

Minutes of a meeting of Wortwell Parish Council, held in the Community Centre, on Monday, 25th July 2016 at 7.30pm

Councillors attending: Robert Hadingham (Chairman), Margaret Colyer, Daphne Cook, Lua Leggett and Chris Shore.

Also attending: one member of the public, District Councillor Dr. Murray Gray, County Councillor Mrs Margaret Stone and the Clerk Mrs. Jane Pearce.

1145 Apologies

1145.1 Were accepted from Councillor Copeman who was on holiday.

1146 Proposed Devolution for Norfolk and Suffolk

1146.1 Before the meeting began the Chairman introduced our County Councillor and her husband Mr. Barry Stone, who is a County and District Councillor, to talk to us about the proposed Government Devolution deal.

1146.2 Mr. Stone explained that this was a big issue for Norfolk and Suffolk and a final proposal for devolution had been agreed for 8 councils in Suffolk and 4 in Norfolk. It would mean that decisions affecting people in this area could be made here, instead of being made by the Government, Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council. Both parish and district councils would remain and would not lose any powers. . . .

1146.3 There would be an extra £25 million a year over the next 30 years to spend on new roads, transport links and other services that communities need to flourish. An extra £100 million over the next five years to help us build affordable homes plus an additional £30 million over the same period specifically for Norwich and Ipswich

1146.4 If we decide on Devolution we could have a mayor, elected by everyone in the combined authority area in Norfolk and Suffolk. The mayor would chair the combined authority and, together with the council representatives, make decisions about planning, transport and jobs. An elected mayor would generate investment and businesses will be attracted to Norfolk. An elected mayor would be elected every four years.

1146.5 People would not see too many other changes on a day-to-day level. Devolution won't change the services that local councils are currently responsible for.

1146.6 If we refuse the offer there would be no support grant for Councils after 2020.

1146.7 Mr. Stone advised people to complete the leaflet that would be delivered to every home in the affected areas.

1146.8 District Councillor, Dr. Murray Gray replied that at the recent meeting of the District Council 35 members had approved the proposal with 1 abstention which had been by him. He said that he could foresee problems. Although we would receive additional finance and a mayor we could find ourselves right in the middle of a combined authority. He queried whether we need 2½ levels between the government and parish councils, and do we need Counties and Districts? He had no problems with mayors but they must not be given too much power as it could lead to corruption. He wondered whether people would turn out for another election as the voting for the recent election of a Police Commissioner had been very low. There would be lots of work for consultants. He queried political opinions between other parties. They would mainly be made up of conservatives with no representatives from Labour, Liberal Democrats or UKIP. Although there would be economic growth there was no mention of the environment.

1146.9 Following questions, the Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Stone and Dr. Gray for their input into the proposed Devolution deal. Mr. and Mrs. Stone then left the meeting.

