



WORLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Worlingham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 6.30pm at Worlingham Primary School

Present; Cllrs; W Summerfield (Chair), L Kersey, S Holman, S Robbins

Also, Present - Mrs L Beevor parish clerk, ESC Ward Cllr Topping and Plummer, SCC Cllr Lever, 1 member of the public.

Minutes

1.
 - a) *To receive any apologies for absence.* Apologies were received from Cllrs; J Mather, S Mather, D Anderson, J Stevens. All 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 and SCC Ward Cllr Lever– ESC / SCC Reports had been circulated.*

ESC Ward Cllr and ESC Leader Cllr Topping

With regards to the SCC budget deficit, staffing numbers will be reduced to help to reduce the gap.

With regards to planning matters – it is important that SCC and SCC Highways responds to the LPA.

With regards to bus services, buses are having to do a detour around the bypass due to the roadworks in Beccles. This is making journey times longer. The Town Bus is still working well.

One network advise what road works are happening and when.

V C Cooke licence has been given but there are various conditions that V C Cooke will have to comply with. ESC will monitor these.

ESC has purchased 2 cubes to measure particulates.

Flooding Bluebell Way – Persimmon have helped to clear out the ditch, but these are still getting full in storms. Cllrs Topping and Summerfield are meeting at the museum to review the drainage maps.

Government funding was not triggered for the latest storm as there were not enough residential properties affected across the district. In future – prevention of water ingressing into such properties might need to be by way of flood boards/ sandbags etc.

Biodigester consultation has finished – Cllr Topping will attend the planning cttee meeting when it comes up.

ESC Play spaces consultation is available – this includes some of the Worlingham areas even though not owned by ESC.

Marsh Lane – SCC Cllr Lever is trying to get a meeting with the highways engineer to understand the condition of the road and will assess this first before then considering the speed limit.

PCE have advised that they will turn off their lights between 11pm and 4.45am.

Discussion re parish council agenda items 7 8 and 9 and whether ESC Locality can assist. It was suggested that the conservation areas could be appropriate for funding including at Woodfiled Park and Park Drive. The works connected to the SWT conservation mgt plan for Werels Loke might also be appropriate to claim for. It was suggested that contact be made with Daniel Waring at ESC for advice re the conservation area projects.

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.
- Flooding – see above. Cllr Summerfield will find out more about drainage.
- D Day anniversary – 6th June 2024. It was suggested that the church be asked if they are doing any specific service etc – and whether the parish council could join with them.
- New rector of Beccles inauguration is at St Michaels Church on 22nd April.

5 Planning

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

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

Response has been forwarded to SCC. Contact was made with those mentioned in previous meeting – SWT had not been consulted. ESC Cllr Topping will speak at the SCC cttee, and Cllr Summerfield will also attend. Cllr Cloke to be asked to speak too.

It was suggested that once the cttee date is known – all parishes could get together to discuss who is speaking and what they will be covering. Assistance might be required professionally depending on the documents put forward by the applicant. Also ask whether an independent Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out. It was noted that people are already changing their habits on this type of waste – there is not much food waste in Suffolk.

Cllr Topping and Cllr Lever will ask Andrew Rutter at SCC about a site visit.

DC/23/4817/ful – 1 Broadland Close – fence.

Discussion re the need for retaining open plan around Broadland Close. Change of street scene would be the impact of this application. **It was agreed by all to REFUSE on these grounds.** It was suggested that if the

applicant wished to have a fence – this be placed inside the boundary – with the greenery left to create a softer scene for the street.

b) *ESC Decisions received.* Nil

c) *Any other planning matters.* Nil

6 Clerks and councillors report and updates including correspondence received.

- Litter pick dates – 18th Jan.
- Christmas lights competition – Mr and Mrs Tink won the competition and would like the £100 donation to go to Salvation Army Beccles. Thanks were extended to the car shop for donating the trophy. It was suggested that the Salvation Army be invited to be a guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting – cheque could be presented there. ESC Leader Caroline Topping could also be invited to speak.
- Community Partnership – Cllr Kersey attended and gave feedback. The style of the meetings will be altered – giving time for outcomes to be updated. There is £25k pa available for projects. There is still £14k available to use this year.
- ESC Planning forum 24th Jan – Cllr Summerfield will be attending.
- ESC play area consultation – closes 1st March 2024
- Woodfield Park clean of equipment – Community Payback will do this in 2024.

7. Play area capital projects –

Woodfield Park – new apparatus/ cleaning of equipment.

Bluebell Way – new apparatus

Play area catalogues to be sought to look at prices etc.

8. Play area – conservation/ biodiversity net gain.

Werels Loke -Suffolk Wildlife Trust – await quotes/ feedback from maintenance meetings.

Woodfield Park - creation of woodland area – community payback will help once a design has been created.

9. Highways - including;

Marsh Lane – condition of road / eligibility for 20mph – see above from Cllr Lever. It was suggested that the crossing from Worlingham – Marsh Lane ought to be considered. How can this be improved? It was suggested that Cllr Lever, and Cllr Stevens meet with the highways officer to discuss Worlingham projects and to consider the crossing over to Marsh Lane.

10. 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. Budget setting for 2024 – 2025 – Budget as presented was discussed online by line basis. It is anticipated that expenditure for 2024 2025 will be in the region of £42,960 – see attached. It was agreed by all to adopt

the budget at this figure for 2024 -2025 – noting that reserves will be required to cover any additional expenditure over precept figure.

c. Precept for 2024 – 2025 – see letter from ESC – members noted the contents of the letter which set out analysis of the tax base and the impact this might have on precept. Members noted that they would not wish to set an increase in the % precept payable by individual households. From ESC calculations a precept of £39,486.21 would mean a 0% increase would be applied. It was agreed to request a precept of £39,486.21 for 2024-2025.

d. Grants – there are several grants comes becoming available and council will apply for any which could assist the community.

Community Facility – Cllr Summerfield advised that final drawings will be available in a few weeks. Then there will be a meeting with the Employers Agent to progress.

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

Tuesday 13th February 2024

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

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