

WORLINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2019 at the Community Centre.

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|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Attendance | Brian Smallcombe (Chair) (BS) | Carol Garrett (CG) | Michael Howard (MHo) |
| | Juliet Pierce (Vice-Chair) (JP) | Adrian Smith (AS) | Jackie Quinton (JQ) |
| | Andrew Nunn (AN) | Richard Quinton (RQ) | |

Public present at the meeting: 2

Public Contributions

None

WPC 19-10-01 Update from County & District Councillor

The County Councillor's October Report had previously been circulated to the Council and has also been posted on the village website www.worlingworth.onesuffolk.net and on the Parish Noticeboard.

Matthew Hicks (MHi) brought attention to the following points:

Mills Meadow Care Home in Framlingham has recently received an outstanding rating, which is fantastic recognition of the quality of care provided across Suffolk. The county is ranked 5th in the country overall and 2nd if you take into consideration counties with a comparable number of care homes – Suffolk has 353 across the county.

The Sizewell C consultation has entered stage 4, although unfortunately some of the recommendations from stage 3 have not been implemented satisfactorily. It is recognised that EDF need to make better use of sea and rail infrastructure rather than bring building materials in via road. In principle Suffolk County Council support the development of the nuclear power plant, but there are still lots of unknowns that need to be addressed before any building can take place.

JP raised a query about the 8½ thousand jobs being proposed at Sizewell; where will the workers live? At the moment a temporary housing site proposed, but at Hinckley Point it proved cheaper to make use of accommodation offered by locals. CG noted that any temporary site location is likely to be controversial, but MHi explained that at the present EDF want ensure any accommodation is close to the site to enable better control. BS enquired whether the Sizewell C build is certain to go ahead. MHi stated that nothing is certain at the moment and it is likely to go to planning inspector some point next year, prior to a 10-year build. The preference from EDF is that it would go ahead sooner rather than later, as they can then transfer skilled workers from the Hinckley Point project and wouldn't have to train up so many new workers.

WPC 19-10-02 Apologies for Absence

Victoria Alexander (VA) was unable to attend due to family commitments and had sent her apologies. The Council accepted.

WPC 19-10-03 Declaration of Interests

BS and JP declared interest in WPC 19-10-08 a) i) as the application relates to land opposite and beside their properties.

WPC 19-10-04 Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2019 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by JP, seconded by RQ and **WERE SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

WPC 19-10-05 Matters Arising and Action Points

- 5.1 Newsletter item – dog fouling in the village and in particular the playing field at the Community Centre. DISCHARGED
- 5.2 Take to next Community Centre Committee meeting – issue of enforcing no dog rule on playing field and whether the original artwork for the Worlingworth Wayfinder can be displayed in the Community Centre - ONGOING
- 5.3 Email MHi about white posts for Roadside Nature Reserve. DISCHARGED
- 5.4 Liaise with parishioner about tree planting near the site at Home Farm, Newtown. DISCHARGED
- 5.5 Arrange purchase of cork boards to refurbish inside of main Noticeboard outside the Community Centre. DISCHARGED
- 5.6 Write up explanatory information about how the defibrillator may be accessed and circulate for publication in the Newsletter, What's on in Worlingworth, on Facebook/NextDoor and for upload to the village website. ONGOING
- 5.7 Liaise with Nick Cooke over the production of an information board for the Worlingworth Roadside Nature Reserve. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 5.8 Prepare, circulate and submit upon council approval Worlingworth Parish Council's individual response to the Joint Local Plan. DISCHARGED
- 5.9 Contact Horham & Athelington Parish Council and Southolt Parish Meeting to agree that Worlingworth offer full support to the collective statement to be submitted to the Joint Local Plan consultation. DISCHARGED
- 5.10 Prepare, circulate and submit upon council approval Worlingworth Parish Council's response to the Environment Agency Consultation on the Eye Poultry Processing Plant. DISCHARGED
- 5.11 Newsletter item – ask for people to come forward with information if they organise collections of particular items for recycling, so that a central register of recycling facilities in Worlingworth could be produced. DISCHARGED
- 5.12 Newsletter item – article about newly proposed WorlyGiG group and small display of ideas at Walking Day. DISCHARGED
- 5.13 Speak to Primary School about possible involvement with new WorlyGiG group. ONGOING
- 5.14 Clerk to source dates/times for website accessibility training and arrange bookings. ONGOING Clerk to see if a style guide is available instead.
- 5.15 Village Road Signs – follow up with Suffolk Highways ONGOING
- 5.16 Investigate how to apply for a Tree Preservation Order and apply for trees deemed suitable for such protection within the Parish. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 5.17 Monitor overgrown hedge outside The Swan and report to Clerk on status at end of September. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 5.18 Contact Eye Town Council to find out how they operate within the constraints of the Self-Help Scheme. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 5.19 Newsletter item – Walking Day, Facebook/NextDoor – Walking Day/Autumn Tidy, Website – Walking Day/Autumn Tidy. DISCHARGED
- 5.20 To distribute payments as detailed on September 2019 Payment Schedule. DISCHARGED
- 5.21 Provide responses to the Planning Department for applications considered at the September meeting. DISCHARGED