1146.10 The Parish Council meeting then continued

1147 Declarations of Interest

1147.1 None

1148 To approve the June Minutes

1148.1 These were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1149 Chairman's Report

- 1149.1 Street Light No. 25 in Sancroft Way is not working. **Action Clerk**
- 1149.2 **Pemberton Cars** – He had received a complaint from a parishioner regarding cars parking on the outside verges at Pemberton Cars on High Road. These were obstructing vision and making it difficult for other cars to enter and leave the site. Pemberton Cars had recently received a visit from the District Council's Enforcement Officer. It was noted that the cars were still parking on the outside verge.
- 1149.3 An email had been received from Councillor Copeman saying that she had noticed two vehicles for sale, parked on the opposite side of the road to the site entrance.
- 1150 Parish Councillor's Reports**
- 1150.1 **Councillor Shore:**
- 1150.2 **Large Pot Hole on the Knoll** – The pothole still awaited repair. He agreed to contact Highways again. **Action Councillor Shore**
- 1150.3 **Councillor Leggett:**
- 1150.4 **Community Centre** – The Management Committee were in the process of preparing documentation regarding their responsibilities in relation to the Centre. They needed to ascertain such things as who was responsible for the driveway, gardens, and who owned the playing fields etc. It had been agreed that the Parish had given land to a Charitable Trust when the Centre was built in 1992. The committee now needed to finalize what they were responsible for. The Clerk explained that the fields were owned and were the responsibility of the Parish (Parish Council). When the driveway had been tarmacked in 1999 the cost had been shared between the Community Centre and the Parish Council. Councillor Leggett agreed to report further at the September meeting. **Action Councillor Leggett**
- 1150.5 **Community Centre – Refund of Deposits** – The committee had recently returned deposits totalling £102 from the Plant Sale and the Queens 90th birthday. A letter of thanks to be written to the committee. **Action Clerk**
- 1150.6 **Councillor Cook:**
- 1150.7 **Cook's Hill** – The gas containers had been cleared for the site although the area looked untidy due to other rubbish scattered around the site.
- 1150.8 Dr. Gray agreed to check to determine whether Cooks Lane was actually in Wortwell. **Action Dr. Gray**
- 1150.9 **109 High Road** – Vegetation was encroaching onto the path from the property at 109 High Road. The Council were unaware as to who owns the land.
- 1151 Clerk's Report:**
- 1151.1 **Repairs to the Knoll** – No reply received from Highways following our complaints regarding the large pot hole on the Knoll
- 1151.2 A Parishioner had offered to trim back the pathway between the Knoll and Bell field. The Clerk to write and thank him for his kind offer but the work had now been carried out by Mr. Reynolds.
- 1151.3 **Parish Council Notice Board** – Councillor Leggett to complete the painting once the weather improved.
- 1151.4 **Highway Rangers** – Repair work requested on the 20th June still awaited. The Clerk to make enquiries. **Action Clerk**
- 1151.5 **Orchard – Old Playing Field** – Tree Warden, Roger Turpin had spoken to the Groundsman who had since cut around the trees. He would do this on a regular basis if the Parish Council requested it. Mr. Turpin also reported that the Water Butt has not been working properly for sometime, the tap handle is loose/broken and is very difficult to use especially as the tap is set at such a low level to the ground. He suggested that it would be better to drain the butt down, mend the tap and raise the butt higher off the ground, by putting another pallet or some blocks under the butt. He suggested that the Groundsman may be able to help to do this if asked.
- 1151.6 **Swing Seats** – The Clerk has asked Mr. Perry to return the spare tube of Bird Gel, but this had not been returned. Agreed that the Clerk order two more tubes. **Action Clerk**

1151.7 **Dog Bin on the Knoll** – It had been reported at the last meeting that the bin had not been emptied that day. The Clerk had reported this and it had since been emptied each Monday and Thursday as per our agreement.

1151.8 **Overgrown Tree – 1 The Packway** – Notification had been received from the resident of No. 1 The Packway saying that a branch from a tree, on the playing field, was overhanging in her garden. The Chairman agreed to look into the matter.

Action Councillor Hadingham

1152 Correspondence (for information only)

1153 Better Broadband for Norfolk – Information Sheet 23 (26.02.16)

1153.1 Clerks and Councils Direct – July 2016

1154 Proposed Waveney Valley Signs

1154.1 A quotation had been received from Highways amounting to £486.49 for the two signs. It was thought that this was expensive and it was agreed to ask for a quotation for one sign only. When this was received the clerk to put the work in hand. The sign would be erected at the Homersfield end of the village. **Action Clerk**

1154.2 Dr. Gray said that he would be able to provide the money from his District Council allowance to pay for the sign. The Clerk to send him bank details. Dr. Gray was thanked by the Chairman for his kind offer.

1155 Harleston Town Council Car Parking

1155.1 Proposed by Councillor Cook and seconded by Councillor Colyer that we contribute £400 for 2016/17 to Harleston TC towards the upkeep of the car parks outside Budgens and behind St. John's Church. All agreed.

1156 Tree Warden Vacancy

1156.1 The resignation had been received from Roger Turpin who had been our Tree Warden for approximately sixteen years. The Chairman paid tribute to the excellent work carried out by Roger during his time as our tree Warden. A letter of thanks to be written to Roger Turpin. **Action Clerk**

1156.2 It was agreed to advertise the vacancy on the Notice Board, on the web and in the September/October Mardler if the vacancy hadn't been filled before then. **Action Clerk**

Action Councillor Copeman

1157 Clerk's Salary

1157.1 New Salary increases had been received from the NALC and SLCC, to take effect from 1st April 2016. This was agreed. Salary scale to remain at SCP22. Basic 364 hours per annum. Holiday allowance 49 hours per annum. Hourly rate of £10.632. The total salary for the year being £4,368. The Clerk was happy with the current allowance agreed in April 2013 and didn't seek any increase. These were allowance for the Clerk's home used as a parish office which amounted to £533 per annum. Computer allowance £433.32 per annum, but the Clerk was happy with £300 per annum. Pension gratuity £164 to be held until the Clerk retires.

1158 Electoral Review of South Norfolk

1158.1 Dr. Gray said he had not been consulted yet on the proposals. He said we would be consulted on the issues at a later date.

