



WORLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Worlingham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 6.30pm at Worlingham Primary School

Present; Cllrs; Cllr Anderson, Cllr Holman, Cllr Kersey, Cllr S Mather, Cllr J Mather, Cllr S Mather, W Summerfield

Also, Present - Mrs L Beevor parish clerk. ESC ward Cllr Topping, and Plummer and M P Jess Asato.

Minutes

1 a) *To receive any apologies for absence.* Apologies were received from; Cllr Robbins. ESC Ward Cllr Rumble had also provided apologies as well as SCC Cllr Lever,

b) *To receive any Declarations of Non registrable interest* regarding the agenda – Nil

c) *To receive a Declaration of Other registrable interest.* Cllrs J and S Mather re the village fete.

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 July 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.*

M P Jess Asato asked the council to discuss any concerns that they had.

Cllr Summerfield explained concerns about the Garden Village, where it appears that initially only the Worlingham part will be going ahead but with the majority of the housing and community items on it – leaving much less to go on the Beccles part of the site, and without reference to the overall master plan. Jess advised that as MP she could not get involved with planning itself but will listen to the council concerns re the Garden Village. Cllr Summerfield advised that the council had been very vocal about the garden village and how the planners are considering it. Cllr Summerfield advised that Worlingham and Beccles councils are working together on this issue and that if it is going ahead then it must be developed under the master plan as one whole project, not in smaller pieces. Mention was also made about the concerns re flooding on Bluebell Way which could be further impacted by the development. Cllr Holman advised that

the pumping station in Worlingham cannot cope, and that tankers have had to assist for the past 10 years. Jess advised that she would get the contact for the Larkfleet part of the land.

Jess advised that gullies/ drains are not being dealt with effectively and she offered to help on this if it is an issue in the village and is doing the same in Kessingland.

Jess advised that she was aware of concerns regarding lack of health facilities/ doctors for the parish and surrounding villages. Concern had been expressed that public transport could not get close to the surgery. ESC Cllr Topping advised that she had given support for ESC Cil monies being allocated to enlarge the surgery. Mention was made that the original plan for the garden village had included a health centre but that there had been no money to fund or staff such facilities.

Jess apologised for not having come to the parish before tonight. Jess advised that she had carried out some work for Worlingham residents on speeding concerns and advised that she would be interested to learn of the council views about speeding, as well as issues such as the out of hours service(for which plans to finish the service in Beccles / Lowestoft have been scrapped). Jess was pleased that both the Lido and the Public Hall had received funding recently.

Jess advised that one of her priorities is children's services and Barnardo's – having achieved an amendment to a recent Bill to ensure that strangulation examples could not be shown online. The next stage for Jess is to have social media access banned for under 16-year-olds, together with a ban on phone apps which use AI to change images to nude images – as these are so harmful to all involved. Dentistry is a priority too as people find it so hard to get appointments in this area – and this is not helped as there is no Dentistry School in Norfolk nor Suffolk, and one is needed urgently. There are 6000 foreign nationals in the UK who are qualified as dentists who cannot get the UK qualification to work in dentistry. Mobile phone coverage is another issue locally and one which the mobile phone companies seem to deny is an issue in Beccles – however Jess advised that she would be putting out a consultation soon to find out what issues people are experiencing.

Jess apologised for any time delay in responding to people – Jess and her team have already cleared 4000 queries but still have 2000 outstanding – and these are mainly on policy issues which take longer than they should to respond to. MPs queries have increased significantly over the years but staffing budgets have not increased.

Jess has held 22 surgeries to date and hopes to deliver them throughout all her parishes in due course. Jess advised that anyone who had a concern could contact her direct and she can then make sure that they get into the system.

a) ESC – monthly reports had been sent to all.

Cllr Topping was asked to confirm who will be using Pontins at Pakefield. A member advised that it was understood that the police were called to some anti-social behaviour in Beccles a few weeks ago which had apparently involved some of the people at the Pontins site. Cllr Topping advised that Sizewell C Workers are due to go into the site.

Regarding Forest School on Marsh Lane – Cllr Topping had been advised by residents that there may be 2 forest schools operating at the site – ie 2 separate businesses.

Next Community Partnership meeting is on 5th Nov at 2pm at Beccles Town Hall.

b) SCC – monthly report had been circulated.

Re the sink hole on Fairmile Close – Cllr Lever is dealing with this. SCC have ordered repairs within 20 days. Residents will be advised if there needs to be a road closure.

The railings have not been finished opposite Kempton Cross – Cllr Saunders is meeting with SCC Highways tomorrow.

Cllr Topping advised that she provide £750 towards the second mobile skate day.

