



Minutes of the Worlingworth Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at Worlingworth Community Centre

28 in attendance, including 8 Parish Councillors and the County & District Councillor.

1. Welcome and report from Chairman of Parish Council

Brian Smallcombe, Chair of Worlingworth Parish Council welcomed all present and thanked them for coming to hear about what has been going on in the village in the last year. The full Parish Council Annual Report, including Financial Statements had been put out on the seats prior to the meeting and would be circulated with the next issue of the village newsletter. Attention was drawn to the following:

The Parish Council has decided to meet once a month, which started in January 2019, this is in response to the ever-increasing workload that the Council are expected to undertake.

Condolences were expressed to the family of John Smith, who had worked tirelessly over the years as a great servant to the village, including a stint as Parish Council chairman.

Thanks were expressed to the Clerk & Financial Officer for the extra work undertaken in the last twelve months due to the extra planning applications that have come in for consideration. Thanks also went to the Councillors, whose knowledge, good sense, experience and time commitments are remarkable, especially considering it is all done in a voluntary capacity.

Victoria Alexander is welcomed to the Council, not only as a Councillor, but stepping into the shoes of Tree Warden as John Ridgwell stands down, with thanks given to John for his work over the years too.

Finally, thank you to all who live in the village and turn out on a regular basis, supporting all sorts of events and the work of the Parish Council.

All present were invited to stay at the end of the meeting for light refreshments, with thanks given to Judith Smallcombe and Christine Smith for providing the food.

2. Report from County and District Councillor Matthew Hicks

The full Annual Report from the County & District Councillor is available on the Worlingworth website, but at a local village level in the past year attention was drawn to the following:

Lots of phone calls were received from concerned Worlingworth residents about the way the drainage was being installed at the White Cottage site. In response the County Council floods team came out immediately and reviewed the situation, asked for remedial works and ensured that this was carried out accordingly.

Again, quick responses were received from the District Council planning team, following concerns raised about work on the poultry unit at Newtown not being in accordance with planning. This was reviewed and it was confirmed that the work is proceeding correctly.

Most recently the scoping application for a large poultry unit on the boundary of Southolt/Worlingworth/Horham has resulted in a lot of parishioners making contact.

Although in moratorium at present Matthew Hicks assured residents that he would do everything he could to ensure that whoever is successful in the upcoming elections was fully aware of local feelings about the need to protect the area.

Finally, one of the biggest success stories from the last year was that Worlingworth is now 100% connected to Superfast Broadband. This had been achieved by working with Open Reach on ways to link up outlying properties around the village to meet the financial criteria.

One parishioner present queried the Suffolk County Council budget, asking how the money to support older people was actually being spent. Matthew Hicks explained that the money was spent primarily on care, either in residential settings, or in the home.

3. Reports from Worlingworth Village Organisations:

The following offered reports on their activities in the past twelve months, these reports can all be viewed on the village website www.worlingworth.onesuffolk.net under Parish Council/Annual Parish Meeting tab.

- a. Village Recorder
- b. French's Nursing Charity (no report submitted)
- c. Home-Start Family Group
- d. Nordic Walking Group
- e. Worlingworth & Tannington Women's Institute
- f. Save Our Swan Steering Group
- g. Cricket Club
- h. St Mary's Guild
- i. Worlingworth Community Centre Committee
- j. Gardening Club
- k. Worlingworth Charities
- l. Tree Warden Report
- m. Games for Guys & Gals
- n. Worlingworth Local History Group
- o. Worlingworth Primary School
- p. St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council (no report submitted)
- q. Benefice & Community Choirs (report for Community Choir given, no report for Benefice Choir, note that these are two separate organisations)
- r. Community Centre Committee (duplicate on agenda in error, see (i) above)
- s. High Suffolk Community Bus
- t. Worlingworth Social Club
- u. Any other village organisations (none)

4. AOB

A point raised under St Mary's Guild report was a request from parishioners for the provision of a skip to dispose of old paint tins. This will go forward to the next available Parish Council meeting for consideration.

Meeting closed 8.40pm