



**Minutes of the Worlingworth Annual
Parish Meeting
held on
Wednesday 12th April 2023
At the Community Centre at 7.30pm**

14 in attendance, including 4 Parish Councillors.

Apologies – Michael Howard, Kevin Love, Tom Royall, Andrew Luton (Councillors)
Victoria Gascoigne-Cecil (Head of Worlingworth Primary School)
Geoffrey Robinson (Worlingworth Local History Group)
Francis Muldoon (Tree Warden)
Janie Wood (Garden Club & Footpath Warden)
PC Simon Green (Community Engagement Officer)

1. Welcome by Chair of Worlingworth Parish Council

Jane O'vel, Chair of Worlingworth Parish Council welcomed all present and thanked them for coming to hear about what has been going on in the village over the past year.

2. Agreement of Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 25th May 2022

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by Cathy Connelly, seconded by Andrew Nunn, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

3. Matters Arising from Previous Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 25th May 2022

None

4. Report from Chairman of Parish Council

A brief summary was provided, the full report is available on the village website.

A query was raised about the staging that had been purchased with the CIL money, with a member of the public asking why the staging had cost so much and why it had been deemed necessary to be purchased. It was explained that the staging is stored within the Primary School, but it is available for any village organisation to use at any venue – just liaise with the Primary School staff for access. The new staging offers great flexibility in configuration and is collapsible and portable in a way that the old wooden block staging was not, enabling the staff at the school (and therefore any community group) to use the staging without having to rely upon the goodwill of other members of the community to manhandle and transport the old staging. The old staging is still stored in the cabin on the playing field, so it is still available for use if required.

Another member of the public asked that a formal vote of thanks was recorded in the minutes for the work done by Brian Smallcombe in his capacity as Chair of the Parish Council for a number of years, before he had to stand down due to ill health. All present voted in favour.

Signed (Chair) Signed (Clerk)

5. Report from County and District Councillor Matthew Hicks

The current monthly report from the County & District Councillor is available on the Worlingworth website, a full Annual Report will be issued shortly and published on the website when available.

A brief summary was presented with a note that money had come into Worlingworth over the past year from the County & District Locality Budgets, with support given to: the Cricket Club, the Community Centre, the Primary School and the road safety works in the village.

A query was raised about why Suffolk County Council was objecting so strongly to the proposed pylon line installation, with a member of the public commenting that when pylons were originally proposed in the 1950's there was massive objection, but soon after they were installed everyone accepted them. The member of the public was concerned that a lot of money would be wasted on fighting the current proposal and if the Council were successful in getting their preferred option of an offshore ring main then even more money would be wasted, which could be potentially spent on other more important areas. MHi explained that the main reason for objection was the lack of proper consultation that had taken place. Suffolk is contributing 30% of the UK's national infrastructure for energy, but the County Council do not believe the county is being properly compensated for the huge infrastructure that is being imposed on the open rural countryside. The County Council is calling for a more joined up approach to the schemes, with a full 20-year plan in place, rather than each application being considered in isolation. The way the scheme is currently being planned does not take into account the cumulative effect of the works on local communities.

6. Report from PC Simon Green, Community Engagement Officer for Suffolk Constabulary

No report received at the time of the meeting, but hopefully PC Simon Green will be able to attend a meeting of the Council later in the year when he returns to duty.

Reports from Worlingworth Village Organisations:

The following offered reports on their activities in the past twelve months, those that offered short reports are included below, longer reports can all be viewed on the village website www.worlingworth.onesuffolk.net under Parish Council/Annual Parish Meeting tab.

- a. Games for Guys 'n' Girls – Cathy Connelly gave a short verbal report about this small group who got together a few years ago, originally based around playing darts. The club has now expanded to many other games, of particular interest at the moment is rummikub. There are about a dozen regular members and lifts can be arranged to help people attend if necessary. Generally the group plays in the 'snug' part of the Community Centre and costs are kept as low as possible (currently about £1.40 per meeting) to cover just heating and refreshments. New members are always welcomed and if anyone wants to come along please get in touch.
- b. Worlingworth Local History Group – report on website, presented by Councillor Stephen Fugler
- c. Tree Warden – report on website – presented by Sarah Clare, Parish Clerk
- d. Worlingworth & Tannington Women's Institute – report on website, presented by Val Swallow, Secretary of the WI
- e. Benefice Choir – report on website – presented by Bert Stanford, Churchwardn
- f. High Suffolk Community Bus – report on website - presented by Val Swallow
- g. Worlingworth Community Centre Committee – report on website, presented by Councillor Andrew Nunn.
- h. French's Nursing Charity – report on website – presented by Bert Stanford.
- i. St Mary's Parochial Church Council – report on website – presented by Bert Stanford. Councillor Andrew Nunn raised a question about space in the graveyard, with a large number of new homes planned for the village in coming years. Churchwarden Bert Stanford explained that at the start of the pandemic churchyard space was reviewed and currently there are about 200 spaces available. It is worth noting that there have been around 6,000 burials in churchyard over the years, but if there is no gravestone or record of a burial then a space is reused after 100 years. The new housing may see an

