

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Thursday 11th January 2024 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 Edward Kerr (EK)
Present: Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP)

ITEM	Action
24/01/1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2)) CH welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were four parishioners in attendance. Apologies were received from Councillor Steve Foster (SF).	
24/01/2 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III) None.	
24/01/3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2)) The minutes of the meeting dated 7 th December 2023, having previously been circulated by JP, were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.	
24/01/4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING None.	
24/01/5 PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1) None	
24/01/6 EXTERNAL FORUM	
6.1 County Councillor The Clerk had not received a response to her invitation to Lance Stanbury (LS) and he had not provided a report.	
6.2 Suffolk Police Police Sergeant Williams introduced himself and PC Harper. He said he was excited to start attending PC meetings and get back into the public's trust and to be a visible presence in the community. Three officers will cover Newmarket, Exning, Barton Mills, Red Lodge and Worlington and other surrounding villages. PC Harper will be located in the Manor Ward villages. Sergeant Williams stated that there were no reported crimes since they started on the beat on 1 st December. CH explained that Worlington did not have a crime problem, but speeding was the main issue. Sergeant Williams stated that the more crimes that are reported, the more likelihood there was of having extra police officers located in the village. TF explained the speeding problems in the village to the officers using the data from the SID and ANPR devices. Examples included on the Freckenham Road, around 70% exceeding 30mph and the slowest area being on the bend with an average of 32mph. Sergeant Williams said they have a dedicated speeding officer and if TF sent him the data and he would pass it on. TF continued that the highest speed was 85mph on Freckenham Road and LO stated that the telegraph post had been taken out numerous times and a child playing in Old Bridge Close would be certainly killed by a car driving past at that speed. TF said WSC did not seem interested in solving speeding problems and PC Harper said some resolutions make more problems, eg that the speed bumps have caused cracks in houses in Bungay due to damage by lorries. LO would like a zebra crossing in the village as there is no safe passage from one end of the village to the other and the pavements are not wide enough for wheelchairs or safe for pushchairs. TF wrapped up by saying that some resolution needed to be found, ideally a permanent ANPR. PC Harper said that funding is the problem and this would need to be paid for by SCC. CH said that the only way forward	

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was greater police presence as that is the only deterrent. CH explained that the Community Speed Watch (CSW) was being set up and the Police were just waiting for the CSW team to give the green light and Sergeant Williams said WPC were doing all the right things. TF said that WPC would be pleased to do the work to maintain a speed camera as PC Harper said they do not have the resources. The Councillors thanked the officers for attending the meeting and for listening to their concerns.

6.3 District Councillor

David Taylor (DT) outlined the headlines of the Suffolk County Council's (SCC) budget including £77m to protect the vulnerable. Grass cutting is going to be prioritised by West Suffolk Council (WSC) within their balanced budget. DT explained that he voted for the Local Plan to be put forward which it is currently being looked at. He acknowledged there will be objections (eg Janeck) and that Tuddenham want to build houses. DT said if anyone has specific questions or issues to contact him. He is looking into how stone curlews are preventing houses being built and ways to mitigate this. He would like to see speeding fine profits put back into the community to pay for vital services and would like to use the SID data to find a real solution to the speeding problem in the village. DT suggested he holds a meeting with LS and WPC to try and find a resolution. TF stated that he would arrange a meeting between members of the Worlington Parish Council, Sergeant Williams, Councillor Lance Stanbury, and DT to find a way forward. CH reminded DT that he needed to provide reimbursement for the defibrillator training session held in October and JP will email DT about this next week.

TF

JP

24/01/7 PARISH MATTERS

7.1 Registration of Parish Land

CH has nothing to add apart from the plan on the Ordinance Survey map and Parish Online map includes part of the neighbouring farmer's land which is incorrect. This needs to be rectified before it can be sent to the Land Registry. CH to continue working on a resolution.

CH

7.2 Overhanging conifer hedge at The Paddocks

This has been a problem for a long time. CH suggested writing to the owners again. A parishioner stated that you cannot walk underneath the conifers and it is a hazard for the elderly. There is 50-60m of pavement that you cannot use. It was agreed to write to the property owners asking for an 8ft clearance with a link to guidance for hedge responsibility. JP to draft a letter and request a response by 1st February before the next meeting.

JP

7.3 Play Area

NF said there was a list of repairs to be made when the weather improved. The new inspector does seem more particular about aesthetics as well as safety.

7.4 The Hythe

NF reported that a large ash tree on the corner near the litter bin fell during the storm two weeks ago. This will be cleared once it is warmer but it has exposed a large and dangerous part of the brook where the tree acted as a barrier. Fencing is needed to make this safe. NF to take measurements and photos to present at the next meeting. LO asked if the Woodland Trust trees could be planted there and NF said this was possible but would need research as to the type of trees that can be planted next to a river. NF also wants to shore up the bank there too as people were not using the jetty to enter the water and had decimated vegetation on the bank. NF and SF to do the work and a parishioner offered some posts he had at home for the fencing. This work was agreed subject to discussing the budget later in the meeting.

