



## WORLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Worlingham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6.30pm at Worlingham Primary School**

*Present; Cllrs; W Summerfield (Chair), D Anderson, L Kersey, J Mather, S Mather, S Holman, J Stevens, Also, Present - Mrs L Beevor parish clerk, ESC Ward Cllr Topping and Plummer, 3 members of the public.*

#### **Minutes**

1.
  - a) *To receive any apologies for absence.* Apologies were received from S Robbins and noted.
  - b) *To receive any Declarations of Non registrable interest* regarding the agenda – Nil
  - c) *To receive a Declaration of Other registrable interest.* Nil
  - 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* – Nil
  - b) *SCC Ward Cllr Topping* – congratulated Worlingham Primary School on their outstanding Ofsted inspection result.  
SCC have the planning application for the second biodigester – any concerns must be sent in.
  - c) ESC Ward Cllrs Topping and Plummer advised that V C Cooke are due to have their licence issued by 24<sup>th</sup> December- it has a number of conditions relating to it which they must adhere to.  
They also advised that flooding had occurred in some houses around the Bluebell Way area – which seems to have come off the land which is to be used for the garden village. Discussion about where the water from the land should drain to. ESC WARD CLLR Plummer has the relevant drainage maps – it would seem that Persimmon are going to carry out some maintenance works for the ditches/ drains. Alan Wheeler also has some plans from the museum, and he is offering to come and explain the drainage to the p c.  
The Beccles parking review is still open for comment.

4 Chairman's Report including.

- Update re incinerator V C Cooke – See above.
- Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood – The next action was to be a consultation before Xmas, but nothing has been heard about this.  
No ward Cllrs or Beccles Town Councillors attended the last meeting - ESC planner Ben Woolnough was very good and did seem to sympathise with the concerns raised.  
Cllr Topping advised that she ask for an update for the next meeting.
- Flooding – see above.
- Salc conference 2023 – Cllr Summerfield, Robbins and the clerk attended. It was felt that the venue of The Hold was a good facility – but that it was difficult to get to from the A 12.

A member of the public asked about the appliance of the N PLAN to any decisions and whether the N Plan group had been recognised for all of the work that they had carried out.  
Cllr Stevens asked how/ when the N PLAN could be updated/ added to. It would appear that this would be after 5 years.

5 Planning

a) *Applications received prior to the meeting including.*

SCC/0124/22/w – Biodigester land off Copland Way

The original response from the parish council is on the SCC website. Discussion about the additional information that had been supplied by the applicant.

The meeting was advised that the owners of the airfield do not seem to have been consulted – and are still concerned about the proposals.

It was noted that there are lightning conductors contained in the application.

It was mentioned that the stacks on the present site are now v high.

Question was asked whether SCC had been to visit the site.

After discussion it was agreed that the parish council would support the views of the airfield in recommending refusal of the application.

It was agreed by a majority that no conditions would be suggested – as the application should be refused in full.

It was suggested that proximity to the roundabout and the issues with access onto and off the site should be mentioned.

Environmental concerns from present site to be mentioned – it is understood that many people have reported issues at present site to EPO.

Drainage issues at present site causes issues for neighbouring parishes and for the SSSI sites. There is an impact of this on the water in the Broads and this will be the case for the new site too.

It was suggested that some of the waste will be micro plastic which is not biodegradable.

Discussion about the experience and knowledge of planning officers / committee members to consider this application - clerk to ask what expert input will be given to assist them .

It was suggested that the geographical location of the application would mean significant traffic travelling across Suffolk to get to it. Discussion about why this area had been chosen for this site which has to cater for the needs from the whole of Suffolk – why is it not in central Suffolk? There are no dual carriageways within

30 miles of this site, and this will have an impact on the local area. The location needs to be closer to the better transport infrastructure.

Members asked that SWT/ Waveney River Trust and Broads Authority be consulted.

It was suggested that the location is not suitable for the existing site – let alone another one.

**On the basis of the above it was agreed by all to Refuse the application.**

Copy of response to be sent to the MP, SCC planning chair, and ward Cllr Cloke with an invite to come along to the next meeting.

b) *ESC Decisions received.* Nil Mention was made of the PCE lights and whether these had planning permission to be on all night. Cllr Topping offered to contact them and ask that they be turned off overnight.

c) *Any other planning matters.* Cycle provision Lidl – Cllr Stevens advised that he had recently noticed that the majority of their cycle provision had been removed in recent months. It was agreed that there was no need for the parish council to be involved – as Beccles should be contacting the store directly.

6 Clerks and councillors report and updates including correspondence received.

- Litter pick dates – None for December.
- Christmas lights competition – date to be set for review of the lights. £100 donation to local charity of choice of winner.
- Community Partnership – Cllr Kersey will attend.
- Woodfield Park clean of equipment – Community Payback will do this in 2024.
- Overhanging trees – school trees are overhanging footpath – contact to be made with school.
- Trees – it was noted that a large branch was on footpath to back of school.
- Cllr Topping advised that there is an ESC Consultation taking place about play parks and the Worlingham ones are on there so this should be good public feedback on what is required in each.  
A member of the public advised that there are Tawny Owls in Woodfield park.
- 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.
- Community self-help scheme – both Cllr Stevens and Mr Saunders from the parish have both been trained. Cllr Stevens advised that the parish should make a list of the equipment it would need from the scheme – and ask whether perhaps other parishes would like to join together under the scheme. Possible jobs to do include trimming trees overhanging pavements, weeds from drains/ gullies etc. It was suggested that this could go in the next newsletter and the community asked to help too.
- Biodiversity action plan – ned to consider for 2024.
- Memorial benches – the WI advise that the bench that they have chosen is more than their donated funds. **It was agreed by all for the pc to cover the cost of any excess over and above their donation.**
- Newsletter – to go out in Feb 2024 – to include precept/ play areas / self-help scheme/ annual parish meeting/ any ESC consultations etc.
- School cycle/ scooter facilities – it was noted that more is needed. Cllr Topping advised that ESC WARD Cllrs could assist – Head to apply direct to them.

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 – Nil

c) Precept – dates noted.

d) Budgeting for 2024 – 25 – next council meeting 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. Budget working group will meet 11<sup>th</sup> Jan to consider budget requirements.

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

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

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