WORLINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2020 at the Community Centre.

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

Public present at the meeting: 7

Public Contributions

A parishioner made representations regarding the planning application for concrete crushing and transport at Poplar Farm in the village. Being one of the closest neighbours to the site, they had been resident for 25 years and have been aware for some time about the currently unauthorised activity at Poplar Farm. At present the activity consists of about one intensive day per month and a smattering of lorries, with the day in question being quite a nuisance in relation to noise, dust and traffic. The current operation processes about 5,000 tonnes of concrete in a year, resulting in about 3 or 4 heavy lorry loads per day (sometimes more on the actual crushing day). There are very grave concerns that the application proposes a massive increase on the current level of activity – going up to around 75,000 tonnes being processed. At this rate 3 or 4 lorries a day, becomes 60 lorries a day all year round and noise and dust every day. The parishioner also expressed concern at the inconsistencies within the application itself, as the transport plan only refers to moving 25,000 tonnes, although even that level would bring considerable problems. The parishioner believes that such an application would have a catastrophic effect on the village and urged the Parish Council to raise an objection.

Another parishioner echoed many of the above comments, having moved into their property, which again is near the Poplar Farm site 8½ years ago. The road in question is used daily by children walking to catch busses, horse riders and cyclists, all of whom would be in serious danger due to the proposed increase in lorry movements. Also, one of the parishioner’s family members suffers from asthma, which is significantly impacted by the dust that the concrete crushing generates, they currently have a permanent fine film of concrete dust everywhere at their property and increasing this volume will constitute a serious health hazard.

The Chair thanked the parishioners for their comments, explained the Parish Council’s role as a consultee on the application and stated that all their concerns and those already lodged by a number of other residents online, would all be considered by the Parish Council in their deliberations.

WPC 20-02-01 Update from County & District Councillor

Matthew Hicks (MHi) the County & District Councillor had sent his apologies, but his February 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.

WPC 20-02-02 Apologies for Absence

Carol Garrett (CG) was unable to attend due to family commitments and had sent her apologies. The Council accepted.

WPC 20-02-03 Declaration of Interests

BS declared interest in WPC 20-02-07 c) i) as the application for funding was from a family member.

WPC 20-02-04 Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by RQ, seconded by AS and WERE SO RESOLVED. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

Signed __________________________ (Clerk)  Signed __________________________ (Chair)
WPC 20-02-05 Matters Arising and Action Points

5.1 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. DISCHARGED. BS explained that when the signs were put up, in order to bar dogs from using the field a by-law had to be enacted, which had to be done via the Parish Council at the time. This is why the signs reference the Parish Council, despite the Community Centre Committee being responsible now for the building and grounds. The by-law is still in force, there is no plan to remove the by-law as there are currently serious considerations for a local football club to come and use the sports field. The Community Centre Committee are very pleased to display the original artwork for the Worlingworth Wayfinder and this will be actioned as soon as practicable

5.2 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. DISCHARGED

5.3 Make contact with Land Registry to find out ownership of Old Stores verge. ONGOING. The application had been returned and the fee reimbursed due to the search being rejected as the property cannot be identified on the index map from the plan that had accompanied the application. A new plan must be submitted using 1/1250 scale and red-lining the extent of the area to be identified. The Clerk can purchase such a plan via the Land Registry for a small fee, JP proposed that this be done, RQ seconded and IT WAS SO RESOLVED.

5.4 Contact Suffolk Highways about any regulations involved in planting on verges. To be discussed later in meeting.

5.5 Chase Community Liaison Engineer for updates on proposed traffic calming measures and The Swan hedge. To be discussed later in meeting.

5.6 Repost Suffolk County Council SCRAP Fly-Tipping Social Media Messages. DISCHARGED – RQ stated that he had been unable to find the messages to re-post. BS suggested that Worlingworth put something out instead via the Newsletter, Facebook and NextDoor, all agreed.

5.7 Contact Rural Coffee Caravan to see if there are any suitable Mondays that they could visit Worlingworth and liaise with the Community Centre to confirm a date. ONGOING

5.8 Request clarification over bill received requesting payment for remembrance wreaths. DISCHARGED

5.9 Newsletter item – Councillor vacancy. DISCHARGED

5.10 Ask MHi for help in progressing the Road Safety Audit. DISCHARGED

5.11 Book dates for Spring Clean/Walking Day/Autumn Tidy/Annual Parish Meetings with Booking Clerk. Confirm dates to Councillors and circulate a new calendar list for noticeboards. Register date of village Spring Clean with Great British Spring Clean 2020. DISCHARGED

5.12 Arrange for WorlyGIG leaflet to be printed ready for circulation. DISCHARGED

5.13 To distribute payments as detailed on January 2020 Payment Schedule. DISCHARGED

5.14 Provide responses to the Planning Department for applications considered at the January meeting. DISCHARGED.

5.15 Respond to Save Our Swan group explaining that the Parish Council has done all in its power at present. DISCHARGED.

5.16 Contact Suffolk PCC to request speed enforcement action. AS to draft letter, letter to be sent via Clerk. To be discussed later in the meeting.