Cllr Topping advised that Beccles T C are looking at 20mph for Beccles. It was suggested that Worlingham P C could look at Garden Lane outside the school.

c) *Public - Nil*

4 Planning

a) *To consider new planning applications including Nil*

b) *To receive ESC decisions – Nil*

c) *Other planning matters*

Scoping Opinion - proposed development of 721 residential dwellings (Use class C3), a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) (Use Class C2), provision of land for the delivery of a 2 form of entry (2FE) primary school, 5ha employment floorspace, community hub, sports pavilion, children's play areas, a Country Park, amenity green space, a link road and Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space

No response was required from the parish council at this stage. However, members were concerned that the LPA had not mentioned the report at the meeting councillors attended with them last month. Discussion about the extent of the request for the Worlingham side of the site – seems to suggest that many of the facilities, and over half of the total number of houses will be on this site.

Forest School – see above. Await new planning application.

Consultation on the latest version of the Local Plan for the Broads - end 26 September 2025
members to respond individually if they wish to.

East Suffolk Council is seeking feedback on how communities would like to be involved in the process of preparing planning policy documents such as Local Plans, Design Codes, neighbourhood plans, and planning guidance. Residents are invited to complete a short questionnaire, available at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-policy-consultations. Members to complete.

5. Chairs Report and update including;

- o *Mobile climbing wall – holiday activity.*

24th July 2025 – 61 people came to the event which was a very wet day. Age range was 2 – 16. Thanks to the school for the use of the toilets. As it had been so wet, yet such a success, it has ben agreed to offer the facility again towards the end of the school holidays. Wed 27th August is the next date – all to

promote. Details as per 24th July.

- *Councillor vacancy* – no election has been called so this position is available for co-option. To be advertised as much as possible.
- *It working group with Beccles T C.* A jt working group has been agreed by members who felt that discussions could include BGNV, Emergency plan, HGV movements, Tractor movements. A date in September to be suggested for an initial discussion at Beccles Town Hall.
- *ESC PLANNING Forum* – 23rd July at ESC Lowestoft
- *ESC Community forum* – being held in Lowestoft in October. Cllrs Robbins, Summerfield and Kersey might like to attend.

6. Play area updates – including application for ESC Cil funding.

All Saints Green – new swings – to consider and if agreed accept quote for new swings.

Quote from Kompan is £21, 516.25 plus VAT. This quote was compared to all of the quotes received from various play companies for the swings at Woodfield Park. Councillors considered the quote alongside the previous quotes received. Members considered the quality of work, guarantees, social value, as well as project timescales and responsiveness of each supplier.

After due consideration it was **AGREED BY ALL TO ACCEPT THE Kompan quote for the new swings at this site.**

Online meeting to be set up with Kompan to progress the project – Cllrs Summerfield, J Mather, W Sauders to attend along with ESC and Kompan.

Werels Loke – to consider Kompan quote for new equipment.

A quote has been received from Kompan for a replacement piece of equipment at Werels Loke. **It was Agreed by all that other quotes to be obtained from those that also quoted for Woodfield Park, as the projects will be similar in size and delivery. Agreed by all to get further quotes for this project.**

7. Finance Matters including:

a) Authorisation of cheques 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 – No request received this month.

c) To receive update regarding Barclays Bank account.

The clerk advised that Barclays had opened a new account and will forward the online banking information to the signatories. Once the new account is fully open, Barclays will transfer the balances which they hold to the new account. **Noted**

d) To review Standing Orders as per recent NALC updates. For future meeting.

e) Insurance renewal – the renewal has just been received and will need to be considered and approved at the next meeting.

8. Village matters

Tree survey – Werels Loke. The trees at the rear of Janet Haddenham Close have been considered by the tree officer who has subsequently advised the parish council that residents can cut back any growth on their side of the boundary of their properties. With regard to the height of the trees, the advice is for the parish council to not reduce the height at this stage as that may encourage height growth further.

Hedge cutting – All Saints Green. Residents of the sheltered housing have asked for the hedge to be cut before the village fete so that they can see what is taking place. Clerk has contacted ESS Ltd to action as per the council agreement with them.

Events on Parish council land – 6th September 2025 - village fete. Risk assessments/ insurance etc have been seen. The organisers are still obtaining insurances of those stalls/ vans attending and will do all due diligence with regards to Food Hygiene ratings too. Parish council has asked for the grass to be cut before the event.

9. Community Self Help Scheme – Both John Stevens and Cllr Wayne Saunders are qualified to act in the community within this scheme. Cllr Saunders reminded councillors about the scheme and the kind of items which could be purchased within the scheme for use in the village. Example of what Laxfield P C had purchased within the scheme will be circulated to members. Other councillors offered to do the training including Cllr Summerfield and Cllr S Mather. To be discussed again at next meeting.
10. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 6.30pm. Apologies from Cllrs; J Mather, S Mather and S Holman.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS THE PARISH COUNCIL ABIDES BY THE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT 2011
THE CODE OF CONDUCT IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY CONTACT WITH THE CLERK.