

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council
Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall Worlington

Councillors present: Cllr Chris Hall (CH) – Chair, Cllr Lesley Osborne (LO) – Vice Chair, Cllr Alan Marshall (AM), Cllr Nick Foster (NF) and Cllr Steve Foster (SF)
Present: Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP), Cllr Lance Stanbury (LS) - SCC

ITEM		Action
24/03/1	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 Tim French (TF). Councillor Edward Kerr (EK) also did not attend.	
24/03/2	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III) CH declared an interest in item 16.2.	
24/03/3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2)) The minutes of the meeting dated 1 st February 2024, having previously been circulated by JP, were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.	
24/03/4	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING CH updated the PC that the owners of 1 The Paddocks had not yet cut back their hedge as promised. JP to chase. CH explained that TF has not yet set up a meeting with Suffolk Highways (SH), Suffolk County Council (SCC), West Suffolk Council (WSC) and Suffolk Police (SP) to discuss speeding in Worlington but will do this as soon as possible.	JP TF
24/03/5	PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1) A parishioner asked if WPC had sent a response to Sunnica in the last round of comments. CH said they had not and WPC had used the Parish Alliance to represent WPC. Another parishioner said a streetlight was not working near the Walnut Tree. AM to investigate and another near the hotel. Another parishioner expressed his disappointment in the way the District Councillor conducted himself at the January meeting and feels he is not fulfilling his obligations.	AM
24/03/6 6.1	EXTERNAL FORUM County Councillor LS reported Council Tax had increased by the maximum for 2024-25 to protect the vulnerable, elderly and children's services which take up a lot of funds. SCC are trying to save £6m per year through staff cutbacks via natural wastage rather than redundancies. The impact is yet to be seen. The Post Office in Mildenhall is still closed but LS is working to reopen this. Link (multiple banks hosting services on a rota) will be coming to Mildenhall which will be competition for the Post Office. LS is trying to get funding to assist a commercial business to host a post office but the cost of setting this up can be off putting. CH stated that in LS' election manifesto he vowed to reduced speeding and asked how this was progressing. LS said that in the absence of regular police reports, he had approached Tim Passmore who provide a report about speeding. The new beat officer should be attending parish council meetings. LS is willing to fund measures to help. LO asked if people were being visited after receiving ANPR letters for excessive speeding and CH said they have to be caught by police. LS stated that many villages have impressive SID data but this does not necessarily gain SCC funds to reduce speeding. Parishioners and councillors were keen on speed bumps as a solution but LS responded that SH and SCC will not approve these. LO expressed a desire for a pedestrian crossing which LS was open to discussing and said that WPC needs to collate information and put it to SCC for consultation. LS may be able to access Highways funding to enable a suite of measures. JP to coordinate the next steps.	JP