WPC 19-10-06 Parish Council Activities

- a) Autumn Tidy & Walking Day Reports – JP had circulated a report on the Walking Day and reported that the footpath network is generally in good order, the report may go into the next newsletter depending on space, if not it should go in a future edition. BS reported on the Autumn Tidy, although fewer people had attended than in the past, it didn't matter as much less rubbish needed to be collected, so hopefully the message is getting through. Thanks were offered to the catering team for a delicious lunch. Reports have been written for Newsletter and What's on in Worlingworth. CG asked for copies of both reports for the website.
- b) Tree Warden Report on Tree Preservation Orders & Proposed Planting – VA had circulated a report prior to the meeting outlining how Tree Preservation Orders are put in place. The task now is to identify those trees within the parish that require such protections. JP felt that the trees along the main roads should be prioritised as historic landscape, and asked what sort of criteria would need met to qualify. AN believed that the girth of the trunk is a significant measure and that as many TPO's as possible should be requested, as only some will be granted and working on a percentage basis a wide spread will eventually protect as many trees as possible. JP proposed conducting a walk around the village with VA and the new Tree Warden (Grace Biggins) to decide on trees that need to be mapped for TPO's, once these have been identified a courtesy letter will be sent to the owners of any properties affected.

A planting plan for trees on land around Stanway Green had also been circulated, along with proposed costs. Although expensive, due to deer on the site it was felt worth paying for the extra protection. After discussion JP proposed supporting the plan, AN seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will advise VA accordingly that the plan has been accepted, but Councillors would like to see a second comparative quote to be brought to the November meeting for consideration.

Crown Chicken site – VA had asked for a contribution from Parish Council for wildflower seed mix. JP proposed £50, BS seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

- c) Community Speedwatch Update – The Clerk reported that following the approach in early July to surrounding villages there had been little support forthcoming. Ashfield-cum-Thorpe expressed interest, but wanted further detail before committing, Monk Soham & Bedfield recognised the problem, but felt that there were insufficient resources in the village to contribute. Wilby and Horham have had meetings, but the item had not appeared on their agendas and have yet to respond.

Considering the lack of interest and support AS felt that at present setting up a Community Speedwatch was not a viable option, due to the costs involved and the difficulty of finding volunteers.

Since July 2019 two more tables of data had been collated from the VAS, there is now two full years of data and unfortunately there appeared to be no reduction in the numbers of vehicles speeding through the village. The one point that was difficult to quantify though was whether the VAS alerting drivers to their speed does then lead to the drivers reducing speed, but this is after the data has been recorded.

All agreed that if some sort of penalty could be attached to drivers who are caught by the VAS this would prove a bigger deterrent, in some villages this is done by Community Speedwatch, but in the absence of such a scheme the only way would be to approach the police to carry out speed monitoring in the village.

- d) Update on Proposed Poultry Units – AS and MHo had attended a further meeting of parishes on Wednesday 9th October, the notes of the meeting had been circulated.

