

# WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

**A meeting of Wortwell Parish Council was held on Monday 26 July 2021 at 7.30pm**

at the Waveney Room Wortwell Community Centre

**22/25 Apologies** received from Councillor White and Councillor Cooke

In attendance: Councillors Aylett (CA) Chair, Councillor Copeman (AC), Councillor Worley (JW), Councillor Hadingham (RA), Councillor Eddy (WE) and District Councillor Savage (JS)

Councillor RH declared a prejudicial and pecuniary interest in item **22/29** and removed himself from the meeting for the duration of that discussion.

*There were no members of the public in attendance.*

**22/26 7.30pm** Welcome by the Chairman

**22/27 Minutes:** Council approved and Chairman signed the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2021.

CA had signed the Minutes previously approved from ZOOM meetings held during the pandemic.

**22/28 Matters arising:** there were no matters arising.

**22/29 South Norfolk District Council Village Cluster Plan** - Council formally approved the Consultation Response sent by the Clerk to South Norfolk Planning office. Deadline for responses is the 2nd August

22/29.1 JS confirmed that he had spoken with the planning team and the consensus was that Wortwell Parish Council's response aligns with the principles of the Village Cluster planning and was positively received.

22/29.2 Concern that a third party conversation, that cannot be acted on, has raised the idea that plans put forward for less than 12 dwellings would be unlikely to be accepted. This is not in keeping with the impression that SNDC has given that the developments should be of a local, sensitive and sympathetic nature. JW asked that reference be made to the SNDC own site that mentions their desire not to see: 'eroding of rural character' which would contradict the proposal to have 12 houses in one site. Clerk to write to SNDC with a further reference to this concern. JS expressed concern that we do not want Wortwell to 'join up' with Redenhall.

22.29/3 Concern also expressed that the Knoll site is a meadow that currently 'soaks away' a great deal of runoff from the centre of the village that regularly does flood at the top of Mill Lane and the bend of Low Road junction. If a heavy development is built on this meadow, what impact will this have on the ability to 'soak up' surface flooding? Clerk to write to SNDC to highlight this concern and question the need for drainage and an attenuation basin provision.

**Clerk to action 22/29.2 and 29.3**

**22/30 Chairman and Councillor Reports:**

22/30.1 CA reported that the Police continue to support Wortwell with its battle against speeding through the village. Cameras have been in action three times in the past month at Redenhall Church, on the Knoll and At the Lakes entrance. Generally speeding has declined as a direct result of this presence of regular speed camera activities. The Chairman met with and thanked the local police for their efforts on behalf of the Village.

It was suggested that the Local Beat Officer be invited to attend a future Council Meeting - clerk to action.

22/30.2 AC questioned if we should be concerned that more than one cat has gone missing in the village in recent weeks? Nobody has reported any concerns but Council to monitor the situation.

22/30.3 Street light no 26 remains out following the re-direction of the lamp. **Clerk to report.**

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### 22/31 **Playground and Recycling Centre Report:**

22/31.1 The numbers of drinks cans and rubbish littering the field has diminished over the past two or three weeks but this could be attributed to the poor weather keeping people from the field. The Bin by the parkway entrance gate has been vandalised and is difficult to empty now. **Clerk to research cost of replacement.**

22/31.2 Thanks were expressed to Cllr Cook, in her absence, for the voluntary cleaning up work that she and her partner did on the Recycling bin area. The area looks much better for their kind efforts.

22/31.3 Hedges are beginning to encroach around field area **Clerk to speak to Excite Solutions** about trimming and streaming overgrown areas.

22/31.4 The Trim Trail is showing signs of splintering - Sandpapering and re-treating work to be completed. Cllr WE will liaise with Cllr CW to organise repairs.

**Councillors Eddy and White to action**

22/31.5 Benches are now worn beyond repair and will be replaced in due course under the Open Spaces Plan and when funds permit.

22/31.6 CA confirmed that WPC is now registered with the East of England Ambulance Service as well as Community Heartbeat Trust for the upkeep and use of the Defibrillator.

Note: Playground Rota for August JW and September RH. Due to holiday commitments JW and RH will share these two months according to their availability.

### 22/32 **Clerk and RFO Reports and accounts for payment:**

22/32.1 Clerk has received a villager request for decommissioning light no 3. Council agreed that this is not a simple matter as the Village voted overwhelmingly to have street lighting throughout the village during hours of darkness as a security measure. Clerk to speak with TTJones Lighting to see if the light can be deflected away from the direction of the villager's window. Clerk to also explore what options the village has for the lighting in terms of timings, daylight savings and deflection from bedroom windows.

22/32.2 The cost of maintaining Street Lighting is increasing rapidly. JW requested that a note to be included in the next Mardler detailing these costs and confirming that to maintain the lighting going forwards this will inevitably impact on future budgets.

22/32.3 **AGAR - external audit PKF Littlejohn:** The RFO has been asked to respond to a query regarding the variances in value of the asset register. The impact of removing the old cricket shed has reduced the valuation of assets and the decline is some of the play equipment. Conversely the addition of an orchard and new garden bed has increased the asset value. **RFO to respond to PKF**

22/32.4 **Hedges and overgrowth:** Landowners and Property Owners throughout the village have received a polite request to cut back hedges and overgrowth from their boundaries where they are obstructing the passage along footpaths for pedestrians. It is impossible to push a buggy or a wheelchair along certain sections of High Road in particular.

The council is mindful that the weather this year has impacted on second hatchings of bird life, later flowering and therefore seeding of wild flowers and impact on habitat. The council is sympathetic to the ecological matters but at the same time we cannot allow pedestrians to be forced into the road where a path is impassable. Council will monitor and review in September.

22/32.5 **Rangers are due to visit the week commencing 2nd August:** They have been asked to attend to:-

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- a) The overgrown ditch at the top of Mill Lane and Low Road junction to be cleared
- b) The blocked storm drain opposite the Lakes entrance road to be cleared
- c) The overgrowth of pathways from slippage from fields or farmland along High Road to be cleared.
- d) The overgrowth by Wortwell Village Sign to be cleaned up.

**22/33 Forward Planning:** AC provided a report from the recent Open Spaces Working Party meeting - a copy is attached to these minutes.

22/33.1 A WhatsApp Group to be convened of volunteers for maintenance matter going forwards.

**CW to champion.**

22/33.2 Open Spaces to be added to the September Agenda for discussion and any necessary actions. The Working Party have been asked to bring an outline Budget Summary Request to the September meeting as part of the budget setting process for the 22/23 financial year.

**AC to action**

**22.34 Planning Applications: 2021/1263 change of existing lodge into a holiday let fishing lodge - full planning permission:** Council had no comments to make on this change of use request.

**Next meeting: 27 September 2021 at Wortwell Community Centre at 7.30pm**

**Matters for next meeting:**

1. SNDC Village Cluster Consultation
2. 1 Million Trees and Outdoor Spaces Plan
3. Budget Setting for 2022/23 - phase one

**Meeting closed at 9.10pm to discuss confidential matter**

**Signed..... Date:.....**