

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Thursday 6th July 2023 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall Worlington

Councillors present: C Hall (CH) – Chair, Cllr L Osborne (LO) – Vice Chair, Cllr Tim French (TF),
Cllr N Foster (NF) and Cllr S Foster (SF)

Present: Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP)

ITEM

23/07/1

Welcome and Co-option of New Councillor (LGA 1972, Sch 12, para 39)

CH welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were five members of the public in attendance. CH confirmed that there was one vacancy and Edward Kerr (EK) confirmed that he would like to join. EK explained that he moved to the village a year ago and wants to help the community and serve it in any way he can. He is an honorary commander at RAF Lakenheath and would like to get the Squadron involved where possible. The councillors duly voted EK as a new councillor and EK signed the declaration of acceptance of office and declaration of members' interests which were witnessed by JP. JP to send the latter to WSC and file accordingly.

Action

JP

23/07/2

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2))

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Marshall and Cllr Lance Stanbury.

23/07/3

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III)

None.

23/07/4

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2))

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2023 were approved and signed by CH, having been previously circulated to the councillors.

23/07/5

PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1)

Former District Councillor, Brian Harvey (BH), enquired about weed killing on the verges and payments. CH explained that he had spoken to a member of Suffolk Highways who was holding a Q&A in Mildenhall this week who stated that funds were limited. JP to chase the current District Councillor, David Taylor, on this issue.

JP

23/07/6

EXTERNAL FORUM

6.1

County Councillor

Lance Stanbury sent his apologies and his report will be sent next week to go on the website.

6.2

District Councillor

No apologies were received from David Taylor and no report was supplied.

23/07/7

PARISH MATTERS

7.1

Registration of Parish Land

CH explained that he and NF had met to discuss this matter. CH had contacted the Land Registry (LR) and Charity Commission (CC) a number of times to seek their advice. The Recreational Ground, Hythe and Village Hall were all registered as charities between 1962 and 1964 (although the Hythe for some reason was delisted and re-registered in 2011). None of the three charities are registered with the Land Registry. CH discovered that ownership was under the CC, not the WPC. Their structures are unincorporated associations. As such:

- as trustees they manage and are personally liable for what it does.
- it won't be able to enter into contracts or control some investments in its own name.
- either two or more trustees, a corporate custodian trustee or the Charity Commission land holding service will have to 'hold' any land on the charity's behalf.

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As Managing Trustees, (there is NO reference to Worlington Parish Council, or that they are Parish Councillors) they need to decide who the Holding Trustees or Custodial Trustee is to be.

The Trustees can register the land (after we find proof of ownership) but the Title Deed must be the Holding Trustee(s) or Custodial Trustee. (As trustees come and go it is better to have a Custodial Trustee, i.e. WPC).

CH has been unable to find any document where WPC has been appointed as the Custodial Trustee. It also depends on the Governing Document associated with a particular charity.

When forms FR1 and DL are eventually filed with the Land Registry, a value will need to be declared for each of the charities (Recreation Field, Village Hall and The Hythe). LO suggested valuing it at its agricultural value as if the cricket club was not there. The LR lawyers would notify WPC of any errors or their need for further proof of ownership. The LR registration fee is £30 (for a declared land / building value up to £70,000).

So far, CH has been unable to find any documentation that WPC purchased (or was given) the Village Hall or the Pits.

CH suggested we initially try to register the Recreation Field as past documents do refer to the Worlington Parish Council. CH wondered if the trustees have power to lease land to the Cricket Club. LO asked if other trusteeships were possible and CH said all avenues needed to be explored.

JP to seek SALC's advice. CH explained that the Village Hall was given to four villagers as trustees by a brewery and former councillor, Ken Lucas, gave some history on the hall from around the late 60s. CH explained we are unable (so far) to find any documentation that transfers the Village Hall from previous Trustees to Worlington Parish Council. NF suggested looking at old minutes which do go quite far back.

JP

CH/NF

It was explained that the trustees have full legal liability to look after all the property. BH suggested the insurance needs checking and that we have a duty of care. JP to check with insurers about trustee liability and cover. TF to assist with drafting questions for the insurance company and that this needs to be clear before the beer festival. SF asked about the pit at Badlingham Lane. As mentioned earlier CH explained he couldn't find any proof of ownership or documentation.

JP/TF

7.2 Defibrillator

CH reported that the defibrillator had received a technical assessment by Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) and it was discovered to have had an error for some time which had drained the battery. CHT agreed to give us a new battery and send two sets of pads which will expire in July 2025. The unit needs to be checked on a weekly basis. Training was discussed and JP to organise this, LO will assist.

JP/LO

7.3 Community Emergency Plans (CEP)

CH explained that an email was received regarding CEP. This is not a legal requirement and can be a simple document listing local people with skill sets and equipment who agree to be in a committee. For example: someone with a tractor or first aid training. CH showed Freckenham PC's CEP. Councillors are to consider this before the next meeting.

ALL

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23/07/8 FINANCE AND POLICIES

8.1 Parish Council Bank balances

JP explained that the current account balance as at 22 June 2023 was £25,763.49 and that the standing orders for June were the clerk's wages and £239.74 for street lighting which was higher than in May. It was agreed to monitor these invoices to see how they fluctuated. JP

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

Cheques to be signed		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
Joanna Priestley	Expenses	57.90
Geraldine Ciantar	Coronation Event supplies	27.64
Suffolk Woodchips	Bark for Play Area	793.80
R H Landscapes	June Grass Cutting	354.00
Community Heartbeat	Annual Defibrillator Support	162.00
Joanna Priestley	Wage Increase	68.64
NALC	Clerk Advertising	120.00

The above cheques were signed. JP explained she had made enquiries about online banking and she could set it up herself online. Councillors agreed to go ahead with this. JP

23/07/9 PLANNING

9.1 Church Lane Enforcement EN/21/0237

CH explained that JP had chased the enforcement officer at WSC who stated that the enforcement was now complete. LO confirmed that the windows had been replaced by wooden units but not painted.

10 HIGHWAYS

10.1 SID data update and speeding update

TF announced the data would be given out quarterly hereafter. He circulated the June report stating that the highest speed recorded was 85 mph on Freckenham Road with between 80,000 and 100,000 vehicles passing the camera in the month. In short, two thirds of all vehicles are speeding.

CH explained that the community speedwatch was advertised in the Pump but only four of the six people needed had applied. NF will advertise in the Pump again with the graph for emphasis. BH said he would join the community speedwatch leaving one space remaining.

TF explained that the ANPR device was coming to the village. BH confirmed that SCC will do all the work and that the covert SID recently spotted may have been to decide where best to put the ANPR. TF to suggest a location to LS and also request the data from the covert SID. TF

10.2 Street Lighting

JP suggested councillors could spend some more of the reserves accumulated to update the street lighting to LED units. Locations were discussed from the 35 lights in the village. JP to circulate list of lights and to seek the advice of the contractor of the best ones to replace first. It was agreed to look at the least expensive options first where posts are already in place. JP

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There will be no meeting in August (unless urgent planning applications are received) and the office will be closed except to any urgent issues that require attention from 31st July to 25th August.

Please contact the Chairman at crisdhall@yahoo.com during this time.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday 7th September at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 8.40pm.

Signed: *Chris Hall*

Date: 7th September 2023

Chair, Worlington Parish Council