more evidence in this matter. Michael Peachey from West Row PC has put all the necessary evidence and the Cllrs were very grateful to him.

### 23/12/10 FINANCE AND POLICIES

#### 10.1 Cheques for signing/approval to authorise payment of outstanding invoices

The following cheques were approved and duly signed.

Cheques to be signed		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
Parish Online	Digital Mapping Subscription 23-24	54.00
Information Commissioner's Office	Data protection fee renewal	40.00
Joanna Priestley	November Expenses	45.80
R H Landscapes	November Grass Cutting	354.00

#### 10.2 Precept 2024-25

CH reported that a budget for guidance is being prepared by him and JP and will be with Cllrs soon for their views.

### 23/12/11 PLAY AREA

CH asked what money needed to be spent as he wanted to ensure the 2024/25 budget was set correctly. SF advised that it wouldn't be a lot. NF said the new inspector was more particular than the last but as a small parish with a small budget, the repairs we could do were sufficiently safe and worthwhile. SF offered to carry out an inspection of the Play Area and will report his findings.

### 23/12/12 HIGHWAYS

#### 12.1 A11 Closure

CH attended a meeting arranged by Tuddenham PC, attended by representative from the parish councils of Barton Mills, Herringswell and Icklingham. District Councillor, David Taylor and the Head of National Highways were also in attendance but no one from Suffolk County Council, which was disappointing. CH stated that the meeting was about not about whether the junctions should close but about closing them without solutions for the alternative routes. This was not a concern of National Highways but one for SCC. If they decide to close the junctions there will only be a 21 day consultation. No decisions were made but CH thought the meeting was worthwhile.

#### 12.2 Twenty is Plenty

TF explained that this issue had been raised by Freckenham PC who are including it in their Neighbourhood Plan application. TF stated that SCC is not interested in this idea and that if getting drivers to stick to 30mph is a struggle, then 20mph will be a lot harder.

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LO agreed Freckenham was unlikely to be successful in this regard. CH stated a 20mph speed limit through the village would probably mean many complaints from drivers.

### 12.3 Maintenance of Highways and Paths

Due to the latest refusal from Suffolk Highways to maintain the paths, TF asked what was the way forward to prevent WPC having to do the works to keep the village in a good state of repair. The more WPC do, the less SH will do. It was agreed there is no easy solution. NF asked what to do about the hedge along the ditch, which is much worse than first thought. The bank is subsiding, this is not an easy job and NF doesn't want to remove the hedge and leave an eyesore. It was agreed that this ditch does not flood very often. Ownership of the hedge was questioned. It was agreed to trim the hedge and try and shore it up in January.

The next full parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 8pm

Signed: *Chris Hall*

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Chair, Worlington Parish Council**