

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council

Thursday 2nd November 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
23/11/1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2)) LO welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were three parishioners in attendance. Apologies were received from Councillor Edward Kerr (EK).	
23/11/2	ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN LO advised that in May, CH agreed to take on the role of Chairman for six months as he wanted to give the opportunity to any other councillor who wanted the experience. Six months had now passed and LO therefore extended this offer to the councillors. JP read an email from EK stating that he would like CH to remain as Chairman. This sentiment was shared by all the councillors and in the absence of anyone willing to take over, CH agreed to stay as Chair. The councillors thanked him for all his hard work and for continuing in the role.	
23/11/3	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III) None.	
23/11/4	APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2)) The minutes of the meeting dated 5 th October 2023, having previously been circulated by JP, were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.	
23/11/5	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING CH confirmed that although SF had fitted anti slip material to the steps to the bridge at King's Staunch, this had unfortunately deteriorated and was curling at the edges. SF agreed to take another look and try to tack it down.	SF
23/11/5	PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1) A parishioner commented that the hedge had grown over the village dyke alongside the Old Rectory nearest the road for quite a distance. NF offered to take photos and look into grants for hedging and advise the PC further. It was agreed the clearance should be done in-house if at all possible.	NF
23/11/6	EXTERNAL FORUM	
6.1	County Councillor Lance Stanbury sent his apologies.	
6.2	District Councillor David Taylor sent his apologies and a brief report. This will be available on the PC website.	NF
23/11/7	PARISH MATTERS	
7.1	Registration of Parish Land CH confirmed that the application to register the Recreation Ground was ready to be sent to the Land Registry once copies were made of the relevant documents.	JP
7.2	Defibrillator Training Session This session was not as well attended as hoped but it was deemed a valuable session and well worth holding by all those who attended at the PC.	

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- 7.3 Repairs to War Memorial Green/Letter to Anglian Water (AW)**
LO explained that, as she had not received a response by Monday 30th October, she emailed the complaints department at AW and now has a receipt of her complaint. She will chase this up next week. If this avenue is not fruitful, WPC will look into fixing the bollard themselves. **LO**
- 7.4 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**
West Suffolk Council (WSC) is reviewing the effectiveness of polling stations of which Worlington Village Hall is one. It was agreed that the Hall is a vital asset for parishioners to use as a polling station and that postal votes are not suited to everyone, especially as the village has a large population of elderly voters. Furthermore, councillors strongly felt that WSC must allow villages to feel fully included in the democratic process and not fall to the wayside in any efforts to streamline voting practices. JP to reply to WSC with a statement to this effect. **JP**
- 7.5 FOOTPATHS**
- 7.5.1 PROW to Kings Staunch**
JP confirmed that no response had been received to the letter sent to the property owner in question. TF advised that the nettles are naturally dying back now but this needs to be chased up and it was agreed that continued contact with the property owner is appropriate to ensure maintenance is done in the spring. TF took an action to write a follow-up letter. **TF**
- 7.5.2 Footpath adjacent to road near the Post Box**
The hedge in front of the village post box bordering main street is overgrown and blocking the pavement. JP to log this with Suffolk Highways. **JP**
- 7.5.3 Church Cottage**
This has been cut back on both sides making access to the cemetery much better. Councillors expressed their thanks to the property owner for these works.
- 7.5.4 PROW sign and post down in Bell Lane in Worlington**
TF reiterated that Suffolk Highways are not prioritising this issue. SF suggested fixing it himself with posts kept in the village and this was agreed. **SF**
- 23/11/8**
- 8.1 FINANCE AND POLICIES**
Parish Council Bank balances
JP confirmed that the Current Account balance as at 27th October 2023 was £26,704.45 and the Business Instant Account balance as at 10th October 2023 was £1,380.61. JP also confirmed that a VAT rebate of £3,752.17 was received on 16th October 2023.
- 8.2 Cheques for signing/approval to authorise payment of outstanding invoices**
Monthly outgoings - £214.22 to NPower – September's electricity invoice (street lights) and Clerk's wages.

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Cheques to be signed		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
Joanna Priestley	Expenses	99.79
Community Action Suffolk	Annual Website Hosting	60.00
Basic Life Support	Defibrillator and CPR Training	60.00
Joanna Priestley	Backdated wage increase for Sept-Oct	42.24
Worlington Village Hall Charitable Trust	Reimbursement for noticeboard and anti slip material for steps at King's Staunch	87.94
R H Landscapes	October grass cutting invoice	354.00
H M Land Registry	Registration fee for Recreation Ground	30.00

8.3 Half Year Budget Review and Bank Reconciliation

CH had previously asked JP to produce a half year budget from April to September which had been circulated to the councillors. Most items of expenditure were on target. Due to increased expenditure pushing the PC over the £25,000 threshold for 2022/23 (Sunnica and the Neighbourhood Plan, the latter having been funded by a grant), audit costs were over £300 more than anticipated. However, training, election, office expenses, street lighting and clerk's mileage were all coming in under budget.

The bank reconciliation to 30th September 2023 having been previously circulated, was signed by CH.

8.4 Online Banking

JP advised that the Village Hall bank account was now active online and the next step was for all signatories on the account to register in order to approve future payments. JP confirmed that the PC account had been registered but she had not yet received a card and was unable to log in. She would call the bank next week.

ALL

JP

9 HIGHWAYS

9.1 Street Lighting

LO and AM to take their walk around the village to look at which lights are LED and apply for the Decarbonisation Initiatives Fund to update more units.

AM/LO

9.2 Community Speedwatch

This is ongoing. Five volunteers have provided the forms to the Police to be vetted. One advised CH he has not heard back from the Police since returning his form.

9.2 SID data update and ANPR update

TF advised that no SID data has been downloaded due to the bad weather this week and this will be compiled next week.

TF

TF reported that the new ANPR device had been situated by Suffolk County Council just before the bend near the War Memorial. This is possibly the worst place since this is likely the only section of the road where speed is moderated due to the sharp bend, especially once the road had been closed for works to a nearby property. TF contacted them and they kindly extended the period for the ANPR device in Worlington and moved the ANPR to the preferred post. TF will ask for the data and CH requested that the data from the first location either be disregarded or separated from the second post's data. TF will also request how many letters were sent out to speeders.

TF

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

Meeting Closed 8.15pm

Signed: *Chris Hall*

Date: 7th December 2023

Chair, Worlington Parish Council