



WORLINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting for the Council
held on Wednesday 20th July 2022 at Community Centre.

Attendance	Brian Smallcombe (Chair) (BS)	Carol Garrett (CG)	Michael Howard (MHo)
	Stephen Fugler (SF)	Kevin Love (KL)	Andrew Nunn (AN)
	Jane O'Vel (JO)		
	Sarah Clare (Clerk)	Matthew Hicks (County & District Councillor) (MHi)	

Public present at the meeting: 1

WPC 22-07-01 Apologies for Absence

Tom Royall (TR) was unable to attend due to work commitments and had sent his apologies. The Council accepted.

WPC 22-07-02 Declaration of Interests

None.

WPC 22-07-03 Public Forum

None

WPC 22-07-04 Update from County & District Councillor

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

MHi brought attention to the following points:

The East Anglia Green pylon network from Norwich to Tilbury is to be opposed by Suffolk County Council, who are pushing for alternatives to be considered, including an off-shore ring main. CG queried that although she agreed with the principles of objecting to blighting the countryside with pylons, what was going to happen now that Sizewell C has been approved? Will there be mitigations to the impact of building the power station? MHi explained that through pressure EDF have agreed a fund of £200 million to protect road structures, local communities and the RSPB Minsmere site. It is unclear whether similar pressures can be applied in the case of the National Grid, but all the Councils affected by the proposed pylon network are opposed to the proposal, along with every MP in the area.

There is ongoing investment in the provision of SEND places for Suffolk, but there are currently stumbling blocks around recruitment of staff, particularly speech therapists.

There had recently been a crackdown on illegal tobacco products being sold in Lowestoft. It is suspected that this is a problem that is likely to increase due to the ongoing cost of living crisis. The important point is that it is about more than just the loss of tax revenue, the illegal tobacco products are much more dangerous to health, and so the public is urged to contact Trading Standards if they see anything suspicious.

MHi reported that Worlingworth Primary School had been in contact as the Headteacher had been concerned about the time it is taking to answer queries that AN had raised in relation to the school's maintenance of the ditches. AN stated he had been approached by concerned parishioners and trustees of the charities who own the school grounds, with queries about the drainage now and in the future, particularly with reference to the planned Flagship housing development. He was seeking assurances that works on the ditches are being carried out correctly. MHi offered to arrange a meeting for AN to meet with the Lead for Flood Risk at Suffolk County Council to discuss the matter fully, AN said he had got a meeting at the school the next day, although it wasn't with the officer MHi was suggesting. AN will liaise with MHi and submit questions in advance, so that the Flood Risk officer can make sure they have the information to hand.

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WPC 22-07-05 Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th June 2022 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by AN, seconded by SF and **WERE SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

WPC 22-07-06 Matters Arising and Action Point

- 6.1 Set up Councillor specific email system with a common WorlingworthPC domain name and liaise with Clerk over administration of the system. ONGOING
- 6.2 Liaise with WCCC about arranging an appropriate indemnity insurance regarding services to the Community Centre building. ONGOING
- 6.3 Close Parish Council Facebook account. ONGOING – CG to ask a former Councillor and former Clerk if they are aware of who set up the account and advise current Clerk. It seems the account was set up in February 2014
- 6.4 Contact Suffolk Highways, Keir, Glasdon and contractor for installation of roadside gates to get the work under way for the Road Safety improvements. DISCHARGED – the Clerk updated the Council that the works are due to be scheduled soon and it is likely that they will be late September/early October.
- 6.5 Arrange changes on bank mandate as agreed. ONGOING
- 6.6 Submit responses to Planning Department at District Council as agreed. DISCHARGED
- 6.7 Publish the adopted Model Code of Conduct on village website. DISCHARGED
- 6.8 To distribute payments as detailed on the June 2022 Payment Scheduled. DISCHARGED

WPC 22-07-07 Planning

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

- i) DC/22/03292 – Householder Application – Erection of one and a half storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey extensions) and partial cladding of existing rendered walls with weatherboarding. Wheelwrights, Church Street, IP13 7NT

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to **SUPPORT** the principle of application, but qualified the support based on the following point:

- Concern that the proposed roofing materials are out of character.

