

WORLINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2019 at the Community Centre.

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

Public present at the meeting: 6

Public Contributions

A parishioner raised a query about how the 'no dogs' rule on the playing field at the Community Centre was enforced, as there have been recent problems with dogs fouling the area. BS believed that this was an issue for the Worlingworth Community Centre Committee to address, but it is understood that the 'no dogs' sign has the Parish Council name on it, most likely because historically the Parish Council were Custodian Trustees of the site. BS thanked the parishioner for raising issue and will take this forward to the next Community Centre Committee. In the meantime a note about dog fouling (in particular on the playing field), will be included in the next newsletter.

There was a request for a display board in the village to help people identify the footpath network in the parish. BS has a copy of the original artwork for the Worlingworth Wayfinder that is framed and he is hoping to be able to have this put up in the Community Centre, but this will need to be discussed with the Community Centre Committee. Later in the current meeting there is an agenda item to discuss village improvements and this suggestion of a weatherproof information board is exactly the sort of ideas that the Parish Council are looking for from residents.

WPC 19-9-01 Update from County & District Councillor

The County Councillor's September 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:

Initial indications are the Suffolk schools are doing better than the national average with regard to GCSE and A Level results.

The Suffolk Trading Standards team have done particularly good work recently, stopping a vast number of dangerous goods reaching the market.

A query was raised about when The Hold (the new home for the Suffolk Records Office) is due to be open, although there is no firm date it is hoped that this state-of-the-art storage facility will be open sometime next year.

MHi is hoping that the outcome of the consultation on the Ipswich Northern Route is announced before Christmas in order to provide certainty to people living in the area, the only possible delay may be if a General Election is called.

MHi asked that the Parish Council submit a formal request in order to action the white posts for the Roadside Nature Reserve. CG will draft an email for the Clerk, who will then submit direct to MHi.

WPC 19-09-02 Apologies for Absence

None

WPC 19-09-03 Declaration of Interests

None

WPC 19-9-04 Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd August 2019 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by JP, seconded by MHo and **WERE SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

WPC 19-09-05 Matters Arising and Action Points

- 5.1 Newsletter item – highlight online reporting tool as the method for parishioners to report faded/overgrown road signs. DISCHARGED
- 5.2 Liaise with parishioner about tree planting near the site at Home Farm, Newtown. ONGOING
- 5.3 Arrange purchase of cork boards to refurbish inside of main Noticeboard outside the Community Centre. ONGOING
- 5.4 Draft proposals to lead discussion on Future Planning for the Parish Council. To be discussed later in meeting
- 5.5 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
- 5.6 Speak to District Councillor about a locality budget grant to purchase equipment needed to operate the Community Self-Help service. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 5.7 Advise John Ridgwell of the agreement to fund replacement trees and that BS has tree guards still in stock. DISCHARGED.
- 5.8 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. Contact Recycling Team at Suffolk County Council for any relevant information. Newsletter – DISCHARGED, Recycling Team -To be discussed later in meeting.
- 5.9 Request that Save Our Suffolk Countryside Action Group send a letter requesting a County wide strategy for industrialised farming to the County Council. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 5.10 Liaise with Nick Cook over the production of an information board for the Worlingworth Roadside Nature Reserve. ONGOING
- 5.11 Newsletter item – advance noticed of the 2020 80th anniversary service at the PC Whiting memorial. DISCHARGED
- 5.12 Send letter to the owners of The Swan outlining the need to cut back the hedge. DISCHARGED.
- 5.13 Review Joint Local Plan and circulate anything of interest to the council. To be discussed later in meeting.
- 5.14 Newsletter item – ask if anyone would be willing to come forward to organise the Worlingworth Fruit & Produce Show, or a similar horticultural event. DISCHARGED
- 5.15 Source SARS financial statements on Charities Commission website. DISCHARGED
- 5.16 To distribute payments as detailed on the August 2019 Payment Schedule. DISCHARGED
- 5.17 Advise Nest Developments of the scope of the Parish Council's involvement in the planning process. DISCHARGED
- 5.18 Respond to parishioner who wants to set up an Angling & Conservation society. DISCHARGED
- 5.19 View trees that may be candidates for Tree Preservation Orders and report back to Council. To be discussed later in meeting.

WPC 19-09-06 Parish Council Activities

- a) Joint Local Plan Response – JP had circulated notes on the broad outline of how the consultation affects Worlingworth. As Worlingworth is listed as hamlet status it means that the village is not at the forefront for major development; this and the fact that Suffolk County Council has recently re-issued its statement that they now have 5.6 years of housing supply land, means that Worlingworth is unlikely to be targeted by developers in the near future. This is welcome news, as the village has had considerable development in recent years.