AS explained that senior members of the committee have met with Mid Suffolk District Council to stress the need for an integrated strategy for livestock production, as with so many farms overlapping there is a cumulative effect on pollution that is currently not seen as each site is being assessed individually. There is a need for better expertise on this area at planning officer level. Highways also need to be able to assess the impact of traffic volumes more effectively in relation to these industrialised livestock rearing applications.

The Committee are trying to raise awareness of the issue through investigative journalism and have a press contact who has already written pieces for local newspapers.

- e) Defibrillator & First Aid Training Preparations & Contribution (see below) – CG asked for help with running the training booked for Tuesday 22nd October 7.30pm in the Community Centre. The Clerk, JP, BS and RQ all confirmed that they would be attending.

- f) Community Self-Help Update – AN stated that at present there was nothing further to report and it was therefore agreed not to proceed with the Community Self-Help due to budget and administrative constraints.
- g) Recycling in Worlingworth – Clothing Bank – JP had run an article in the village newsletter about recycling in the village as part of a holistic approach to the matter and had been contacted by a parishioner who suggested contacting either Suffolk Accident Rescue Service or the Salvation Army who both work with clothing collection banks. JP made contact and raised the idea with the Community Centre Committee who unfortunately have refused on the basis that clothing banks in the past have been misused.

JP agreed to contact SARS and see if they have had similar problems and whether they can offer any solutions to try and persuade Community Centre to reconsider.

JQ said that the Primary School regularly arranges “Bag To School” clothing collections throughout the year, this raises funds for the school and could be advertised more widely within the village.

The Primary School children have written to Eats Catering about the use of single use plastic items and as a result Eats Catering have implemented a zero-plastic rule on all the food and drink that they serve. This was praised as a useful way to help with the “Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle” message and the Clerk will write to the Primary School to thank them for their work in this area.

- h) Worlingworth Roadside Nature Reserve – The Clerk has been in contact with MHi to enquire about the white posts that need to be sited to protect the verge. CG has been liaising with Nick Cooke to arrange an information board. Six months after chasing MSDC a timeframe has now been agreed for putting in two white posts and an official notice, the work should be carried out at end of November, following a traffic management survey of the site. MSDC have agreed that the Worlingworth RNR is a priority due to the lack of current signage. The grass will be cut on the verge in November as well. CG is still working with Nick Cooke over information boards.
- i) Road Safety Meeting – The Clerk has received an email from the Community Liaison Engineer of Suffolk Highways, to arrange a meeting to review the road in Worlingworth. A list of possible dates was discussed and the Clerk will book the morning of Friday 1st November with the Engineer and advise Councillors of the time. AN will put together a map with ideas and suggestions of where work would be needed.
- j) Project 2025 Partner Funded PCSO Proposal – Suffolk Constabulary and the Police & Crime Commissioner are looking to increase the number of partner-funded PCSO’s within the county, with the deadline for applying being 15th November. After consideration the Parish Council felt that the short-time frame meant it was impossible to negotiate with other villages in the area about whether the cost of a PCSO could be shared. As it stands the project is too expensive for a small village like Worlingworth and the low level of crime does not warrant any further discussion.
- k) Issues surrounding The Swan – AN reported that the hedge has not been cut back. The Clerk will ask Suffolk Highways carry out the work as it is now encroaching on the road and is a safety issue.

Following a variety of rumours about possible futures for The Swan building the Parish Council confirm that no application of any kind has been submitted, nor are there any applications in a pre-planning consultation phase. Until any information has been officially received the Parish Council has no position on the matter.

WPC 19-10-07 Finance

- a) To review the Financial Statement for the month - The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement for October. There were no queries.
- b) Budget 2020/2021 Forward Planning – The budget and precept will be set at the December meeting, but all Councillors were invited to put forward ideas that need to be considered. It was agreed that the budget needs to include:

Funds to go to the contingency fund and asset replacement fund
 WorlyGiG funding
 Road Safety Budget

The Clerk will produce a draft budget for further consideration at the November meeting

The Clerk reported that the Council laptop had failed and asked for approval to release funds from the contingency fund to purchase a new laptop, RQ proposed a budget of up to £400, AN seconded all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

c) To consider applications for funding as received

i) *Contribution towards First Responder Group for providing First Aid Training*

CG asked the Council to consider a donation to the group.

