

Minutes of the meeting of Wortwell Parish Council held in the Community Centre, on Monday 31st July at 7:30 pm.

Councillors attending: Margaret Colyer (Vice Chairwoman), Robert Hadingham (Acting Chairman), Daphne Cook, Chris Shore, Julie Nutt

No members of the public were in attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Leggett and Chairwoman Copeman who were away and the Clerk, Jane Pearce, who was unwell.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4. To approve the minutes of 26th June 2017

These were signed by the Vice Chairwoman as a correct record.

5. Report from County Councillor Margaret Stone

a) A new fund has been created to provide each local Member with an annual budget of £6,000 to be used on highway work within each financial year. This offers flexibility to progress small highway projects at Members discretion based upon local need.

b) Services for children in Norfolk are continuing to improve, with inspectors highlighting “maintained momentum” and a “real sense of urgency” in transforming services.

c) Digital Committee. NCC has taken a major step towards achieving its ambition of a fully digitally-connected Norfolk with councillors giving the go-ahead for the creation of a new Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee.

d) New Director of children’s services. Sarah Tough has been recruited as NCC’s as new executive director of children’s services. Currently director of children’s services as Dorset County Council, Sara is due to take over from interim director Matt Dunkley at the end of October.

e) Permanent Chief Fire Officer Appointed. David Ashworth has been announced this week as the new permanent Chief Fire Officer for NCC’s Fire and Rescue Service. David, who has been acting CFO for the past nine months, was selected following a competitive recruitment process.

f) Improvement in Ofsted outcomes. Norfolk’s schools are celebrating the end of another successful year, as Ofsted outcomes across the county continue to improve.

g) Donations of furniture needed for refugee families arriving in Norfolk. NCC is refreshing its bid for donations of furniture and other household items, to furnish the homes of refugees settling in Norfolk. The first five Syrian families arrived in Norwich in February this year and over the coming months the final seven families will begin their new life in Norfolk.

h) Pioneering libraries project tackling isolation praised in national report. Norfolk’s pioneering library project to tackle community isolation has been recognised in a national report released by Arts Council England. The County Council’s Library and Information Service has been praised for its Libraries Loneliness project.

i) Councillor Stone requested a copy of the Mardler be sent to her regularly. **Action Councillor Cook**

6. Report from District Councillor Dr Murray Gray

- a) The training session for new parish councillors will not now take place because the people who provide the training are too busy.
- b) Dr Gray reported that he has been able to secure the sum of £5,565 from the Community Action Fund for the installation of a watering system for the Bowling Green.
- c) The caravan which has been parked behind the Farmers' Kitchen for some years has now gone.
- d) Harleston Car Parking. Harleston Council has asked for £50,000 per annum for the car park. An update on the situation is due on Wednesday, 9th August 2017.

7. Resignation of Clerk

Sadly on 18 July 2017 Jane Pearce tendered her resignation as Clerk to the Wortwell Parish Council. She has provided a list of responsibilities for the role of Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for Wortwell Parish Council which will be used to advertise the post. **Action Councillor Hadingham**

8. Chairwoman's Report

Unfortunately, our Clerk, has spent some more time in hospital and is still not well enough to deal with Parish Council matters. I am in regular contact with Jane and have agreed to prepare the Agenda for the July meeting and send minutes to councillors.

Sad news that Lorna Woollorton died 11 July. Councillor Cook agreed to send a sympathy card to Derek Woollorton.

Welfare arrangements for the installation of basketball. Access to the Community Centre is fine so no additional charge for welfare arrangements. Before work goes ahead they need confirmation that there are no services in the area of the site.

9) Parish Councillors Reports

Councillor Cook reported that the blocked drain outside Oak Hill on High Road has still not been done.

There is fly tipping rubbish on the Cooks Lane concrete pad and a sofa which had been dumped in a ditch in Cooks Lane.

Councillor Shore said that Open Reach had said that the fibre optic connection should take place mid October.

Councillor Hadingham had received a notification regarding Workplace Pensions register. It was noted that no-one qualifies for this pension.

Julie Nutt reported that there are people in the vicinity of her house who have bonfires during the daytime. She asked that a reminder for people not to light bonfires at inappropriate times be put in the Mardler. **Action Councillor Copeman**

Councillor Leggett. She will collect Deeds from AC, examine them and report to WPC and WCC at their next meetings.

10) Clerks Report

I had a telephone call from Chris (The dog bin man) who lives opposite the Knoll, saying that the bin on the Knoll had not been emptied all week. I phoned South Norfolk and was told they would empty this on Saturday morning (29 July).

I sent your requests into the Rangers so hopefully they will all be completed.

Norwich City have not paid their latest bill for April and May amounting to £108. I will chase them this week and also invoice them for June and part of July.

I am at the moment dealing with a couple of queries from the Auditors.

I hope to apply for the VAT payment for 2016/17 next week.

11) Planning Applications

Planning Application 2017/1639 – Sub Committee approved

Planning Application 2017/1707 for Miss Anne Clark is with the subcommittee for comment. To be returned to me by 10th August.

Planning Application 2017/1306 – Barn on Cooks Lane has been refused.

12) Silver Festival

Councillor Colyer reported that the two major tasks currently are advertising, the logistics of the day and the production of the programme.

The programme will contain map of the Community Centre and grounds so people will know where to go for each event, timings, and advertisements for those businesses who are contributing to the Auction of Promises plus other relevant information.

A few people from the village have offered to help but we will need more. Also we could do with some music. Currently we only have the ceilidh and choir in the evening and the U3A ukulele band during the day.

Jenny Bloomfield from Community Resilience will be on holiday so will not be attending. It was agreed that Councillor Nutt will run the Silver Festival stand.

13) SAM Machine

Councillor Hadingham suggested that we go ahead and borrow Harleston's SAM machine once every 6 months for a 3 week period.

Action Councillor Hadingham

14) Playing Field Issues

Councillor Hadingham reported that he had inspected the area in July and all was in order except for some mole activity near slide on old field. Also there is a plank on the bridge of the fortress which is starting to rot. This just needs 'watching' at this stage.

Councillor Cook will do the inspections in August. Note: no arrangements were made for September.

Councillor Leggett sent a report regarding the Play Equipment.

" I met with Fenland Leisure 26 July 2017 regarding the siting of our basketball net. He pointed out a couple of issues with existing equipment.

The zip wire is very low to the ground as it reaches the far end of the wire. He thinks the hot weather has relaxed the cable and suggests that we tighten up the cable using the ratchets at the top of the end posts. Children could get their legs tangled underneath themselves if it remains this low.

Also he said the mounds in front and behind the new big swings should be higher than they are. Again for safety as swinging really high, as they are used by older children, creates a bigger drop should they fall. Hence the mounding in the first place.”

Councillor Hadingham suggested that these points do not appear to have been picked up by ROSPA so no action needs to be taken.

15) Proposed Bus Shelter

Councillor Shore has inspected the site and submitted his drawing to the WPC. **Action Clerk**

16) Proposed Sign of Rules and Regulations at Redenhall Cemetary.

Chairwoman’s report states that The Environment Committee in Harleston agreed to look into putting a sign up at the cemetery stating the rules and regulations of the cemetery. She will get a price and get back to us.

15) Accounts

Not available due to Clerks absence.

16) Business for September Meeting

Proposed Bus Shelter, Ownership of Land, Silver Festival, Community Emergency Plan, SAM machine, Clerk’s Vacancy.

The meeting was not adjourned as no members of the public were in attendance.

17) Close of meeting

There being no more business, the Acting Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30