1159 Speaker for the Joint Meeting

1159.1 It was agreed to ask the Waveney Valley Responders to speak at the next Joint Meeting to hopefully be held on a Monday in November. The Clerk to check on dates available for the Conference Room in November and Councillor Shore to contact the Responders to arrange a convenient date **Action Councillor Shore**
Action Clerk

1159.2 Speeding in Tunbeck Close

1159.3 Councillor Shore had erected warning signs at the entrance and exit of the Playing Field on Tunbeck Close. He had a third which would be erected near the entrance to the new field. He was considering two further signs saying "Slow Down Children Playing".for the

Tunbeck Close. Councillor Shore was thanked by the Chairman for the new signs.

Action Councillor Shore

1160 Playing Fields

1160.1 Councillor Shore reported:

1160.2 The new swing was wrapped around the top bar and had needed a ladder to climb up and unwrap.

1160.3 Three bolt heads covers are broken on the Locomotive. New ones are required for safety. The Clerk to make enquiries. **Action Clerk**

1160.4 Dog excrement on the new field.

1160.5 He had changed the liner in the bin at the entrance to the new field.

1160.6 Councillor Cook to prepare weekly playing field reports for August.

Action Councillor Cook

1160.7 Councillor Hadingham to prepare weekly playing field reports for September.

Action Councillor Hadingham

1160.8 **Norwich City Football Training** – The Clerk had tried a new contact for the club, recommended by Harleston TC but the email was returned as unknown. A further email and invoice had been sent to the club which had received no response. Agreed to try and find a telephone number for the Trainer. **Action Clerk**

1160.9 **Play Area Safety Inspection Report** – Reports covering the play equipment on both fields had been received from RoSPA. Equipment and surfacing met all requirements. Councillor Hadingham to check the mats under the basket swing and also to tighten the bolts on the Trim Trail. **Action Councillor Hadingham**

1161 Proposed visit for training by the Waveney Valley Responders

1161.1 Councillor Shore was still waiting contact from the Responders regarding awareness training session for the village.

1162 Weekly Reports on the Recycling Centre

1162.1 Councillor Shore reported that everything was in order at the Recycling Centre

1163 Planning

1163.1 **2016/0374 – Mrs. Gillian Seamons** – Approval received from the District Council for the replacement of existing rear conservatory with new conservatory and utility room to side and rear at 4 Willow Close.

1163.2 **2016/0470 – Mr. Damien Kerslake** – Approval received from the District Council for a single storey side extension to chalet at 30 Low Road, Wortwell.

1163.3 **2016/0757 – Mr. Matthew Seaman** – Approval received from the District Council for a garage at Bracys Barn, Stony Lane, Wortwell.

1163.4 **2016/1052 – Mr. Darren Gundry** – Approval received from the District Council to extend the car sales/display area at Pemberton Cars, High Road, Wortwell

1163.5 **2016/0841 – Mr. Darren Gundry** – Approval received from the District Council to display advertisements at First Class Cars, High Road, Wortwell

1163.6 **2016/1343 – Mr. Sarah Noy** – Approval received from the District Council for a single storey front extension to 3 High Road, Wortwell.

1163.7 **2016/1362 – Mrs. Yvonne Warne** – Application for two new single storey dwellings and garages on land adjacent to 99 High Road, Wortwell. Decision awaited.

1164 Proposed Village Fete for 1917

1164.1 Councillor Shore wondered if it would be possible to hold a village fete during August 2017. It would bring the village together and would help raise money for the various village organizations. He said that Councillor Copeman currently gives a lot of time to organising events for the village and this would help to make life easier for her. The first step would be to form a committee and he was willing to be part of that. The item to be included on the September Agenda for further discussion.

1165 Accounts

1165.1 Copies of budget figures and all payments made to date had been circulated and approved by Councillors.

1166 Business for the September meeting

1166.1 Agreed that the Joint Meeting and the proposed Village Fete be included on the September Agenda. Councillors to inform the Clerk if they wish for any additional items to be included.

1167 Close of Meeting

1167.1 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

1168 Payment of Accounts

1168.1 Expenditure

1168.2 E.On – Lighting energy - £147.07

1168.3 VAT to Playing Field - £3,190.84

1168.4 Community Centre – July - £14

1168.5 Mrs. Pearce – July Salary £326.15 (backdated to 1st April) Allowance £69.44 = £395.59

1168.6 Harleston TC – Contribution towards car parking charges - £400

1168.7 Playsafety – Equipment Inspection - £159.60

1168.8 Mr. Reynolds – July - £200

1168.9 Income

1168.10 VAT for 2015/16 - £3,596.75

1168.11 Sale of Village Books - £55

1168.12 Newsletter Income - £5

1168.13 Basket Ball Net – donation - £10

1168.14 Refund from Community Centre - £105