



WORLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Worlingham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th June 2026 at 6.30pm at Worlingham Primary School

Present; Cllrs; Cllr Holman, Cllr Robbins, Cllrs J and S Mather, Cllr Summerfield, Cllr W Saunders, Cllr J Saunders.

Also, Present - Mrs L Beevor parish clerk. SCC Ward Cllr Lever, and Ward Cllr Cox, and ESC Cllr Topping. 2 members of the public.

Minutes

- 1 a) *To receive any apologies for absence.* Apologies were received from; Cllr Anderson and Cllr Kersey, and ESC Ward Cllr Rumble and Plummer.

b) *To receive any Declarations of Non registrable interest* regarding the agenda – Cllr Summerfield re the discussion about trees at rear of Werels Loke play area.
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 May 2026 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.

Questions to ESC Cllr Topping

Re the Cadent works – please could the roads be swept properly once the works are completed in each area – this has not happened in Worlingham. Apparently, the same issues happened at Rigbourne Hill – Cllr Plummer took photos.

Members were advised that Cadent should pay for repairs/ road sweeper and any structural damage.

Cllr Topping advised that ESC/ SCC will need to make contact with Cadent.

SCC Cllr Cox is also chasing them about their signs being left out event when they have finished.

Re strimming around the village – members advised that many areas had not been strimmed and that these areas look awful. It was also noted that only some places have had weed killer – all areas need to be finished. Cllr Topping to take to ESS.

New Local Plan – consultation is taking place about how towns / parishes would like to be consulted.

Call for sites – ESC consultation will start around May 2027 on the sites which have been put forward. Discussion about the quota of new homes required in east Suffolk.

Cllr Topping spoke about the new bins and bin collections – Flats and community spaces have not yet had their bins.

The food waste collections are not working very well.

The food waste is not now going to the food waste station in Reydon as had been proposed – and is now being taken to Essex.

Cllr Topping advised that £4.2 m has been given to Beccles Health Centre to enable them to create additional space for new patients.

b) SCC – monthly report had been circulated.

Members were advised that training is still taking place for new Cllrs.

The 20mph in Beccles is still going ahead

The 'slow' roundels in Garden Lane should be in place by 30TH July.

Discussion about the speed by the church/ village sign along Lowestoft Road – might need to carry out a speed survey here which would then help on considering whether a crossing would be appropriate for this area.

Discussion about having 20mph anywhere in Worlingham – no requests have come forward.

SCC will be challenging LGR.

SCC Cllr Cox advised that he would contest any housing development which is proposed for Beccles/ Worlingham – including the garden neighbourhood village. ESC Cllr Topping advised that ESC needs to have a 5-year housing supply available otherwise they cannot refuse any proposals for new development. Water companies have a statutory duty to supply to new housing / residential homes. Worlingham sewage treatment works is full.

Members were advised that as the birth rate is dropping the local schools do now have spaces – although the Sir John leman remains full.

Questions to SCC Cllr Lever and Cllr Cox.

c) *Public*

2 members of the public spoke about the height of the trees at the rear of their fences on Werels Loke open space area and advised that branches were hanging over their boundary. One of the properties had replaced some of their fence panels which had been damaged. The residents advised that they would like some tree maintenance carrying out by the council.

4. Planning

a) *To consider new planning applications including*

Discharge of Condition No. 21 of DC/21/4154/FUL - Construction of 19 dwellings, new community centre with associated parking and two new access roads off Rectory Lane - Noise Management Plan

Land At Rectory Lane Worlingham Suffolk

Ref. No: DC/26/1850/DRC

There were no objections to this application – but it was suggested that neighbours should be contacted by the applicant.

Retrospective Application - Seeking to regularise an existing outbuilding and associated works in the rear garden.

44 Copplestone Close Worlingham Beccles Suffolk NR34 7SF

Ref. No: DC/26/1788/FUL

Comments;

No additional parking has been provided onsite.

It is understood that this site is being used for business use.

This is over development of the plot.

This is contrary to the covenant stating that it must be residential use only.

Query was raised as to what has happened with the other trees in this tree belt.

The parish council recommended that ESC Refuse the application due to the above.

DC/26/1585/FUL

Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extensions and conversion of the garage to a habitable space; erection of a single storey front porch.

Site address: 22 Hillside Avenue, Worlingham, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7AJ

There are insufficient parking spaces onsite. Where will the cars park instead. The application is not in line with the requirements of the N Plan.

b) *To receive ESC decisions;*

DC/26/1022/FUL | Construct Additional First Floor Bedroom over approved Garage | 9 Pine Tree Close Worlingham Beccles Suffolk NR34 7EE - APPROVED

DC/26/1318/DRC | Discharge of Condition Nos 11, 15 & 18 of DC/24/1058/FUL – Construction of three dwellings and car park - highways, surface water drainage, D&CMS & north boundary hedgerow | Land At The Junction Of Lowestoft Road And Rectory Lane Worlingham Suffolk - APPROVED

c) *Other planning matters*

East Suffolk New local plan – timetable and consultation dates. Noted.

5. Chairs Report and update including;

The Chair advised that the community hall would allow 8 parking spaces for use by those going to the church/ courtyard.

Lion link project – councillors encouraged to reply direct. Councils are also able to respond. It was stated that NSIPS are taking over the coast in this area.