JP proposed £50, AN seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

d) To agree payments as detailed on the Payment Schedule

RQ proposed authorisation, RQ seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will issue cheques accordingly.

WPC 19-10-08 Planning

a) To consider planning applications that had been submitted since the last meeting:

- i) DC/19/03434 – Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for associated Operational Development, Town & Country Planning (General Permitted development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3 Class Q – conversion of agricultural building to a dwelling. Agricultural Building, Land West of New Road, Worlingworth, IP13 7HY

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to submit **NO COMMENT** for the application.

AS proposed, MHo seconded, 2 abstained 6 voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

- ii) DC/19/04272 – Planning Application – Erection of 4 no. Poultry Houses, Store and Offices (following demolition of 6 no. existing poultry houses). Homefield Farm, Southolt Road, Athelington, Eye.

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. Although this application is not within the Worlingworth Parish, as it is on a site bordering the parish Worlingworth was included as a consultee. After discussion it was decided to submit **AN OBJECTION** to the proposal, based on the following points:

- 1) The roads around the proposed site are very narrow and not suitable for heavy vehicles to use in the numbers and frequency that would be required by such a unit.
- 2) The proposed 5 am start for working times would have a severe impact on the well-being of local residents, as we already have a poultry unit working within our parish it is noted that the agreed working times are often exceeded, starting earlier and finishing later than supposed to, so there is no reason to believe that this would not occur at another similar, but much larger, site.
- 3) The odour and noise generated by such an industrialised unit would again severely impact the well-being of local residents. Using the existing poultry unit in our parish as an example, there is often unpleasant odours emanating from the site, which is smaller than that proposed in the application, cleaning is also a very noisy process and during hot spells fans run 24 hours a day, which causes constant noise pollution.
- 4) A large industrialised unit of this nature is completely out of keeping with the quiet rural setting and would undoubtedly have a negative impact on local wildlife.

AS proposed, AN seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

b) Updates and Outcomes on previous planning applications:

- i) DC/18/04542 – Erection of 2 no. detached residential dwellings, Swan Inn, Swan Road, Worlingworth – Granted
- ii) DC/19/02555 – New vehicular access and erection of a bridge to allow access to field. Land off New Road, Worlingworth – Granted.

- iii) DC/19/04253 – Household Planning Application – Erection of a single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory). Woodleigh, Mill Road, Worlingworth, IP13 7HN - Granted

WPC 19-10-09 Feedback from External Meetings & Additional Reports

- a) Police Meeting – MHo had circulated a report prior to the meeting and commented that there is now a distinct link-up with the police over the chicken shed proposal issues as regards potential traffic issues.
- b) Parish Engagement Meeting – The Clerk had attended a meeting at The Mix, where a workshop style event had taken place regarding the way in which Parish Clerks, Councils and wider communities can become engaged with Developers in the planning process. The eventual aim is to produce a set of pan-Suffolk model guidelines, which it is hoped will be adopted at the SALC AGM in November. The Clerk has booked a space at the AGM on Tuesday 26th November and will report back at the December meeting.

WPC 19-10-10 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

- a) BS had been approached by parishioners about electricity cables running through trees. The monitoring of such cables is not a Parish Council responsibility. UK Power Networks carry out regular surveys across the region and carry out extensive tree management works where issues are identified. Members of the public are welcome to report a tree online at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/safety and the surveyor can then take a look when next in the area. The Clerk will put this information in the next Newsletter report.
- b) The Clerk reminded all present about Jubilee Cup nominations, a reminder would also be put in the next Newsletter report and posted to Facebook and NextDoor.

WPC 19-10-11 Items for the November Agenda

- Jubilee Cup
- Energy Meeting Report
- Budget planning
- Chicken Shed Update

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Parish Council, the meeting was closed at 9.32pm. The next meeting is set for **Wednesday 20th November 2019** at 7.30 pm at the Community Centre.

Sarah Clare
Parish Clerk

Brian Smallcombe
Chair