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- 6.3 District Councillor**
David Taylor sent his apologies and stated he had nothing new to report.
- 6.2 Suffolk Police**
No one from Suffolk Police attended or sent a report. CH stated that Sgt Williams had moved on and Sgt Button was replacing him.
- 24/03/7 PARISH MATTERS**
- 7.1 Registration of Parish Land**
CH reported the application form to register the Recreation land had been sent to the Land Registry. The boundary on the OS map was incorrect but CH supplied a map with a correct boundary. This field does not include the track. The Hythe, the track and the Village Hall still needs to be registered. The Pits is not a registered charity so is not such a high priority. A parishioner asked about the right of way at Ferry Drove and CH reported he was called by a representative who went through his completed form. They said their recommendations would be sent to a committee and a decision should be made in the summer. **CH**
- 7.2 Play Area**
NF and SF said improvements were awaiting the better weather.
- 7.3 The Hythe**
NF reported the Scouts had done a great job to clear the old scrub ready for spring. JP to write a letter of thanks. CH explained that the 'no fires' sign which was forcibly removed from the Hythe was recently found along the river in Isleham. NF was pleased to have the sign back and SF would reinstall this as soon as possible. NF confirmed the fallen tree has been removed and needed 1.8m rails to create the fence in place of the tree to make it safe. £40 for expenses was approved for both these works. **JP**
SF
NF
CH asked LS about funding for an information sign on bats and LS confirmed that SCC could provide part of the funding if costs were higher than could be met by SCC alone. NF to collate information and mock up a sign as soon as possible to give to LS. **NF/JP**
- 7.4 Website**
CH explained that heightened security on most devices meant that WPC's website was showing as a security threat. One Suffolk can provide a certificate for a one off payment of £39. This was approved. JP to organise this. **JP**
- 7.5 Police and Crime Commissioner Election**
This will be held on Thursday 2nd May at the Village Hall. NF to include this in the Pump. The May meeting will be rearranged to the following Thursday. **NF**
- 24/03/8 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**
- 8.1 West Suffolk Consultation from 5 Jan 2024**
LO confirmed that this has been sent to an inspector at WSC who may visit the village to assess what is in the area. Disappointingly, there were some lengthy responses received in the last consultation from those who may not have commented on previous consultations which may delay the process. A public referendum will hopefully be held in May or June for residents of Worlington and it is imperative that this is promoted and parishioners attend and vote. **LO**

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24/03/9 WEST SUFFOLK LOCAL PLAN

9.1 Suffolk Wildlife Trust email request

CH explained that Suffolk Wildlife Trust are asking WPC to request increased consideration for nature from 10% to 20% in respect of the development of The Hub. NF to put the link on the website if the public wishes to do likewise. The PC agreed to support this and LO to draft a response.

NF
LO

24/03/10 SUNNICA

10.1 Decision by Secretary of State

CH confirmed that SOS delayed this until 11th April, after which, he noted, there is a six week period to challenge the decision on both sides in the High Court.

24/03/11 FINANCE AND POLICIES

11.1 Parish Council Bank balances

Balances as at 6th March 2024 - current account: £21,331.84, savings account: £1,386.67.

11.2 Approval to authorise payment of outstanding invoices

Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
Joanna Priestley	February expenses	79.88
Places4People	January Neighbourhood Plan invoice	3,368.88
Joanna Priestley	Backdated pay increases Sept 22-Feb 24	585.43

11.3 Online Banking

LO is now registered for WPC and will shortly receive the card for the Village Hall account.

JP

11.4 Street Light Costs

JP explained that NPower ended their fixed rate contract in the autumn and, as a result, monthly costs has risen dramatically (£317.03 in October 23 rising to £477.22 in January 24). Subsequently, JP had contacted Chris Conway at The Utility Company upon recommendation from the Clerk at West Row PC. He hopes to provide a quote before the next meeting. He explained that the costs can be spread over the year so monthly payments stay the same. He also confirmed LED lighting was definitely more cost efficient.

JP

11.7 NALC – 2023/24 Pay Agreement

CH had forwarded WPC the information and this was approved. JP to set up this payment and also amend the standing order for her correct monthly wage.

JP

24/03/12 D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY – 6TH JUNE 2024

12.1 Event Planning

CH suggested a wreath laying service and the lighting of a beacon. This was agreed and AM to look into the cost of a beacon. SF agreed to tidy up the memorial before this event.

AM
SF

24/03/13 DEFIBRILLATOR

13.1 Appoint a Councillor responsible for the defibrillator checks and/or reordering parts

CH explained the defibrillator was deployed in February which worked but sadly the patient died. It was discovered then that the weekly checks had not been done since November and LO volunteered to take over this task.

