



## WORLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Worlingham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6.30pm at Worlingham Primary School**

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

*Also, Present* - Mrs L Beevor parish clerk. One member of the public. ESC Cllr Plummer arrived 6.45pm.

#### **Minutes**

1 a) *To receive any apologies for absence.* Apologies were received from; Cllr Summerfield, ESC Ward Cllr Topping, and Rumble, and SCC Ward Cllr Lever.

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 December 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.

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 Robbins advised that there was a meeting with the planning officers to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> January at

5.30pm at Beccles Town Hall to discuss the outline application.

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.

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

Concerns were noted about water and drainage issues. There were also concerns about traffic potentially going through Worlingham to get to the site, and traffic volumes.

It was suggested that if other parishes would join in with the costs, present traffic volume data could be collected as an evidence base.

It was also mentioned that reflectors and lights are needed on the bypass – and that perhaps the developers should be asked to pay for these.

Response to be collated at the next meeting which will take place after the meeting with the planners.

**DC/25/4887/TPO|TPO/115/2021 T1 1no. Oak (marked on submitted plan) – Remove lowest limb over road, remove lowest limb above fence, remove 2 lowest limbs over garden. 9A Hornbeam Close Worlingham Beccles Suffolk NR34 7DX**

No objection

b) *To receive ESC decisions* - 38 Park Drive – approved.

c) *Other planning matters*

- ESC Call for Sites – Now waiting to see what sites have been put forward.
- PCE Automation – telecommunications mast – as per last meeting.
- Wood view Project – woods on Marsh Lane – See notes from recent discussions with planning enforcement officer.
- To Consider and if agreed approve traffic data along Marsh Lane – it was suggested that this be carried out to have an idea of the volumes along Marsh Lae. £700 cost for 2 wires across road – with one being before the archery entrance and one after. **Majority agreed to go ahead at the cost of £700, with one against.**
- Broads Authority Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – consultation to 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. Councillors to send in individual comments.
- ESC Planning forum invite – 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 at Riverside Lowestoft. Cllr Robbins and the clerk will attend.

It was mentioned that there appear to be 2 boats along the Worlingham riverbank to Beccles with people living in them – Beccles T C to be notified.

5. Chairs Report and update including;

- LGR update – await decision from Government as to the number of the Unitary councils.
- Bulbs from ESC – Cllr Robbins will find out what has happened to these.
- Emergency Plan for Worlingham. Several local parishes already have an Emergency Plan – some to be contacted for their templates. Barnby and North Cove to be contacted again, once a template is received, to decide how to take this forward and who the contact is at SCC to assist.

- Councillor vacancy – co-option has been advertised and the member of public attending the meeting was interested in joining the PC.
- Councillor e mails – personal e mails will soon be deleted from the circulation list. Help to be provided from Cloudy IT to Cllr Anderson, to get him set up.

6. Play area updates

*All Saints Green* – new swings are being used. Vertas to look at the grass in the Spring to see what needs to be done to tidy it up following the installation.

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

Cllr Robbins advised that members had met with Hags on Teams and there was a project plan to get the new equipment installed around April. It will then remain fenced off until the grass has started to grow. Likely to be opened by May half term. Formal timescales are 8 week lead in, 2 – 3 weeks to complete, 1 month for grass to grow through.

**Agreed by all to go ahead with Hags – proposed by Cllr S Holman, seconded Cllr J Mather – unanimous.**

Update will be provided in the next newsletter along with precept details.

*Woodfield Park Spinner* – has been vandalised but is being replaced free of charge by Kompan.

*Play area inspections* – ESS have now recruited 2 new play inspectors, and it is hoped that this will mean that the service is restored to the agreed levels. Clerk to seek reassurance that this will be the case and that reports will be sent in a timely manner to the council.

*Snake Seat for Cedar Drive* – Hags to be asked whether they could source this and put in at Cedar Drive whilst they are doing the equipment at Werels Loke.

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) Standing Orders – to be circulated with the next agenda.

c) Lloyds Mandate – Lloyds have asked for an update of all signatory details – form to be completed and sent back after this meeting. **Agreed by all.**

8. Village matters and feedback from councillors on meetings attended

- Overhanging trees from the school – school advise that they believe that none of the trees are in their boundary. Cllr Saunders advised that the tree branches need to be

higher than 2.4m above the path – otherwise they do need to be cut back. The trees on the public side of the school fence will be the responsibility of either SCC or the parish council.

- Holes in surface of cycle path by side of school – these do not fit the SCC criteria for filling in.
- Community Self Help – update on training, equipment store/ storage container, and work required.

Cllr Saunders advised that it is hoped that the school would store the items – but this would mean that access out of hours of the school might be difficult. Otherwise, could use the container at Ellough or get another container to put somewhere on parish council land. Storage at North Cove and Barnby is also an option.

Cllr Saunders has some PPE for councillors who are willing to help as part of the community self-help scheme. Priority jobs include the trees by the school footpath as well as clearance of the path by the church.

Linsted Farm Machinery have provided SCC with a quote for the equipment which the pc has said that it would like. This has been approved by SCC as being suitable for reimbursement. Payment will need to be made by the parish council and then SCC will reimburse. **On the proposal of Cllr J MATHER and seconded by Cllr Kersey It was Agreed by all to purchase the equipment as listed (cost approx. £7500) and refund to be claimed from SCC.** To be delivered to Cllr Saunders.

Cllr Saunders advised that training was still available for councillors and members of the public.

- Fence panel – closed footpath Holly Close. Waveney Odd Jobs/ ESS to be asked to quote for the fence panel which needs to go back in.
- Map Boards/ Bench – Waveney Odd Jobs to be asked to clean and repair the map boards as well as the bench past the church on Lowestoft Road.
- Safety Barrier the Chase/ Park Drive – to ensure that it is on the SCC reporting tool.

9. Date of next meetings. Tuesday at 6.30pm  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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