



WORLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Worlingham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 6.30pm at Worlingham Primary School

Present; Cllrs; W Summerfield (Chair), S Robbins (Vice Chair), L Kersey, J Mather, S Mather, S Holman, J Stevens,

Also, Present - Mrs L Beevor parish clerk, SCC Ward Cllr Lever, ESC Ward Cllr Topping and Plummer, 8 members of the public and 2 members of Worlingham Community Facility

Minutes

- 1 a) *To receive any apologies for absence.* Apologies were received from Cllr Anderson and noted.
 - b) *To receive any Declarations of Non registrable interest* regarding the agenda – Cllr Robbins re Community Facility. Cllr Stevens re planning application Marsh Lane.
 - c) *To receive a Declaration of Other registrable interest.*
 - d) *To receive any Declaration of Prejudicial Interest* regarding the agenda Cllr Summerfield re Community Hall.
 - e) *To receive any Requests for Dispensation on matters relating to the agenda* Nil
 - f) *To remind councillors to update the Register of Interests* online. Noted
2. *To approve the minutes of the previous meeting – agreed by all.*
3. *Meeting adjourned for public participation. During each meeting the council will adjourn for a period of 10 minutes for public questions. During this time, residents can put questions to the Chairman regarding matters on the agenda. Where possible, the Chairman will respond but the matter may have to be deferred and placed on a later month's agenda for discussion.*

a)Public – Residents of Marsh Lane came along to voice concerns about the planning application DC/23/2875/Ful – land to west of Marsh Lane.

Concerns re access, sewage provision, no disabled toilet facilities, access to site, noise, light pollution, volume of traffic, environmental impact, anti social behaviour possibilities, area susceptible to flooding, no known facilities for waste management.

A resident spoke about the state of Marsh Lane and the need for 20mph. There are a lack of passing places, there are no official passing places, and Marsh Lane is therefore totally unsuitable for caravans. Large vehicles already use the lane to get to the pumping station and additional use by caravans will cause chaos. Discussion about the definition of a 'touring caravan' – how long can it be allowed on site? Would need to be transitory – short term only. No permanent / static caravans to be allowed, no log cabins, no glamping pods etc. No long term residential areas to be allowed.

It is not clear from the application who is going to manage the site. Concern re fire hazards – so fire pits etc should not be permitted on the site.

Question was asked as to the views of Suffolk Wildlife Trust/ conservation officer etc.

It was agreed with 1 abstain that in view of the above concerns, ESC should refuse the application.

b) *SCC Ward Cllr Lever* – advised that all residents are requested to report flooding concerns to SCC via the online reporting system.

Cllr Lever advised that the 20mph policy is being reviewed – he will keep the council updated.

Cllr Lever offered to visit Marsh Lane to look at the speeding concerns and flooding concerns.

Cllr Lever advised that the SCC Bus service improvement plan now has some funding for improvements to bus networks with the aim to get rural communities access to existing bus hubs. An extra £2k has been given to each SCC ward cllr to help parishes with signs.

Cllr Robbins advised that College Lane and Sandpit Lane should be considered for reduced speed limits as many people use these to walk/ bike.

It was suggested that some speed data surveys be undertaken in Worlingham.

c) ESC Ward cllrs – Cllr Topping advised of the flooding which had occurred around Bluebell Way during the recent storms. 3 properties had suffered flooding – the house builder has met with a Worlingham resident and will try and clear some of the issues.

Tony Rudd – ESC assets manager, has been asked to ascertain where the drainage systems are in that area.

Cllr Topping advised that ESC are reviewing the comments received re the V C Cooke incinerator.

Cllr Topping spoke about the proposed Garden Village and about the potential impact of having a management company involved in managing the open spaces.

Cllr Stevens asked whether there was a SLA re queries being raised with ESC customer services, officers, cllrs.

4 Chairman's Report including.

- Update re incinerator V C Cooke – See above.
- Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood – No update
No ward Cllrs or Beccles Town Councillors attended. ESC planner Ben Woolnough was very good and did seem to sympathise with the concerns raised.
- Remembrance Service – Cllr Summerfield laid the wreath on behalf of the parish council.
- ESC Litter and Bin Policy – see note from ESC. Cllr Topping advised that a no feeding gulls policy will be adopted. Some bins in Worlingham do not have tops – and therefore are susceptible to gulls.
- Flooding – see above.

5 Planning

- a) *Applications received prior to the meeting including.* DC/23/2875/Ful – land to west of Marsh Lane – see above.
- b) *ESC Decisions received.* Nil
- c) *Any other planning matters.* Nil

6 Clerks and councillors report and updates including correspondence received.

- Litter pick dates – November will be for planting of the 500 donated bulbs. Regular litter picking is 3rd Thursday of month at 10.30am. Discussion about whose responsibility it is to clear leaves from the cycle paths.
- Cleaning of areas of highway – noted as an issue for SCC to correct – include A146 roundabout at top of Marsh Lane.
- Suggested walk about the village with SCC Cllr Lever and officer Wayne Saunders to ascertain all highways issues that need attention.
- Play equipment– cleaning of equipment – update. Community Payback looked at Woodfield Park cleaning of equipment – they will schedule for 2024 – and ask to use toilets at the church. They would also help with creating the den area. ESC offered to help with wood chippings – they need to be advised that they are needed for childrens play area. Design of den area – Forest Schools might be able to help with design of den area.
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust/ tree surgeon – report received from Suffolk Wildlife Trust – Both Vertas and ESS have been asked to quote – with grass cuttings being taken away and put in the other areas.
- Park Drive conservation area – Vertas to be asked to come up with a maintenance plan.
- SCC Community Self-help scheme – training for volunteers will consist of a 1- or 2-day course. SCC public liability will then cover the works being carried out. Wayne Saunders and Cllr Stevens will attend.
- Xmas trees and lights have been ordered.
- Biodiversity action plan – need to have one in place noted.
- Cllr Stevens will ask school about a Xmas colouring competition.
- Police – new community policing scheme from 1st December 2023.
- Beccles are apparently looking at an ANPR scheme whereby they could write advisory letters in conjunction with SCC. Can Worlingham be part of this too?

7 Finance Matters including.

- a) Authorisation of cheques for payment.
A full financial summary of the Council balances, and the cheques for payment, was provided for councillors as attached to the main copy of the minutes and cheques as detailed in the Receipts and Payments. These were read out to the Council meeting. **It was RESOLVED by all that the payments as detailed could be made.**
- b) Donation requests – Community facility items – see below.
- c) Precept – dates noted.
- d) NALC pay agreement 2023-2024 – noted the new pay award – backdated to April 2023. Applies to clerk.
- e) Budgeting for 2024 – 25 – next council meeting 16th Jan. Budget working group will meet 11th Jan to consider budget requirements.

Cllr Summerfield left at 8.20pm

CLlr Robbins took this part of the meeting and facilitated discussions about the request from the community facility for funding.

List of items being requested had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Question was raised as to the entity under which the community facility operates – it was confirmed that this was a CIO.

Discussion about the extent of the donation – it was suggested that £20,000 be donated to the facility for the priority items which they require.

Discussion about the priority items and how these are being tendered for. Discussion about the process for the community facility to procure items. Priority items have been annotated on a list provided.

Query raised about take up of space for the community facility.

After full discussion it was agreed by a majority of 5 in favour and 1 abstain that the parish council donate £20,000 to the community facility for the priority items which the community facility have requested.

8. Date of next meetings. All at 6.30pm unless otherwise required.

Tuesday 12th December 2023.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

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