

MINUTES

Wortwell Annual Parish Meeting

Held at the Wortwell Community Centre on

24 April at 7.00 pm

A number of villagers, club members and councillors attended.

24.04.1 The Parish Clerk welcomed everybody to the Village meeting. With the Chairman, Mr Clive Aylett, of the Parish Council present, she invited him to chair the meeting going forwards.

Apologies received from Mr Charles White and Mr Graham Playford, Trustees of the Wortwell Community Centre.

24.04.02 CA invited officers and representatives around the room to introduce themselves and their area of interest.

Formal presentations took place as follows:

1. Wortwell Community Centre:

- a. Mr Bill Eddy spoke to his Chairman's report, a copy of which is held with these Minutes.
- b. Mrs Lua Leggett spoke to her Financial report, a copy of which is held with these Minutes.
- c. Mrs Alison Shailes spoke about bookings. There has been a happy return of all regular clubs and societies following the pandemic and bookings in general are on the up. Blood donors have become regular monthly bookings and Meditation classes are now in operation. Children's parties are slowly coming back and we have two weddings booked this year.

2. Wortwell Outdoor Bowls; In the absence of Mr Croxton, the Chairman, Mr Robert Hadingham spoke about the success of the outdoor bowls teams. They are a small club with 20-25 members and are always looking for new members. They are members of the Upper Waveney League. The cost of running the green is a struggle and 2 days a week roll ups occur at £2 a fee. On a Monday afternoon and a Wednesday evening, anyone can just turn up and have a go. There is always a set of bowls available to borrow and they would encourage people to come and give it a go. They are members of the Upper Waveney League. A grant of £10K from the government scheme has helped enormously.

3. Wortwell Short Mat Bowls: Mrs Sheila Rusted spoke about the success that the teams have had at club competition level and winning the Waveney league. They feel the club is in good hands with 23/24 members and they meet from 2-5 on a Monday and 7-10 on a Wednesday. A copy of the report is held with these Minutes.

4. Wortwell Carpet Bowls: Mrs Pam Howard provided a written report was provided and read to the room by CA and a copy of this is held with these Minutes.

5. Wortwell Parish Council:

- a. Mr Clive Aylett spoke to his Chairman's report, a copy of which is held with these Minutes
- b. Mrs Lua Leggett spoke to the room and shared the figures surrounding budget, precept and forecast. The prime concern remains the cost of energy pricing and the street lighting remains on an unmetered supply. Confirmation sought from Npower that this is the best rate of unit pricing for street lighting and a new pricing should be contracted in the next few days now that there is more stability in the market and prices have fallen from their all time high of over £1 pkwh in July last year, to circa 66p in January and now circa 38p pkwh.
 - i. The internal Audit has been completed and was praised to a high level. No notes only recommendations going forwards.
 - ii. The external Annual Accounts had already been presented to Council in draft form before submitting to the Internal Auditor.
 - iii. These accounts will be signed off at the Annual General Meeting together with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return statements prior to External Audit.
 - iv. The public rights notice will commence on the 5 June and cease on the 15 July 2023, these being posted on the notice board and website. Any questions to be directed in the first instance to the Clerk.

6. Wortwell Charities:

- a. **Wortwell Poors Allotments Charity** Mr Chris Thomas explained that the Common Rights have been in place since 1803. There are 13 acres of Marsh to graze cattle. Trustees let this for Summer grazing and currently tenanted to T R Kent and Son. Grants and subsidies: the BPS is ending soon but there may be an extension of the Environmental Scheme.
- b. A new bridge has been placed and all dikes have been sloughed out. Wortwell and Alburgh villagers benefit from co-op shop vouchers for senior citizens.
- c. **Wortwell Town Lands Charity** – Farm at Spexhall has been sold and the capital has been invested with a specialist broker earning a good return.
- d. **Wortwell Old Playing Field:** Mrs Allison Copeman spoke about the replacement of the roof on the Pavilion has been paid for from the Government grant and over the Bank Holiday Coronation Big Help weekend we are looking for assistance to clear the inside. Doors and windows still need attention and following its completion the Trustees will be looking to gain a commercial value from this asset.
- e. **Wortwell Parish Lands (Allotments):** Mrs Lua Leggett spoke about the success of the Allotments over the past four years and the thriving community that has formed up there. With a full compliment of tenants and a waiting list of three it is in good form.
 - i. Water supply is to be upgraded and Mrs Sarah Noy has kindly offered to complete the work to Water Regulation Standards without charging for her labour costs. The timescale for this is over the Coronation Weekend.
 - ii. The orchard is doing well with beautiful blossom hopefully heralding some fruit for the first time in their three years of growth.
 - iii. There are concerns over the contiguous border between the allotments and the property being built on High Road. Clerk to seek advice from

Planning department regarding the removal of mature hedging and its impact on both the birdlife at nesting season and also the loss of roots holding the earth together.

- iv. The shed on site has to be cleared to the pavilion prior to the skip being delivered. Mr Stuart Noy has offered assistance but more volunteers needed.

8.00pm Many of those present stayed to socialise and mix after the formalities of the evening had ended and a very good evening was had catching up with old friends, new neighbours and generally getting to know each other better. Some good ideas were generated and all present felt it had been a useful and enjoyable experience.

End]