The majority of the Joint Local Plan is not relevant to Worlingworth, as it is such a small settlement, but the most important factor is the lack of specificity regarding the issue of intensive livestock production in the county; this accompanied by little concern about rural road infrastructure needs to be addressed.

After discussion it was the following statement was prepared for submission to the Joint Local Plan Consultation on behalf of Worlingworth Parish Council:

“Worlingworth Parish Council believes that the Joint Local Plan is lacking a key policy that would address the issue of intensive livestock production across the whole county. This is addressed further in the joint response with other parishes regarding the proliferation of chicken raising units across Suffolk.

Although we recognise the importance of encouraging investment and employment in the county, this must be regulated in such a way as to avoid the rural communities of Suffolk losing their special character. It must be remembered that Suffolk currently enjoys a good tourism industry and this must be protected. Allowing industrialised farming to take place on a large scale is also at odds with the County’s stated aims of working towards a greener future.

At present there is no policy to control the way in which these factory farm developments are located and operated and as a result the parishes where such developments are being proposed risk a blight of noise, smell, visual pollution and the volume of potentially polluting effluent, accompanied by the negative impacts of an increase in HGV movements on small rural roads that have not been constructed to the required standards to take such large vehicles.

The impact on the road network is of particular concern when considering vulnerable road-users such as pedestrians and cyclists, as verges that could be used as a safe refuge are likely to become ruined with large vehicles try to pass each other on narrow roads. It is the belief of Worlingworth Parish Council that the inevitable increase in HGV movements which will occur if factory farms go ahead, is likely to contribute to fatalities or injuries on the county’s rural roads.”

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

- b) Intensive Poultry Farming – Collective Statement from Parishes – A collective response to the draft Joint Local Plan on the question of intensive industrial livestock production had been prepared by Horham & Athelington Parish Council and Southolt Parish Meeting. This was circulated for consideration prior to the meeting. The statement is intended to highlight the strength of feeling around the subject and be supported by all parishes currently involved with the Save Our Suffolk Countryside Action Group.

JP proposed supporting the statement, AS seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

- c) Environment Agency Consultation regarding the Eye Poultry Processing Plant – Eye Town Council had circulated a draft statement that it intends to submit to the Environment Agency and urged all local parishes to consider how they may like to respond to the Environment Agency consultation.

After discussion it was the following statement was prepared for submission to the Environment Agency Consultation regarding the Eye Poultry Processing Plant on behalf of Worlingworth Parish Council:

“Worlingworth Parish Council expresses concern that similar poultry raising and processing plants cause significant noise, odour and visual pollution, accompanied by a significant rise in HGV vehicle movements. The Environment Agency is urged to ensure that operations are limited to avoid a 24/7 operation blighting the surrounding area. Careful monitoring of drainage needs to take place to avoid local water courses being contaminated with effluent from the site and the road infrastructure needs to be upgraded to ensure the safety of all road-users.”

BS proposed submission, MHo seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

- d) Recycling in Worlingworth – JP had circulated initial thoughts about having an A to Z list of recycling opportunities in and around Worlingworth. This is intended to be a much more localised version of a similar list maintained by the County Council. All present agreed that this is a very good idea and a resource that could be maintained on the village website. The Clerk reported that despite an item in the last Newsletter, nobody had yet come forward with any information about recycling. The item will run again in the next available newsletter.
- e) Future Planning for Parish Council – CG and JP put forward some initial thoughts on future planning, with the recycling scheme included. The theme of the future planning is around encouraging a greener way of living and celebrating the history and amenities that Worlingworth enjoys. CG and JP proposed creating a group called WorlyGiG (Worlingworth Gets It Greener) to work on various ways of greening up the village, from recycling, repair workshops and extending the tree planting scheme to include planters placed throughout the village; to encouraging people to come to Worlingworth to enjoy the footpath network and installing signs explaining historic points of interest. One suggestion included a weatherproof box where maps of the footpath network could be made available; this linked with the idea raised at the beginning of the meeting. BS seconded the proposal, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

JP will write an article for the Newsletter about an inaugural meeting of WorlyGiG and put a small display up on a table at the Walking Day. JQ offered to go into the Primary School and find out if they would like to be involved with the new group.

- f) Website Accessibility Regulations – SALC had recently forwarded information about regulations surrounding website accessibility. Community Action Suffolk have confirmed that the basic form of the website is compliant, but training is being offered to raise awareness about how to ensure that websites are accessible to all. Both the Clerk and CG were interested in attending the training, Clerk to find out dates and costs.

