

WORTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of Wortwell Parish Council took place on Monday 18 October 2021 at 7.30pm

at the Waveney Room Wortwell Community Centre - 4 Members of the public attended.

7.30pm Welcome by the Chairman

One minutes silence was observed to pay respect to the sad loss of Mr David Amess MP the local East Anglian MP who tragically lost his life in a public attack. The chairman took the opportunity to remind Councillors of the need for vigilance and care in these difficult times.

Apologies received from Cllr R Hadingham due to annual leave.

Present: Councillors Aylett (CA Chairman), Cooke (DC), Copeman (AC), Eddy (WE), White (CW) and Worley (JW) District Cllr Savage (JS) and County Cllr Stone (BS)

*There were no **declarations of interest** (personal, prejudicial or pecuniary), in particular matters to be raised at this meeting (Note: A declaration of a personal interest should indicate the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates and in this case the member may speak and vote, however if it is a prejudicial or pecuniary interest, the member should withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.*

Public 10 minutes observed to allow members of the public present to speak on matters on the agenda

22.51 Minutes: Council approved, Chairman signed and Clerk will retain in records, minutes of the meetings held on 27 September 2021

22.52 Matters arising were addressed.

22.52.1 all matters have been actioned or were addressed via items on the agenda.

22.53 South Norfolk District Council Cluster Plan - Consultation Response and Council requirements for Wortwell

Chairman CA updated those present and reiterated the desire that the council has to support the call for 330,000 dwellings a year that the government has targeted and that Wortwell will provide a contribution. The Council are very keen that this contribution aligns with the smaller developments of 3 -6 maximum in any corner of the village thereby reducing traffic impact, over development of one area of the village, a sharing of land opportunities across landowners wishing to subscribe and most importantly responding to the consulted future needs of residents of Wortwell.

Council is willing to permit small extensions to the envelope whilst remaining firmly inside the village boundaries. Council has rejected the plan to develop 10-12 dwellings in the centre of the village by the Bell Meadow as this is seen to be an over-development, in the centre of the village, on an already dangerous bend from the crossroads to Low Road, in an area close to flooding and surrounded by listed and older buildings in the heart of the village. It is noted that it is the preferred site for the SNDC but Wortwell Parish Council are strongly objecting to this. We await a response from SNDC

We also await the results of the sweeping changes expected to Planning under the Secretary of State Paper - due shortly.

22.54 Planning Applications:

2021/2140 Land west of Farmland Manor, High Road, Wortwell - outline planning application for four residential dwellings garaging and all associated works

Questions were raised by the Public and answered to their satisfaction. A question regarding camber of the road will be taken back to SNDC for clarification. Application proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

22.55 Chairman and Councillor Reports

Issued

Lua Leggett - Parish Clerk

1 of 4

22.55.1 Councillor Stone (BS) spoke to his report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. BS will provide further details from County re Electric Car Charging Points (contact name: Alex Cliff). BS confirmed that the million trees initiative is not confined to public areas but any member of the public can apply for a tree in their own gardens - applications should be made via the Parish Council - Cllr CW will co-ordinate this initiative.

22.55.2 CA confirmed that Defibrillator refresher training for Councillors will take place on 7/11 at 11.30am to ensure the machine is properly maintained and updated as required.

22.55.3 Pilot Surgery Date confirmed: 22 November 11.00am to 1.00pm All members of public are invited to attend on a first come first served basis. If this surgery proves successful it will be repeated on a regular basis. Published on Website, Notice Board and in the Mardler

Action AC and Clerk

22.55.4 CA confirmed that following the near miss incident on the bend in Low Road opposite Mill Lane, the SAM2 machine has been deployed in a different position. There continue to be a number of high speed triggers but as they are early in the morning (1am to 3am) or late at night, they are hard to capture.

Council will continue to monitor.

22.56 Playground, Recycling Centre and Defibrillator Report

No issues raised in the playground checks that the Councillors are not already aware of and actioning through the Open Spaces Working Group. Cllr WE will pass the baton of playground checks to Cllr AC at the end of October.

22.57 Big South Norfolk Litter Pick - 26 October 10.30am Volunteers welcome.

Clerk to chase equipment.

