



WORLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Worlingham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 6.30pm at Worlingham Primary School

Present; Cllrs; W Summerfield (Chair) D Anderson, Cllr Holman, Cllr S Mather Cllr J Mather, S Robbins, J Stevens (arrived 7.20pm)

Also, Present - Mrs L Beevor parish clerk. ESC Ward Cllr Plummer (arrived at 6.50pm). Revd Theulings (Beccles Parish).

Minutes

1.
 - a) *To receive any apologies for absence.* Apologies were received from; Cllr J Stevens (to come along later), Cllr Kersey, and SCC Ward Cllr Lever and Cllr Topping.
 - 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. Nil
 - 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.
The minutes of the previous meeting of January 2025 were approved 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) *SCC and ESC Ward Cllr Topping* – monthly reports have been sent to all. The ESC and SCC written reports had been received and circulated.

b) Public

Cllrs spoke about the pivotal role the church had in Worlingham and how they were concerned for its future.

Rev Theulings advised that there had been unfortunate press recently especially when the door was locked – and that the notices could have been better worded. The door has been locked due to damage to the lock being bent – and it is hoped that this will be fixed shortly. The keyholders for the church have changed over recent years and this now needs to be sorted too. The church might approach the p c to become key holders. Rev Theulings advised that the real challenge was the lack of congregation at the services – Worlingham now holds a monthly service called 'wild church' in the churchyard once a month.

There are no churchwardens or PCC reps at Worlingham. A weekly service is still held on a Tuesday morning, but the congregation is very small which is a challenge for the church who themselves have limited people resources. In 2021 the Worlingham church became part of the Beccles / North Cove and Barnby parish – and most services for the group are held in North Cove, St Lukes or St Michaels. The church would like to rebuild the congregation at Worlingham as there are no plans to close the church. Weddings, funerals and baptisms are still carried out in the church. The churchyard is quite full – with only 5/6 years of plots available. Reservations cannot be taken due to the lack of space.

Revd Theulings does a weekly assembly at Worlingham School, and the children do visits to the church.

The previous plans to improve kitchen, toilet facilities are not likely to go ahead – and the church will liaise with the community facility to use their facilities if required.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust are working with the church on the churchyard as are the community payback team.

Discussion also took place about the V E Day celebrations and what part the church will be taking. Members were advised that the bell ringers will try and ring at all of the churches but that there is only one set of bell ringers, so a time cannot be provided. St Michaels will also mark V J Day.

It was suggested that church events could be promoted via a link on the council website.

4 Planning

Applications received prior to the meeting including.

a) To consider new planning applications including Nil

b) To receive ESC decisions – Nil

c) other planning matters;

- Appeal / APP/V3500/W/24/3354097 – Land at Copeland Way, Ellough – 25th February – Cllr Summerfield will attend.
- Garden Village – e mail invite had been received to drop-in session at St Lukes. Clerk to ask for a specific one in Worlingham for Worlingham residents. Clerk to contact LPA Planning authority about a meeting with the parish / town councils.

5. Chairs Report and update

Planning forum held by ESC on 30th Jan at Riverside – Cllr Summerfield and the clerk attended. Cllr Summerfield advised that;

- Developers charter had been adopted.
- Parishes are asked to comment on both positive and negative parts of planning applications.
- NPPF has been updated.
- ESC has a large target for house building from the new government = 1600 per annum, and this looks as if it may not be delivered this year.
- Local plan is to be updated.
- The town and parish profiles have been updated.

6. **Finance Matters including:**

a) Authorisation of cheques/ Bacs for payment. A full financial summary of the Council balances, and the Bacs/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) Barclays account/ signatures – Barclays have asked for a letter about trading – this will be sent.

d) Quotes to consider.

Foxglove/ Bluebell Way – quote for new seesaw - £2193 – approved by all after discussion about new or repair. ESS to be advised of the approval.

7. Play area improvements – update on;

- Woodfield Park new equipment / improvements to existing. Prestart Site meeting taking place with Kompan next week. It is hoped that the build will be completed in April/ May, but the grass then needs to grow through the safety matting before the park can be open.
- Grounds / trees / hedges - maintenance works. ESS have been advised about the tree/ hedge work required at Bluebell Way.
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust re Woodfield Park project – community work parties will need to take this project forward – volunteers to be requested in next newsletter.

8. Policies to approve. Nil

9. Clerk and Councillors

Matters from around parish now requiring attention;

SCC Highways reporting tool – overhanging trees on Lowestoft Road to be reported.

Memorial seats – Cllr Anderson advised that he had replaced the stickers within the Cedar Drive seat – Cllr Holman to review the one in All Saints Green.

Cllr Holman has reported the fly tipping on the way to Hulver and along bypass.

No Communication received from SCC as to why the glass in the bus shelter at Kempton Cross has not been replaced – clerk to chase again.

Volunteer Works carried out in village / Community Self Help update/ Litter picking; – no update on community self-help/ weeds in gutters. Litter picking continues on the third Thursday of each month at 10.30am. Next litter pick will include bus stops including Garden Lane.

Waveney Odd Jobs have quoted to clean the bus shelters – it was suggested that they meet with Cllr Summerfield to discuss the repair works.

Cllr Stevens advised that parking around the school premises had worsened again – clerk to contact school and ask them to put out another note to parents and encourage walking to school.

Newsletter – Jan 2025 - now that precept has been agreed, the newsletter is being prepared.

Worlingham Entry sign – maintenance costs – **approved last meeting.**

Grit Bin along Park Drive needs to be refilled – to be reported on the reporting tool.

10 Date of next meeting. Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 6.30pm

DRAFT