AN proposed, CG seconded, 3 voted in favour, 2 against and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

- ii) DC/22/03333 – Application under Section 73 of the Town & Country Planning Act relating to DC/20/01066 for the variation of conditions (approved plans and documents) to raise the eaves height by 1m (Resubmission of refused DC/21/03210 to address ecological concerns). L E Tuckwell Ltd, Shop Street, IP13 7HU

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



- As the original application for the extension was approved, the raising of the eaves by 1m only has the potential to improve the current structure by dissipating any noise or pollution.

AN proposed, MHO seconded, 4 in favour and 1 abstained **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**

b) To consider any planning applications that have been submitted since agenda published: None

c) Updates and Outcomes on previous planning applications:

- i) DC/22/02206 – Householder Application – Installation of 3 no. first floor windows. Grangeworth, Swan Road, IP13 7HZ - Granted

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WPC 22-07-08 Parish Council Activities & Projects

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

Parishioner Andrew Luton (AL) indicated that he was willing to be considered for co-option to the Council, explaining that he had moved into Worlingworth in April 2021, having grown up in the local area and wanted to become more involved in the local community. KL proposed that he be accepted for co-option, AN seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

The Clerk asked AL 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.

CG also requested that AL send a photo and a few bullet points to complete a profile on the village website.

- b) Tree Warden's Report – FM updated the Council:

- i) Tree Council Training – FM had attended a training day held by the Tree Council, via the Suffolk Tree Warden Network. The day had covered how technology can give insight into the health of trees. The Universities of Newcastle & Strathclyde are currently operating a scheme in Norfolk and want to extend the work into Suffolk, whereby trees are monitored with a sensor installed into their trunk. Volunteers are sought who could help with uploading data from trees. It was agreed that an article should go in the next Newsletter to see if anyone in the village had a suitable tree and/or could offer to help with the data transfer.
- ii) Zoom Meeting about Trees & Law – There had been a follow up meeting after the in-person training. The next meeting would be about tree biology and threats to trees.
- iii) Suffolk Tree Warden Co-ordinator – has now stepped down, so awaiting to find out who will be taking up the post and continuing the scheme.

- c) Report on Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, including decision on location for Platinum Jubilee Bench – CG had produced a final financial statement for the events. As the event had essentially broken even CG had returned the money that she had previously been reimbursed to the Parish Council accounts.

The Community Centre Committee have offered to put the Platinum Jubilee bench near the play area alongside the Community Bus John Smith bench. BS proposed that this offer be accepted, KL seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. AN will liaise with the Community Centre Committee, as he is currently storing the bench, KL offered to help put down a secure base for the bench.

KL expressed extra thanks to all who had helped at the Jubilee events.

- d) CIL Expenditure – Forward Plans – Following discussion AN had contacted companies for quotes to install an additional VAS machine, to avoid the need to have to keep moving the existing machine. This would also generate additional data on the speeding issue. The existing data has now resulted in the police attending the village and carrying out speed enforcement, it is understood that Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued.

KL commented that the existing staging used in the Community Centre by the Primary School was in need of replacement and wondered if this could be something that CIL money could be used for. After discussion it was agreed to consider this further at a future meeting.

The staging would need to be stored and currently there is an issue with storing other Parish Council equipment. A suggestion was put forward to obtain an ISO container. The Clerk would need to check whether something of this nature would be deemed suitable for CIL expenditure.

This item will go forward to the next agenda for further consideration.

- e) Welcome Pack Distribution – As the current volunteers are moving out of the village, there is a need to recruit someone else to carry out this duty. It was agreed to put an item in the next Newsletter asking for a volunteer.

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- f) Emergency Plan – CG and AN had spent a lot of time trying to update the plan, although the latest version was from October 2021, as due to changes in the Community Centre Committee it has been unclear who would be the contact for the plan. BS advised there is now a set chair of the Community Centre Committee. AN will make contact to see who would like to be named in the Emergency Plan. In order to move forward AN will chase the Suffolk Resilience Forum and together with KL and SF form a working party to report back at the next meeting.