22.58 Clerk and RFO Reports

22.58.1 Clerk reported that most householders had responded to the request to cut back hedges but the Laurel Hedge on High Road and the Conifers by the Chapel on High Road continue to cause a hindrance to the use of the footpath. Council will request a 2nd time that these be dealt with but if the householders are unable to comply the Enforcement Officer will be asked to attend to the matter on behalf of the village.

Clerk to action

22.58.2 **Sluice Gate at Wortwell Mill:** The Clerk has today (18/10/21) received a letter from the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the sluice gate at the Wortwell Mill. Technically this lies in the area of Homersfield and the Homersfield Council has been informed as has the EA. However this lies in a geographically strategic position and concerns have been expressed about the maintenance being transferred from the EA to the landowner. A letter has been sent to EA requesting further information regarding:

- I. the grounds and thinking behind the decision
- II. what oversight will there be to ensure the sluice gate is kept well maintained by the landowner
- III. ensuring that the parties understand the significance of this gate to the surrounding area already badly flooded at Christmas, 2020 by a blockage of a similar gate further down stream.
- IV. **DCllr. JS** will speak to the Lothingland Drainage Board about the situation and report back.

Chairman and Clerk to monitor and explore reassurance on these matters.

22.58.3 RFO Report: Clerk confirmed that the Precept payment tranche 2 has been received and banked. £12,628.50 A reconciled balance sheet was circulated in advance of the meeting and all were satisfied that the accounts continue to be well managed and recorded. Accounts for payment attached to these minutes as Appendix A

22.59 Budget Setting for 2022/23 financial year - phase TWO was submitted to Council by the RFO based on discussions from previous meeting. Proposals include investment in the Infant Site Playing field by way of tree planting, repairs to

equipment, repairs to surface matting and the provision of benches to the Old Playing Field. Allowances have been made for the increase in energy costs and maintenance for the street lighting repairs. A copy of the draft phase 2 is attached to these minutes.

Donations will need to be pulled back in the coming year as pressure on funds means some will need to be curtailed or cancelled altogether. Council to advise Core Trustees of donation situation for 22/23 financial year meaning no donation can be granted in the coming year.

Reserves may be used to temporarily or permanently fund certain plans - to be further discussed.

Phase Three will take place at the November meeting when the RFO will have fine-tuned balances, forecasting of year end and costings of proposals, at which time Council will set the figures ready for approval and sign off in January 2022.

22.60 Donation Request from United Reformed Church declined.(see point 22.59 above)

22.61 Open Spaces Committee: Cllr AC provided an update from committee.

22.61.1 The green memorial bench on the old playing field will be temporarily refurbished and painted by members of the family. Four other benches across the footprint of land are planned over the coming months. Budgeted in above 22.59.

22.61.2 Signage in the village is in poor condition and unfortunately there are no County or District funds available for replacement or repairs. The Village will have to adopt many signs that in the past have been covered by other budgets. These will now need to fall within the precept.

22.62 Chairman opened up the meeting to the remaining two members of the Public who raised the following:

22.62.1 There are also several FingerPost Markers around the village that are either rotting or no longer fit for purpose. Specifically by the Old School and opposite near Oak Hill. Council will undertake a review of all signage in the village and prioritise accordingly.

22.62.2 The recently repaired stile from the Infant site field into the meadow needs further repair. Clerk to advise landowner and request repair be attended to.

22.62.3 The oak tree at Oak Tree Close is obscuring both the village sign and the 30MPH sign at the entrance to the village.

22.62.4 The hedge running up the side of the playing field will be cut once the berries and rose hips have finished.

Clerk to action

Future meetings: 29 November 2021
10 January 2022 - Precept Meeting only
31 January 2022

22.63 Matters for next meeting: Sluice Gate
Open Spaces
Budget 2022/23

Meeting ended. 9.20pm

APPENDIX A
ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

1. T T Jones Electrical Ltd	102208	
Street lighting maintenance Oct Nov Dec 2021 and Repairs to Sancroft Way, Windmill Close and High Road col 3		£339.86
2. HMRC	102209	
PAYE and NI Clerk		£115.59
	Total	£455.45

Signed _____ Chairman

Date 29 November 2021 _____