

WORLINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

All Councillors are reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct Regulations.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2014 at the Community Centre.

Attendance Karen Osborn (KO) (chair) Jenny Holmes (JH) Brian Smallcombe (BS)
With Councillor Matthew Hicks (item WPC 14-05-8 only)

Parishioners present at the meeting: M Lewis C Bales

In the absence of Carol Garrett, KO took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Contributions

There were no contributions from the public in attendance.

Police Report

There has been no crime since the last report.

WPC14-05-1 Apologies

There were apologies from Carol Garrett, who was away on business, and Janette (Scarborough) Robinson, who was on honeymoon. These were accepted by the Council.

WPC 14-05-2 Request for leave of absence

The Council considered a request for leave of absence from Nick Westwood, who will be working away from the village much of the time for the next few months. Acceptance of the request was proposed, seconded and **IT WAS RESOLVED**. The Council hope to see NW return by the end of the year.

WPC 14-05-3 Declaration of Interests

There were no new Declarations of Interest.

WPC 14-05-4 Minutes of previous meeting

The acceptance of the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the Annual General Meeting of 21st May 2014 and the Extraordinary Meeting of 13th June 2014 was proposed and seconded and **WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

WPC 14-05-5 Matters Arising and Action Points

5.1 Active Village signage. The Clerk explained she had been in touch with Suffolk CC about this, and there has apparently been a delay at their end which should now be over. She said they had offered an alternative, a plaque, but after consideration, the Council decided it would prefer the original proposed signage, and would wait for that. The Clerk will notify SCC to that effect. ONGOING.

5.2 Emergency Plan item for newsletter. ONGOING

5.3 Fridge Magnets. The estimate has been received, but will depend on how much information is required on the magnet. DISCHARGED.

5.4 Table Tennis Table to be bought. There was not enough money to buy a bike rack as well, but the table is now installed and in use. DISCHARGED.

5.5 Speed Calming Measures. The Clerk apologised for not including this item on the Agenda, but it will be on the September Agenda. (See minute WPC 14-05-8 for later discussion.) ONGOING

5.6 Estimates for laying groundwork for table. DISCHARGED

5.7 Colour Photocopy of Wayfinder to be made. DISCHARGED

5.8 Original artwork for Wayfinder to be accessed. NO LONGER NECESSARY

5.9 PCC grass-cutting. DISCHARGED.

5.10 Usage of Swan PC. BS has investigated usage, which is extremely low. The Councillors took the view that it should be re-located. The only obvious alternative location is within the Community Centre itself, which does not at the moment have a broadband connection or even a phone. It was felt it would be useful to canvass opinion amongst the various groups which use the CC as to whether they would use it or not, and JH volunteered to do this. The Clerk will ascertain whether the CC Committee would be in favour of this move, and if so, how much the installation would cost. ONGOING

5.11 War memorial repairs. The Clerk reported she had gone to the churchyard just prior to the meeting, and had seen and photographed the repair. Councillors looked at the photograph and were happy with the repair. DISCHARGED

5.12 Planning Application responses. DISCHARGED

5.13 Ownership of Village Green. In the absence of CG, no one was sure of what had happened with this, so discussion was deferred to next month. ONGOING

5.14 Swan Lane Hedge. DISCHARGED

5.15 Caravan at Poplar Farm. The Clerk and JH both reported they had checked on the caravan and there was no further evidence of residential use. DISCHARGED.

5.16 SRO to be asked if it will take Trust Deeds. The Clerk reported that it would, so she will give the deeds to JS to deliver there. DISCHARGED

WPC 14-05-6 Parish Council Activities

- a) New Suffolk Code of Conduct. The new Code had been circulated in advance, and JH proposed that it be accepted for use by Worlingworth Parish Councillors. BS seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**
- b) Neighbourhood planning. The three Councillors present felt any discussion of this topic would be more valuable with more of their colleagues in attendance, and decided to defer this until the next meeting. JH made the point, to general agreement, that there had been little support for the idea at the APM and it was clear from the speaker from Mendlesham that there was a great deal of work involved. She felt the burden of this would fall on a very few people, with no guarantee of a successful outcome. KO also pointed out that there would be a General Election in the next couple of years, and the result of that might have an impact on the usefulness of Neighbourhood Plans.
- c) Vacancies on Council. From the floor, Chris Bales volunteered for co-option. His co-option was proposed by KO, seconded by JH and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.** He was warmly welcomed back to the Council.

