



***The next meeting of the Parish Council is on  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm  
in the Community Centre, all are welcome.  
worlingworthparishclerk@gmail.com***

Minutes of previous parish council meetings can be viewed on the village website at [www.worlingworth.onesuffolk.net](http://www.worlingworth.onesuffolk.net)

### **Parish Council Planning Meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

In spite of short notice and concerns about sufficient publicity for the meeting, 37 Worlingworth residents turned out to discuss a recent planning application at Rose Villa. The Chair thanked everyone for coming, as clearly expressed public opinion was the best way of defending the character of the village and encouraged everyone to express their views; explaining that the Parish Council's role was to represent these views to the District Council where the planning decision would be made. The Clerk explained that the parish council does not make the final decision on any application, but is merely a statutory consultee in the process and can choose to: object, support, make a neutral comment or make no comment.

The Chair encouraged everyone to also write in personally before the deadline to express their views to the District Council using the relevant planning reference number which was publicised at the meeting and subsequently on the NextDoor app. At the meeting the Parish Council unanimously agreed to **object** to the development, collating the arguments expressed at the meeting to support their decision. Draft minutes of the meeting may be viewed on the village website.

For the record, historically the people of Worlingworth have consistently objected to further development on our lovely village, with the views of residents recorded in the Worlingworth Parish Plan of 2006 and again in this year's Worlingworth Village Survey. In the light of these views, the Parish Council has consistently raised objections to further development, citing concerns about creeping urbanisation destroying the historical character of the village, threats to wildlife and habitat, the loss of agricultural land, strains on infrastructure such as schooling and sewage disposal, the lack of facilities such as a shop and dependence on car usage. Sadly, none of these objections have influenced the planners so far, except in the case of the site behind the pub.

Since the meeting there have been opinions expressed on social media about the way the meeting was conducted. In the interests of transparency, it should be noted that after everyone had been given ample time to voice their concerns, the meeting unfortunately descended briefly into disorder before the Council had an opportunity to continue with the formal voting process, this occurred when the crowd attending the meeting all appeared to get up to leave as one, but instead lingered in the hall talking loudly. Both the Chair and the Clerk attempted to bring the meeting back to order a number of times before one of the Councillors decided to step in to get everyone's attention. After the contentious whistle

brought everyone's attention back to the fact that there was a meeting still in progress, the Chair stated that everyone was welcome to stay if they wished, but if they wanted to continue talking to please go outside. Nobody was refused access to the meeting and anyone could have stayed to observe proceedings quietly. Unfortunately, some parishioners seemed to take offence to this statement, when none was intended.

**Please note that that Parish Council meetings are not a public meeting, but a meeting conducted in public.** An opportunity to provide a public forum is provided at the beginning of the meeting, but disruptive behaviours, such as was experienced at this meeting due to large groups talking in the hall, cannot be allowed as it prevents the proper conduct of formal business.

Finally, please remember that all your Parish Councillors give their time freely to help the village, **being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary position** and one that receives little thanks. In fact, we are looking for another volunteer as at the moment the council is running one short, so if you'd like to help look after the village please contact the Clerk for more information.