5.17 Newsletter item – speeding in the village. DISCHARGED.

5.18 Liaise with Clerk and outgoing Tree Warden to assist with the completion of two projects that the Tree Warden had commenced. DISCHARGED – AN has made contact with the parishioners concerned and

Signed ................................ (Clerk) Signed .............................................. (Chair)
discussed the situation. The Stanway Green parishioner will be purchasing the trees direct according to
the quotation agreed by the Parish Council at the November 2019 meeting and then submit invoices for
reimbursement. AN is waiting to hear back from Crown Chicken regarding the agreed £50 worth of
wildflower seed and is currently continuing the monitoring started by VA of the sprayed-off field.

WPC 20-02-06 Parish Council Activities

a) To consider co-option to fill vacancies on Council – BS asked whether anyone present wished to be
considered for co-option to the Council.

Parishioner Larry Tournay-Godfrey (LTG) indicated that he was willing to be considered for co-option to
the council. JQ proposed that he be accepted for co-option, JP seconded and IT WAS SO RESOLVED.

The Clerk asked LTG to sign the declarations of eligibility and acceptance and will arrange for a link to be
emailed to complete the Register of Interests and look into training options for New Councillors.

b) Road Safety Audit Update (including planting on verges) (if response received) – The Clerk had circulated
an email received from the Suffolk Highways Community Engineer, who had attended a meeting with the
Parish Council on 1st November 2019, outlining some recommendations.

It was agreed that roundels and village gates could be installed, but build-outs to slow traffic would not be
possible due to the lack of street lighting in the village. AN disputed this as a reason, as Horham has
build-outs and no lighting. There was also no mention of the lining to make the illusion of a narrower that
had been discussed during the visit. AN will make contact with the Community Engineer to discuss these
matters further and report back to the Parish Council.

JP was pleased that planters can be placed on the verges, and suggested that a group of Councillors meet on Monday 2nd March to liaise over exact locations. Proposed locations could then be shared to the
village via the Newsletter and comments sought. The Clerk will meanwhile request a form for the
licensing.

All the Councillors were pleased to see that The Swan hedge is still on the radar of Suffolk Highways and
that the Community Warden will be dealing with it in the next few weeks.

It was also noted that MHi had been in contact with Suffolk Highways about adding additional signage to
the post at the New Road/Church Street junction.

c) Update on VAS letter to PCC (if response received) – AS had drafted a letter to the PCC asking for speed
enforcement within the village for the Clerk to send on behalf of the Council. The matter had been referred
to the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) who had responded that this work is now undertaken by the
Safety Camera Team (SCT). All speed enforcement sites are assessed on safety for enforcement to take
place and prosecutable percentages of speeding vehicles. The SCT currently have two active sites in
Worlingworth which are visited periodically. All 1,000 current sites across the county were reviewed last
year, so these existing sites would not be eligible for further analysis for 3 years from the date of the
Speed Data Recorder deployment.

The two sites are: Shop Street, outside Crows Nest (last reviewed March 2019) and Mill Road, opposite
Little Oaks (VAS Pole) (last reviewed October 2019). From the reviews it was apparent that the percentage
of vehicles travelling at a prosecutable speed was 10.3% and 16.1%, no new sites will be adopted by the
SCT unless the prosecutable percentage is at 20% or above.

Finally, the SNT signposted the Council to Suffolk Highways to look at road safety measures.

AN expressed disappointment with the response, feeling that the data tables containing the VAS data for
two years did not match up with the SCT assessment. The VAS has unfortunately not proven to be a
deterrent as the speeding issue is getting worse not better and a lot of work has gone into the maintenance
of the machines and tabulation of the data.

After discussion the Clerk will write again, pointing the SCT again to the two years of data that has been
obtained and ask for them to reconsider the position. The Clerk will also ask how often the enforcement
teams actually visit Worlingworth and in the meantime request that the PCSO attend to have a more
visible presence in the village and act as a deterrent.