WPC 14-05-7 Finance

- a) Financial Statement. The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement for July, which was accepted by the Council.
- b) Funding application from WLHG for framing photographs. KO pointed out that as the money came originally from the sales of the Worlingworth book produced by the WLHG and the Village Recorder, there was no requirement for them to use the funding application form. She proposed they should be refunded the money, JH seconded, and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**
- c) The Village Recorder had also suggested using some more of the Village Record fund to refurbish the Village Sign. Christine McKechnie had given a quote some years ago for about £150. The Clerk thought this might need to be requoted, but it should not be much more. However, she was unsure if this covered maintenance of the supporting post, which did need some work. The Council agreed to the Village Recorder's request, and KO suggested the Clerk should ask her to include the maintenance of the post as well.
- d) Cheques were then authorised for HMRC for PAYE, the Clerk for salary, expenses and the purchase of refreshments for the APM from the Chairman's budget, Saxon Monumental Crafts for the War Memorial Repair, and WLHG for photograph framing.

WPC 14-05-8 County and District Councillor's report

As Councillor Hicks's Thredling Division report had been previously circulated, and is online, he restricted his remarks to MSDC activities.

All MSDC council housing will in future have solar panels. The Straw Burner Hearing will take place on 19th and 20th August, and is expected to attract considerable interest. The hearing date has not yet been set for the Eye Gas Power Station.

He also informed the Council that from now on, VAS traffic signs can be bought by Councils. He was unsure of the cost, but thought they began at two thousand pounds and went up to eight. Some councils were sharing the cost with other villages, an idea which appealed to the Council. CB warned that, while sharing was an excellent idea, it was important to have in writing in advance the exact arrangements in place. This will receive further consideration at the next meeting.

BS asked if it was possible to repaint the SLOW sign in Mill Road, near the bottom of Fingal Street. MH asked the Clerk to send him an email asking for this, which he could then send on to the Highways department.

WPC 14-05-9 Planning Applications

KO said there were four applications to be considered, though two referred to the same property. The Tree Warden had been consulted on 2041/14, and his advice was that the trees should be removed. KO proposed this advice be accepted, JH seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**

1888/14 and 1923/14 both were submitted by the new owner of Old Stores Close. The Council had no objection to either of these, though there was concern about increased pressure on parking due to the outhouse being converted to a holiday let. KO proposed commenting to this effect, BS seconded, and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**

1979/14 referred to the extension of a porch in Cordy's Meadow. The Council had no objection to this. KO proposed commenting to that effect, BS seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**

The Clerk was asked to pass on these comments to the Planning department.

WPC 14-05-10 Feedback from External meetings

JH had attended the AGM of the Community Centre Committee, CG had attended the MSDC Parish Liaison Meeting and both had submitted written reports. KO had attended the North Area SALC meeting, the minutes of which had been circulated in advance with the two written reports.

KO briefly mentioned some of the key points of the SALC meeting, such as MSDC's decision to build social housing for the first time in 25 years, and the proposal to develop private rented offers. She had mentioned the upcoming vacancy for a Clerk in Worlingworth, and some other Councillors thought their Clerks might be interested. Finally, there was concern about the privacy of emails to Parish Clerks and Councillors. SALC is putting a paper together with its recommendations.

WPC 14-05-11 Items for the September Agenda

Neighbourhood Planning	Traffic Calming	Re-siting of Swan PC
Rural Living (absence of public transport etc)	Clerk vacancy	Fridge Magnet
Autumn Litter Pick		

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Parish Council, the meeting was closed at 8.54 pm. The next meeting is provisionally set for **Wednesday 17th September 2014** at 7.30 pm.

Amanda Ashton
Parish Clerk

Carol Garrett
Chair