



## WORLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Worlingham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 6.30pm at Worlingham Primary School

*Present; Cllrs; Cllr Anderson, Cllr Holman, Cllr Kersey, Cllr Robbins, Cllrs J and S Mather, Cllr Summerfield, Cllr Saunders (Chair)*

*Also, Present - Mrs L Beevor parish clerk. SCC Ward Cllr Lever, ESC Cllr Plummer arrived 6.45pm.*

#### Minutes

- 1 a) *To receive any apologies for absence.* Apologies were received from; ESC Ward 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 November 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) *ESC – monthly reports had been sent to all.*
  - b) *SCC – monthly report had been circulated.*

SCC Highways – advise that a pedestrian crossing is not considered appropriate for the area by Garden Lane. But it was suggested that the layby could be reshaped with drop kerbs / tactile paving etc if that is required. Cost would be in region of £5000.

Cllr Robbins asked whether a sign could be placed in the area showing 'pedestrians crossing'. SCC Cllr Lever advised that 'slow' roundels in the road may be a possibility.

Speed related issues – to do any modifications in relation to speed, a speed survey would be required.

Path alongside Primary School – SCC Cllr Lever advised that a person who lost their footing on the pathway had suffered a broken ankle. SCC Highways advise that the potholes in that area do not fit the min criteria for repair.

ESC Ward Cllr Plummer advised that there is a water treatment works consultation for the Beccles area. Project is by Essex and Suffolk Water. There are 5 routes from Corton to Barsham being proposed as an option. Consultation is to 17<sup>th</sup> December. Hard copies are available at Beccles library. Individuals to respond.

c) *Public* - Nil

#### 4 Planning

##### a) *To consider new planning applications including*

Outline application for Beccles/ Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood – has been submitted to ESC. Cllr Summerfield explained the background to members.

The plans show Football/ Rugby sports pitches – but at each meeting with the developers it has been mentioned by both Worlingham and Beccles that athletics is the main need for this area. The docs refer to the ESC Leisure Strategy officer – who is that?

No community centre is needed as there is a new one being built now off Rectory Lane.

After discussion – members requested;

Request to ESC for the parish council response to be delayed for 2 months (in view of the number of documents to be reviewed).

Ask Beccles T C for an update about the land to the west side of the site. The Plans now do not resemble the original Garden Village plan.

Ask ESC Katie Fowler to come to the meeting to explain the documents. Meeting to be at the school. In view of the amount of information, a Parish council meeting is likely to be needed to just review the planning application.

Other people to be invited include MP, Beccles T C, Ellough PC, Weston P C.

Hard copies of the parts of the plans needed, are to be requested from ESC Planners.

Members considered that as the new school is going to be close to the V C Cooke site – with the concerns about the burners - the whole scheme should be in doubt.

(Cllr SCC Lever advised that council might also want to look at the plans for the care centre going in at the Hopkins site).

*b) To receive ESC decisions*

Nil

*c) Other planning matters*

Call for Sites – will end January 2026.

PCE Automation – are having a telecoms 5G upgrade.

*Woodview Project – Marsh Lane* – Members suggested that the MP ought to be brought up to date with the concerns about the site.

Parish Council to ask for a meeting with ESC Enforcement team to understand the policy / process and a timeline.

5. Chairs Report and update including;

- SALC super forum 2<sup>nd</sup> December re devolution/ LGR. Cllr Summerfield provided a summary for members. 74 people had been on the call/ meeting.
- Response to LGR consultation - by 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026. Individuals to send in their own response.
- Bulbs from ESC – have been collected and are with Cllr Summerfield for distribution and planting.
- Woodland Trust – Free tree offer – any required? None required at present as they seem to only be offered in packs of 500. See also the SCC Ecology dept for some guards for any other trees.
- Emergency Plan for Worlingham – It was suggested that the council works with Barnby / North Cove to complete a Plan for Worlingham.

6. Play area updates

All Saints Green – new swings. These have been installed but the surrounding grass has been destroyed. The fencing is still in place and can now come down. ESS to be asked to deal with both the fencing and the grass.

Werels Loke – repairs/new equipment – update on procurement.

4 companies submitted quotes for new equipment. Having scored the submissions members were asked to decide a preferred supplier. All provided quotes within budget but the equipment being suggested was different for each company.

**On the proposal of Cllr S Mather, seconded by Cllr Anderson it was agreed that HAGS be the preferred supplier. Cost is £39126 plus Vat.**

Quotes to be obtained for maintenance for the seats / roundabout on Werels Loke and fencing at the play area at All Saints.

It was noted that All Saints Green slide might need to be removed at some stage in the future.

7. Finance and governance Matters including;

a) Authorisation of invoices for payment and approval of accounts reconciliation.

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) Budget setting 2026 – 2027 – to consider, and if agreed, approve the budget for 2026-2027 – see draft budget attached.

Expenditure within budget agreed at £64,700. This includes £20k for play area maintenance/ trees/ grounds etc.

The budget has been calculated on Income £54,541.60. With excess to be covered from reserves.  
**Agreed by all to approve this income and expenditure budget for 2026- 2027.**

c) Precept – to consider, and if agreed, approve precept for 2026 – 2027.

A 0% increase would provide a precept of £44,384. This will not cover the expenditure required for 2026 – 2027 as in the approved budget above. An increase of the precept of 15% would provide an income of £51,041.60 as required by the budget above. This will still leave a deficit to be covered by reserves.

**On the proposal of Cllr Holman, seconded by Cllr Summerfield an increase of 15% was agreed for the precept. Response to be sent to ESC.**

d) Comms – newsletter to be compiled to go to every house which can include an explanation of the budget 2026 – 2027.

8. Village matters and feedback from councillors on meetings attended

- Community Self Help – update on training, consider whether to order equipment and where to store. Cllr Saunders is in discussion with the school about storing equipment. Barnby and North Cove have storage and might be prepared to allow the council to store some bits there too on a temporary basis. Cllr Saunders will arrange the order of the equipment along with that for Barnby/ North Cove. Order to include PPE.
- Christmas Trees - all were pleased with the Xmas trees and lights.
- Fence panel – closed footpath Holly Close. It would appear that the vehicle which reversed onto the footpath is no longer in that location, so the fence can be replaced.
- Overhanging trees from the school - Cllr Saunders will review the trees and see which need maintenance. Community self help team might be required to carry out some work.

- Suffolk Wildlife Trust update – SWT has now purchased the Worlingham site.
- Storage container – to go onto the next agenda.

9. Date of next meetings. Tuesday at 6.30pm

20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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