Signed ………………………… (Clerk)  Signed ………………………… (Chair)
d) **To formulate a consultee response to the Wilby Neighbourhood Plan** – After discussion it was agreed that there was nothing to add as a consultee, although the Council appreciated the findings and the extensive work that had gone into it.

**WPC 20-02-07 Finance**

a) **To review the Financial Statement for the month** - The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement for February. There were no queries. RQ proposed acceptance AS seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**

b) **To review and adopt new NALC Financial Regulations**
After review AN proposed adoption, MHo seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**
Clerk will publish the new regulations on the village website

c) **To consider applications for funding as received**

i. **Seniors Get-Together (2019 – retrospective application)**
After discussion, JP proposed a donation of £150 based on the historical support that the Parish Council has given the event and noting that the applicant had stepped in again at short notice, initially funding the event from her own monies as she was relying on the previous support given, AS seconded, 6 voted in favour, 0 voted against, 1 abstained due to declared interest and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

It was noted going forward retrospective applications should not be considered, as support needed be agreed prior to the event. The Clerk will seek advice from SALC on whether the Council can budget for an annual event of this nature.

ii. **Village Newsletter**
To be deferred until papers received for consideration.

iii. **Citizens Advice**
After discussion, it was agreed that Citizen's Advice was a valuable resource for parishioners, BS proposed a donation of £150, RQ seconded. All voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

d) **To agree payments as detailed on the Payment Schedule**
RQ proposed authorisation, MHo seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.** The Clerk will issue cheques accordingly.

**WPC 20-02-08 Planning**

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

i) **DC/20/00456 – Householder application – erection of side extension, 31 Church Road, Worlingworth**

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to submit No Comment to the application based on the following points:

- Perfectly in keeping with design of the house.

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

ii) Any other applications submitted since agenda published.

**SCC/0075/19MS – Retrospective application: Recycling and waste transfer of inert wastes, included storage and crushing using mobile plant and installation of noise attenuation barrier at Poplar Farm, Bedfield Road, Worlingworth.**

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to submit an **OBJECTION** to the application based on the following points:

1) The work has not been carried out on site continuously for more than ten years, although the site was originally cleared of rubble at the point of change of ownership (which

Signed ............. (Clerk)  Signed .............. (Chair)
involved some form of concrete crushing) prior to 2011, there was a distinct gap between 2011 and 2016 when no work of this nature was carried out on the site.

2) The Environment Agency licence was only issued in 2016 and had the clause that appropriate planning consents should be sought before operations commenced. This was not done.

3) Had appropriate planning consents been sought in 2016 the Parish Council and many local residents would have raised considerable objections to the noise and dust pollution caused by the operations and the increase in vehicle movements on the road, these matters were not properly evaluated and considered at the time.

4) Just because that the activity is currently ongoing should not have any bearing on whether or not the site is suitable for the work.

5) The Parish Council has significant concerns about noise, dust and traffic generated by the work on the site in its current (non-approved) use and believe that the site is totally unsuited to this type of use. To increase the work on the would only raise the problems caused by noise, dust and traffic, resulting in severe loss of amenity to neighbouring properties.

6) In particular serious health concerns have been expressed about the dust pollution in the area, with asthma sufferers in the area already experiencing problems. Prevailing winds would take the dust generated from this site towards Worlingworth Primary School only exacerbating this problem.

7) The road infrastructure is not suitable for so many large vehicle movements, there are concerns about emergency service access to the site for such an industrial operation, as well as the verges on the roads being damaged by large vehicles having to pass traffic in unsuitable locations. Verge damage of this nature has already impacted on broadband services in the village in other locations. The road in question is also walked regularly by school children to catch buses and other vulnerable users, such as horse riders and cyclists.

8) The Parish Council note that there are serious ecological concerns raised by one of the near neighbours to the property, citing protected wildlife that has already suffered habitat loss due to draining of a pond on the application site. The protection of the flora and fauna in Worlingworth is of the utmost importance to the Parish Council.

9) There are already problems from the existing (non-approved) use of the site regarding pollutants and effluent reaching the watercourses in the area. Any increase in the operations on site are only likely to increase this problem.

10) There are inconsistencies within the application about the amount of concrete crushing that will take place, with the transport plan only referring to 25,000 tonnes, whilst the overall application is for three times that amount to be processed. Therefore, the transport plan is incorrect and does not demonstrate the full impact of vehicular movements relating to this application.