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increase in demand, but a burial in the churchyard was not a cheap option, which may mean less villagers choose the church in the future. Although villagers may have a 'right' to be buried there the church charges a fee for a funeral and burial or interment of ashes. In summary there is no problem at the moment, but if space ever did become a problem then it would fall to the Parish Council to look at a cemetery site.

- j. Cricket Club – report on website – presented by Chris Watson.
- k. Gardening Club – report on website – presented by Councillor Jane O'vel.
- l. Indoor Bowls – No report as the club has stopped.
- m. Keep Fit Club – report on website – this was not available at the meeting, so Val Swallow gave a brief verbal summary, noting that the group meet once a week in the Community Centre, with members paying £2 each. At the end of the year any money left over after costs have been taken out is donated to Children in Need.
- n. Worlingworth Primary School – report on website – summary given by Councillor Carol Garrett
- o. St Mary's Guild – report on website – presented by Veronica Plowman. – report to be emailed.
- p. Worlingworth Social Club – report on website – presented by Val Ariss.
- q. Village Recorder – no report received. There has been a change of Village Recorder and the previous recorder is understood to have sent updates regularly to the Suffolk Archives. The new recorder will report at next year's Annual Parish Meeting, only recently having taken up the role.
- r. Worlingworth Charities – report on website – presented by Chris Watson. A question was raised about how much is donated to villagers each year, this was confirmed that annually the donations are around £3K to £4K, which has included applicants for books and materials needed to enable villagers to enrol as students in higher education.
- s. Any other village organisations – Footpath Warden – report on website – presented by Sarah Clare, Parish Clerk.

4. Open Forum for Questions & Discussion

It was noted in the Chair's report that a pack had been prepared by the volunteers who have organised the Christmas Tractor Run for the past two years. New volunteers are needed if this is to continue, but the volunteers who have acted as "Santa & Mrs Claus" are ready to help again in these roles if needed.

The new "Welcome to Worlingworth" signs were praised, but a query was raised about where the old signs celebrating the "Most Active Small Village in 2013" had now gone to. A request was made that if the signs can be recovered then they should be displayed somewhere as it is part of the village's heritage/history. The Parish Council will look into this matter.

A query was raised about the Worlingworth village sign on New Road, which has gone missing. Councillor Andrew Nunn said that this has been reported and a replacement is being arranged. There is a change of contractors at Suffolk Highways, so it may take a little while.

A member of the public who works at Suffolk Highways offered to help the Parish Council where possible with information and advice.

A further member of the public asked about what had happened regarding the signposting at the T-Junction of New Road, as when people arrive in the village it is not clear which direction is Church Street and which is Church Road. The Clerk advised that this matter had been determined by the District Council and that no road signs could be installed at the junction as the road does not change its name at that point. The Clerk will look out the information and provide it to the member of the public who raised the query.

(Post Meeting Note: The above was first raised in August 2019, in November 2019 the following response was recorded: *"road name signs are the responsibility of the District Council, not Suffolk Highways. The placing of road signs is decided by the District Council and needs to accurately represent the locations, Church Street does not change to Church Road until outside Ivy Close, so the District Council believe it would lead to greater confusion if at the New Road junction the signs indicated Church Street to the left and Church Road to the right as requested*

Signed (Chair) Signed (Clerk)

by the parishioner at the August meeting. After a short discussion it was agreed to look into getting a directional sign positioned at the New Road junction, indicating directions to the church, community centre and school. MHi offered to organise the sign through his Highways budget, the Clerk will write to confirm the request.” This request was acknowledged and pledged to be actioned by the District Councillor at the January 2020 meeting.)

A query was raised about a display board for the Worlingworth footpaths, the member of public concerned believed that when the scheme was set up there had been plans for a board to be installed at the Community Centre. The Parish Council will consider this at a future meeting

A query had been sent in by a member of the public who had sent their apologies asking for an update on the allotment situation in Worlingworth. The Clerk advised that at present the project had come to a halt as no suitable site had been identified within the parish.

Meeting closed 9.05 pm

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