CG proposed booking two training places, BS seconded, all voted in favour **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

- g) Village Road Signs – Following the query raised at the placement of village road signs at the August Parish Council meeting, the Clerk reported that Suffolk Highways have been approached about the matter, but there has yet to be a response.
- h) Further Tree Planting at Stanway Green & Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) in the Parish – VA reported that she had been in touch with the tree suppliers and will be collecting the extra trees required for Stanway Green soon. MHo and VA have met and reviewed trees in the area that may be suitable for TPO's. VA will investigate how to apply for a TPO and apply for trees deemed suitable for such protection within the Parish.
- i) The Swan and surrounding area – A number of parishioners have raised concerns about the state of The Swan and its surroundings. Save Our Swan have suggested that having had no response from the new owner about plans to bring the pub back into operation, whether there could be some sort of enforcement action taken. JP has written to MHi expressing concern about the way in which the Parish Council and Save Our Swan have reached a seemingly impossible impasse on the matter due to complete lack of response from the new owner and has asked for advice on what actions can be taken. MHi has forwarded the issue to the relevant department in Suffolk County Council and a response is expected soon.

The Clerk reported that at the date of the meeting there had been no response from the new owner about the request to cut back the overgrown hedge. If the problem persists after the end of September, then the matter will be passed to Suffolk Highways and they will be asked to carry out the work and charge the new owner. AN agreed to monitor the situation and advise the Clerk if the work has been done or not.

- j) Community Self-Help Update – AN has been looking into the way in which Worlingworth can operate the Self-Help Scheme. There is a substantial amount of equipment that is required in order to carry out street works in a safe manner, this together with the amount of bureaucracy involved leads to serious concerns about the full implications of the Self-Help Scheme.

Concerns were expressed that if the amount of vehicle movements increase in the ways anticipated should the factory farms go ahead, then it could make it extremely dangerous for volunteers to participate in the activities that the Self-Help Scheme covered.

AS suggested contacting Eye Town Council, as a larger body they may be able to offer advice on how they operate within the constraints of the Self-Help Scheme. JP queried whether Worlingworth actually

needed to be part of the scheme as if the Parish does not sign up then the work falls back under the remit of Suffolk Highways.

AN agreed to look into the matter further and report again at the next meeting.

- k) Autumn Tidy & Walking Day Preparations – BS and JP reported that preparations for these two events are well in hand, with A-frame signs being arranged to alert drivers to volunteers working in the village.

Autumn Tidy Saturday 28th September – Advertise on NextDoor and on village website/Facebook

Walking Day Saturday 12th October – To go in next Newsletter and also NextDoor/website/Facebook

WPC 19-09-07 Finance

- a) To review the Financial Statement for the month - The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement for September. There were no queries.
- b) To consider applications for funding as received - None had been received.
- c) To agree payments as detailed on the Payment Schedule
CG proposed authorisation, RQ seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will issue cheques accordingly.

WPC 19-09-08 Planning

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

- i) DC/19/04253 – Householder planning application – erection of a single storey rear extension at Woodleigh, Mill Road, Worlingworth.

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to submit **SUPPORT** for the application.

AS proposed, RQ seconded, all in favour of interests and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

- b) Updates and Outcomes on previous planning applications:

- i) DC/19/02947 – Erection of 1 no. detached bungalow. Land South-West of Old Stores Close, Worlingworth – Application Withdrawn.

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

- a) It was noted that the next meeting regarding the poultry units was on the same night as the Worlingworth Parish Council meeting, the Clerk to send apologies.

WPC 19-09-10 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

- a) Energy Event – taking place at Dennington Jubilee Hall on Tuesday 3rd December. MHo offered to attend and report at December meeting.
- b) The Clerk is booked into Parish Engagement Workshop on Tuesday 15th October, a free of charge event to raise awareness of ways in which Parish Clerks and Councils should be engaging with Developers, in preparation for SALC producing model guidelines.

WPC 19-09-11 Items for the October Agenda

- Community Speedwatch Update
- Poultry Unit Update
- Autumn Tidy & Walking Day Report
- Tree Preservation Orders in Worlingworth
- Defib Training Preparation
- Self-Help Scheme Update
- Budget Planning
- Police Meeting Report
- Energy Meeting Report

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Parish Council, the meeting was closed at 9.20pm. The next meeting is set for **Wednesday 16th October 2019** at 7.30 pm at the Community Centre.

Sarah Clare
Parish Clerk

Brian Smallcombe
Chair