11) Finally, the Parish Council expresses concern about the lack of consultation letters; none have been sent to a number of near neighbours to the property and the Parish Clerk had to chase for the Parish Council to be offered consultee status. Suffolk County Council need to ensure that the statutory notifications have been made before any decision on this application is taken.

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

b) Updates and Outcomes on previous planning applications:
   i) DC/19/05889 – Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered, all other matters reserved) Erection of 2 no. dwellings at The Grove, Shop Street - Granted

WPC 20-02-09 Feedback from External Meetings & Additional Reports

a) The Clerk reported on attendance at the Town & Parish Council Liaison Meeting on 4th February. Most of the discussion covered matters that had already been circulated by the District Council, with many queries raised on specific matters that were not relevant to Worlingworth. The topics covered ranged from the Climate Change Emergency that has been declared by the District & County Council to Recycling, Planning, Communications and the Local Corporate Plan and Governance Review.

The Climate Change Emergency committee will be reporting back to the full council in March and an action plan will be formulated following this report.

Recycling rates are up across the County, but as it is a very fluid business at the moment there are constant changes about what can and cannot be successfully recycled. The District Council are aware

Signed ……………………. (Clerk)   Signed ……………………. (Chair)
of this and are working on ways to improve communications. Town & Parish Councils will be an important conduit of information in this matter.

The District Council budget position was outlined, with particular emphasis on the increased levels of social housing that is in the pipeline, with 185 new council houses and 85 shared ownership properties across the District. This is needed due to the gradual decline in social housing stock caused by the ‘Right to Buy’ initiative. Although planning is recognised as an emotive subject, Town & Parish Councils are urged to look on the positive aspects that growth in housing leads to CIL development monies coming through to improve communities.

The Local Corporate Plan 2019-2023 has recently been adopted. Many present argued that services are being increasingly left to volunteers at community level. This issue is recognised and will be looked at, the plan has been simplified in order to be measurable, as such it will be reviewed throughout the four-year period. Communication of changes will be cascaded through to Parish Councils as and when necessary.

A Community Governance Review will be taking place over the next nine months. Town & Parish Councils will receive further information and the opportunity to respond in due course, but in essence the review will look at current parish boundaries and see if they are reflecting the ‘lived’ experience.

WPC 20-02-10 Matters of urgency to be brought to the attention of the Council

a) The Community Centre Booking Clerk had requested that the Parish Council move their July meeting from Wednesday 15th July to Monday 13th July. All present agreed to the date change, the Clerk will confirm and re-publish the meeting dates for the noticeboards.

b) AN expressed concern that Open Reach vehicles are parking on the village green by the telephone exchange and churning up the grass. The Clerk will make contact and ask that this is stopped, it was also agreed to consider this area for planters, which may then also act as a deterrent to parking.

c) John Alborough attended the meeting as Governor for ESNEFT (East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust) which covers a group of hospitals including Ipswich and Colchester. ESNEFT has asked for Governors to visit local parish councils to explain the new structure and to get feedback on how local people are accessing the services. Firstly, John gave a short presentation to the Council, including some amazing statistics about the trust. There are 10,000 staff, in the last year 1.4 million patient contacts, 7,000 new babies born, 200,000 visits to A&E and all for a population in the area of 800,000. There are plans to amalgamate some of the services of the various hospitals to pool resources and create centres of excellence. The first such action will be for the orthopaedic centre to be based at Colchester, it was stressed that this was for elective surgery only and that pre- and post-operative care would still be offered locally. There are also plans to ‘re-brand’ A&E to Urgent Treatment Centres and offer a better triage service, trials have indicated that sorting people out into treatment streams as early as possible reduces waits for serious A&E cases. The sign will still include A&E though as this is what people look for when arriving at hospital in an urgent situation.

Secondly, the Parish Council offered comment based on their personal experiences of using the NHS, with some having had very good experiences, others a little less so. Particular concern was the ambulance service, which is still very patchy in such a remote area, unfortunately this is not an area that ESNEFT are involved in, but the comments will be passed on. John left his email contact with the Parish Clerk and urged all Councillors to provide as much feedback as possible on their hospital interactions and to share the opportunity to feedback with parishioners.

WPC 20-02-11 Items for the March Agenda

- Preparations for Village Spring Clean
- Update on Parish Council involvement in VE Day 75 commemorations
- Village planter locations
- Inspection rota for Parish Council structures
- Police Meeting Report

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 18th March at 7.30 pm at the Community Centre.

Sarah Clare, Parish Clerk  
Signed .................................................... (Clerk)  

Brian Smallcombe, Chair  
Signed .................................................... (Chair)