LO

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- 13.2 Appoint a Councillor to be the 'back up' for 13.1 above**
NF agreed to be a back up for LO when necessary. CH to show LO and NF how the tests are carried out and reported to Community Heart Trust. **NF
CH**
- 13.3 Decide how best to report that all the necessary checks are being carried in accordance with recommendations from the Community Heartbeat Trust**
JP to speak to Webnos to get log in details for LO and NF with CHT and to remove AM. Confirmation of the Defibrillator site checks should be on each WPC agenda. **JP
JP**
- 24/03/14 FUNDING**
- 14.1 WSC Locality Funding**
DT has not responded to JP's chasing emails. If he does not, CH will email directly. **JP/CH**
- LO explained that she held three warm room events at the VH in February, one was linked in with the Community Caravan event. These were a great success and enjoyed by all. LO to complete the evaluation form for JP to send to WSC. **LO/JP**
- 14.2 SCC Locality Funding**
CH explained that a portrait of the King was available for free from the Government. JP to apply for a copy for the Village Hall. CH also suggested that SCC funding could be spent on some tables and chairs to go out the back and gate entrance. JP to add this to the spreadsheet. **JP
JP**
- 24/03/15 Worlington Footpath 3**
- 15.1 Ownership**
NF updated that he had spoken to SH who own the footpath (while WPC own the ditch) as to who owns the hedge. SH agreed the hedge was leaning and needs pruning on the top. SH think that WSC own the hedge. NF will contact WSC and JP will follow up if he has no luck. **NF/JP**
- 15.2 Ditch Clearance**
CH stated a parishioner asked if the ditch could be cleared to help ease flooding on his land. AM stated the water table is an issue there which was agreed. NF explained this was done a couple of years ago. This will be considered along with the remedial works at 15.1 once ownership is determined.
- 15.3 Safety of Path**
CH reported that a parishioner felt unsafe walking along the path as it is narrow. This PROW was inspected by a PROW Officer who deemed it still safe to use. This will also be considered alongside 15.1.
- 24/03/16 PLANNING**
- 16.1 Discussion and agreement on standard response letter to enquiries from developers**
CH had circulated a draft template letter. TF had previously queried the inclusion of a line about the NP. LO would like a reference to the settlement boundary in the template letter. LO and CH to finalise the letter. **CH/LO**
- 16.2 Land between Newmarket Road and Golf Links Road**
LO reported that the owner of this piece of woodland contacted her directly by telephone to discuss an unsubmitted application to build on it with offers of providing the village with allotment land and an orchard. An email had been sent to the landowner by JP after these

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conversations advising that WPC cannot agree to anything of this nature, that applications must go through the proper channels and Councillors must not be approached individually.

16.3 Land West of Mildenhall - DC/24/0151/HYB

CH updated the PC that an application to build 1,000 houses, commercial buildings, green space, bed care units had now been submitted. This land is owned by WSC. WPC objects on the grounds of the excessive amount of traffic that would come through the village and will suggest a renewed traffic survey is conducted at a busier time of day. WPC also objects as doctors and dentists are already over subscribed. JP to draft a response.

JP

16.4 Grove Farm, Readers Stables, The Street - DC/24/0337/TPO

CH explained that WPC had only been notified of this application yesterday and it was not on the agenda but that comments were required by 27th March. WPC objects on the grounds that there is a lack of justification to fell this tree if it is not diseased or impacting property. JP to write to the officer at WSC.

JP

24/03/17 HIGHWAYS

17.1 Community Speed Watch update

CH commented that Suffolk Police said that Covid had delayed their response. Two of the forms for the five volunteers had not been received. CH is awaiting the coordinator's feedback after chasing the volunteers.

CH

17.2 Hedging on verge along Church Lane

CH stated that a parishioner had raised concerns about saplings planted on land that potentially belongs to SH as anything on the other side of the ancient hedge is theirs. This has decreased verge width seemingly without seeking approval and is deemed a permanent fixture. NF to take photos and send to JP who will draft a letter to SH.

NF/JP

The next Planning and Neighbourhood Plan meeting to be held on Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, followed by a Village Hall Meeting.

Meeting Closed 9.30pm

Signed: *Lesley Osborne*

Date: 4th April 2024

Vice Chair, Worlington Parish Council