AN noted that there had recently been a story in the national press about getting a defibrillator machine installed at every school in the country. AN will ask the Primary School if there would be any option to ensure that such a machine was situated so it could be used outside of school hours.

- g) Update on Riparian Duties in the village, with particular reference to the impact of the Flagship Development in the village and how it interacts with the existing ditch system – AN had met with the Primary School to discuss their maintenance plans for the ditch on their boundary. The main concern relates to the fact that since the planning permission was given for the 27 houses, there have now been three versions of the drainage system, with Anglian Water, Essex & Suffolk Water and the Flood Authority still retaining a holding objection on the reserved matters as far as overall drainage from the site is concerned.

Concerns from parishioners have been expressed about the way in which open ditches are being expected to narrow down to a 6" pipe and then into manhole that is proposed to be built into ditch that is not within Flagship's ownership. There are fears that this will lead to erosion of the ditch as water will be expected to make a turn of approximately 270° to then run across the fields. AN wanted to meet with the school to seek evidence that they have been completing their riparian duties, therefore if any flooding occurs it is evidence that it is down to Flagship drainage. Currently there is no audit trail for works carried out after the 2019-2020 year. Suffolk County Council Education Depart are coming out to have a look and see if there is any work to be done, including cutting back of trees. , may need to cut back trees.

The problem is exacerbated as some residents of Pipers Meadow have infilled their section of the ditch system, resulting in possible adverse possession of the land from the Worlingworth Charities, who own the school site. AN will continue to seek answers and liaise with MHi over the meeting with the Lead for Flood Risk at Suffolk County Council.

- h) Forward planning for Christmas Celebrations – Following the successful Jubilee events the organising group had got together to look at contributing towards Christmas celebrations. Various ideas have been put forward, for a 'Kick off Christmas' event on Friday 2nd December, but at present nothing definite had been decided. It was agreed to look at this item again at the next meeting, when plans may be better progressed.

WPC 22-07- Finance

- a) To review the Financial Statement for the month – The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement for July. CG queried that there was no CIL money expenditure in the 22/23 budget, the Clerk explained that as it had been uncertain as to when the work would be carried out it had been decided not to carry this figure forward in the annual budget, but the money was earmarked in the Reserves instead. KL proposed acceptance, CG seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Chair signed the corresponding Bank Statements to confirm the figures.
- b) To consider applications for funding – None received
- c) To agree payments as detailed on Payment Schedule – BS proposed authorisation, MHo seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will arrange payments accordingly.

WPC 22-07-10 Feedback from External Meetings

- a) MHo reported that there are currently no quarterly meetings with the police as the new inspector has moved on.

WPC 22-07-11 Matters of urgency to be brought to the attention of the Council

- a) Several footpath bridges have had their hand rails removed. This is an act of criminal damage and Suffolk County Council have been informed. New rails will be installed and the suspected location of the missing rails has been reported to Suffolk Constabulary, who are investigating the matter.

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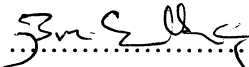

- b) A parishioner has raised concerns about overgrowth on footpaths – KL will ensure the new footpath officers are advised in order to locate the areas most affected and report the matter online.
- c) It was noted that despite strong objections the Planning Appeal for the continuation of concrete crushing operations on the land at Poplar Farm has been successful and planning permission has now been granted.
- d) MHo raised concerns about recent incidents of fly tipping in the village. It was agreed to put an item in the next Newsletter highlighting this problem, with a link to enable people to make online reports.
- e) Items for next agenda:
 - CIL Expenditure – Forward Plans
 - Emergency Plan
 - Christmas Celebrations
 - Virements
 - Footpath Walking Day
 - Autumn Tidy Litter Pick

Items for the August Agenda – please notify the Clerk of any further items for the agenda as soon as possible and by Monday 8th August at the latest, with any accompanying paperwork ready to be circulated with the agenda upon publication.

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Parish Council, the meeting was closed at 9.27 pm. The next meeting is set for **Wednesday 17th August 2022** at 7.30 pm at the Community Centre.

Brian Smallcombe, Chair

Sarah Clare, Parish Clerk

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