Mobile climbing wall – Thursday 23rd July 2026 – 10am – 4pm. SCC CLLR Lever will attend. Cllr Lever and Cllr Cox were asked to allocate some of their locality funding to this initiative.

Follow up meeting with MP – Date to be arranged.

New Refuse collections – see above.

Emergency Plan – various templates available – these to be circulated. Clerk to ask Beccles T C what stage they are at with theirs.

Community self-help scheme – next date for works to be arranged. Signs and cones required for any works close to a highway.

SALC – super forum re LGR – Cllr Robbins attended. The meeting was advised that central gov could insist that LGR goes ahead and this will not be able to be challenged so long as the correct process has been followed. Parish councils are likely to be offered assets. Discussion about local resources available to cope with this.

6. Play area updates

Werels Loke – new equipment - Hags have completed this and the area is now open.

Werels Loke - roundabout pedals and seats – HAGS has ordered the seats. Pedals are to be organised locally by the council by purchasing from a cycle outlet. Cllrs J and W Saunders offered to take a look.

Woodfield Park – damage to car equip. ESS will look at the seat. Parish council will look at obtaining new tyres. Cllr W Saunders will arrange.

All Saints – repair works have been undertaken by Waveney Oddjobs, and the area looks very nice.

Trees – Werels Loke and Cedar Drive areas as mentioned above by residents. The parish council maintains the trees and the priority is for dead/ dying/ diseased trees as per the Esc policy. After discussion it was agreed to get a quote from tree surgeons to carry out any maintenance that they would recommend on the trees which overlook both the properties on Janet Haddenham Close and those at Holly Close. SEE also the recommendation from ESC tree surveyor re these trees who advises not to reduce height as this will make the trees grow back taller.

Cedar Drive – open space management. Cllr W Sauders to consider adding to the self help list of things to do.

New signs are required for the play areas giving information about Worlingham P C rather than ESC.

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 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) To consider Year end accounts 2025/2026 including reserves. A copy of the year end accounts and reserves had been circulated to all. Final accounts for 2025-26 show income of £130,886 expenses of £ 146,826 with remaining balances of £188,540 **Agreed by all.**

Reserves were discussed in full. Members Agreed the allocation as circulated by the clerk.

Dates for public rights – the clerk advised members of the requirements for public rights. **Members approved the dates of 26th June to 6th August 2026. Agreed.**

d) To confirm that the internal auditor remains an effective, competent and independent internal auditor for the parish councils audit requirements.

It was Agreed by all to confirm that the internal auditor remains an effective, competent and independent internal auditor for the parish councils audit requirements.

e) To reappoint the internal auditor for 2026/27.

It was Agreed by all to reappoint the internal auditor Mr A Sinden as the internal auditor for 2026.27.

f) To confirm that internal controls are appropriate and effective for Council purposes. To consider and approve Internal Control Policy

It was AGREED BY ALL to confirm that internal controls are appropriate and effective for Council purposes.

It was Agreed by all to approve the Internal Control Policy for 2026.2027 as appropriate for council requirements.

Audit requirements 2025.26

a) To receive internal auditors report.

The internal auditor had carried out the audit for 2025.26 and has signed off the internal audit section of the AGAR. There are no matters which require action – no action plan therefore required. **Noted and agreed by all.**

b) To note recommendations of internal auditor and to adopt action plan as required. Following the internal audit, there are no matters which require action – no action plan therefore required. **Noted and agreed by all.**

c) To receive and if approved, confirm Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual return to the Audit Commission for the year ended 31st March 2026. To provide yes/ no answers in Section 1 and to provide permission for the Chairman of the meeting to sign this off.

Members received, considered and approved Section 1, of the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual return to the Audit Commission for the year ended 31st March 2026, providing all answers required in Section

1 as required. It was Agreed by all, following the discussions, for the Chairman of the meeting to sign this off as correct. Agreed by all.

d) To consider, and approve Section 2, the Statement of Accounts of the Annual Return to the Audit Commission for the year ended 31st March 2026 and provide permission for the Chairman to sign these accordingly.

Members considered and approved Section 2, the Statement of Accounts of the Annual Return to the Audit Commission for the year ended 31st March 2026. It was confirmed that the details were correct and members provided permission for the Chairman to sign these accordingly. Noted and agreed by all.

e) To confirm that the Fidelity Guarantee Insurance covers balances and cashflow and will be regularly reviewed.

Members considered the requirements of the Fidelity Insurance, and it was confirmed that the Fidelity Guarantee Insurance covers balances and cashflow as appropriate and will continue to be regularly reviewed. Noted and Agreed by all.

f) Risk assessment – to confirm risk assessment for 2026/27.

The draft risk assessment had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was Agreed by all that the draft risk assessment for 2026.27 be approved and adopted. Agreed by all.

g) To reappoint the clerk as the Councils Responsible Finance Officer for 2026/27. **It was Agreed by all to reappoint the clerk as the Responsible Finance Officer for 2026.27.**

h) To note that Standing Orders will be reviewed at a future meeting as per recent NALC updates

Noted.

8. To consider and if agreed readopt the LGA members Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the council members readopt the LGA members Code of Conduct for 2026.27. **Agreed by all.**

9. To confirm that the parish council re adopts the General Power of Competence. **It was Agreed by all that the parish council readopts the General Power of Competence.**

10. Date of next meeting. Tuesday July 14th, 2026.

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.

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