NF/SF

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8 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

8.1 West Suffolk Consultation from 5 Jan 2024

LO said this was at consultation and the documents are at the church and at Worlington hotel. They are also online and is a six weeks consultation. WSC do not seem especially concerned by anything in the consultation and now will be making final comments. A vote will be taken in March so LO urged parishioners to look at the documents. The consultant's fees were discussed and LO advised she had asked him for a breakdown of costs as this should all be paid from available funding.

LO

24/01/9 FINANCE AND POLICIES

9.1 Parish Council Bank balances

Balances as at 10th January 2024 - current account: £23,318.72, savings account £1,385.14.

9.2 2024-25 Budget

A projected budget for 23-24 and a forecast budget for 24-25 was circulated and discussed at length. CH projected that £18.5k would be left at the end of this financial year if his forecast is correct. CH explained that the predicted expenditure for 24-25 was £18,708.33. The cost of street lights was discussed and all the variables including changing all the lights to LEDs and price increases.

The purchase of a sign at the Hythe was discussed and it was agreed to pay for this from the reserves in the account. TF expressed Cllrs' thanks to CH and JP for their work preparing the budgets and JP reiterated her thanks to CH for all his help.

9.3 2024-25 Precept

JP circulated four options from which to choose the precept for the coming financial year, as follows:

Option 1 - 0.06% or £0.05 marginal increase keeping the precept the same as last year which would leave a deficit paid using the reserves and VAT rebate.

Option 2 - 8.23% or £6.55 increase to cover expected expenditure

Option 3 - 13.87% or £11.03 increase - to cover expected expenditure and add £1,500 to reserves.

Option 4 - 3.12% or £2.48 increase which would leave a deficit paid using the reserves and VAT rebate.

Options 1 and 3 were discounted and, after discussion, a vote was taken on Option 2 (2 votes) and Option 4 (5 votes). CH signed the precept form and JP would email it to WSC next week.

JP

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

Monthly outgoings - £426.58 to NPower – November electricity invoice and Clerk's wages.

Outstanding payments		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
NALC	Advert for Clerk in August 2022 (Oct cheque lost in post and cancelled)	120.00
Joanna Priestley	December Expenses	34.80
Places4People	January Invoice Neighbourhood Plan	3,368.88

9.5 Outstanding payment to NALC

This was authorised and would be paid by BACS.

JP/CH/
TF

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- 9.6 Online Banking**
CH confirmed that this was all set up for WPC with two signatories ready to authorise payments. Further forms were signed to set up the same system for the Village Hall accounts which JP would send to Lloyds next week. **JP**
- 9.7 NALC – 2023/24 Pay Agreement**
CH explained that NALC is six months behind when it sets pay increases. It was agreed to pay the clerk's backdated pay rise and approved the pay increase for 24-25.
- 24/01/10 WINTER FUNDING PROVISION**
- 10.1** LO reported that £1,000 had been approved from WSC towards the costs of the community café. EK to write an explanatory report after attending the café to gain an insight into its benefits. **EK**
- 24/01/11 PLANNING**
- 11.1 DC/23/2008/TPO The Oaks Newmarket Road Worlington Suffolk IP28 8RZ - TPO 104 (1970) tree preservation order - a. one Norway Maple (T1 on plan within A10 on order) - remove three lowest branches over garden b. one Oak (T2 on plan within A10 on order) remove two secondary stems over garden and hedge.**
There were no objections. JP to inform the planning officer. **JP**
- 11.2 AMENDED Planning Consultation - DC/23/1408/HH - Groom House , Newmarket Road, Worlington, Suffolk, IP28 8RZ - detached two and a half bay garage and store with home office and gymnasium above.**
JP explained that this had been reduced from a 1.5 storey to single storey building. There were no objections. JP to inform the planning officer. **JP**
- 24/01/12 HIGHWAYS**
- 12.1 Street Lighting**
LO will soon be able to apply for the grant which will pay for converting the rest of the lights to LED before the deadline of 31st January. Street lights on a certain type of post won't be able to be changed to LED. The merits of LED were discussed and JP to speak to Npower about what reduction in costs are to be expected. **LO**
JP
- 12.2 SID data update and ANPR update**
This was discussed at item 6.2.
- 12.3 Community Speed Watch**
This was discussed at item 6.2.

The next Planning and Neighbourhood Plan meeting to be held on Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, followed by a Village Hall Meeting.

Meeting Closed 9.30pm

Signed: *Chris Hall*

Date: 1st February 2024

Chair, Worlington Parish Council