

MINUTES

**A meeting of the Wortwell Parish Council took place
on Monday 8 January 2024 at 7.30pm at the Waveney Room Wortwell Community Centre
No members of the public attended**

74) **Welcome** by the Chairman Clive Aylett

Present: Clive Aylett Chair, Hazel Carter, Daphne Cook, Allison Copeman, Bill Eddy, Robert Hadingham, Julie Worley – Clerk and RFO Lua Leggett
Apologies received from Mr James Eddy District Councillor

There were no members of the public in attendance (invitation was sent out to the village in the usual way on notice board and website) so no adjournment necessary.

75) **Resolution:** The Council confirmed that the previously stated dispensation to all members of the Council to enable them to participate in full in the decision to approve the budgets for 2024.25 and to set the Council Tax and Business Rates for 2024/25 was still in place and confirmed to Mrs Hazel Carter, the purpose of the dispensation.

76) After a discussion regarding the printing costs (£1200 a year) for the Mardler and a request in the last edition for comments on continuing a paper based newsletter, Council agreed to add to the next meeting on 29 January for further discussion. For now the precept will allow a sum of £50 for the ad hoc printing of a pdf version should villagers request one. If the consultation demonstrates a high level of demand for the paper version to continue, and the village is prepared to pay for this printing cost – the projected VAT rebates expected each year could be re-directed from land accounts to the main account to accommodate this cost.

77) **Resolution:** Council approved and adopted the budget discussed in November 2023. The Precept for the 2024/25 financial year will be based on this taking consideration of the reduced numbers of houses at Tax Rate Band D 222 as advised by South Norfolk District Council – a copy of the budget had been circulated in advance and is available on the website.

1) **Precept Form Completion:** Council approved and appointed the RFO, Mrs Lua Leggett to complete the Precept Papers, as the designated officer for this purpose, and send to South Norfolk District Council.

Next Full Parish Council Meeting: Monday 29th January 2024

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Council convened the following Trustee Meetings to accommodate the Charity planning for the remainder of this financial year.:

WORTWELL PARISH LANDS
284783
The Allotments
To 31/12/23

1. Income and Expenditure

Balance Forward	£4179.39	
Income year to date	£ 530.05	
Bank interest (Lloyds)	£ 8.55	£4717.99
Expenditure	£ 966.32	
Balance as at 31/12/23		£3751.67

£33.15 over in Lloyds to be investigated.

2. Future plans: Currently there are no specific plans for the allotments.
3. All allotment plots 1-13 are let and most ploholders have paid their renewal rents for the November to October 23/24 year.
4. Plot 5 has had no visible work done on it since early 2023. The plot is lying barren and no evidence of any activity. Also the rent due in November has not been paid. Chairman to write to plot holders to exercise the notice period, from November 2023 to take the plot back and advertise it as available from April 2024 to a new plot holder. The plot holders will have time to remove any personal belongings, structures etc and harvest any produce remaining on the ploty.
5. **Action:** Chairman to write to Mr T and Ms R and Clerk to advertise the allotment plot's availability via the website and next month's Mardler.
6. **Alburgh allotments:** We have heard nothing further from Alburgh but the hedges have been cut we believe by Excite Solutions.
7. The Clerk will submit the Annual Return and Chairman's statement for the 2022/23 financial year to the Charity Commission. The current year ends on 31/3/24 and will be due for submission January 2025

Meeting closed: 8.15pm

WORTWELL OLD PLAYING FIELD
304124

1. Income and Expenditure

2. Income and Expenditure

Balance Forward	£5270.71	
Income year to date	£ nil	
Bank interest (Lloyds)	£ 16.15	£5286.86
Expenditure	£ 248	
Balance as at 31/12/23		£5038.36

3. Future plans: HC asked what the future plan is for the pavilion and it was explained that nothing concrete but it is a useful space and the asbestos roof had to be removed. The cost of demolition was as much as the restoration of the roof and Trustees felt justified in this expenditure. Doors and windows need attention and the remaining grant funds from the pandemic award will be set aside for this purpose.
4. The new adult gym equipment has now been installed thanks to lottery funding and is already attracting some use despite the weather and time of the year. Some villagers are intending to start up a gym buddy group.
5. The equipment needs to be added to the overall insurance schedule and there is a maintenance and weekly check programme in place within the Councillors' monthly rota of existing playground checks.
6. Annual Return and Chairman's statement to be submitted by January 2025 Year end is 31/3/24

Meeting ended 8.30pm

VESPA CAPITAL FUNDING

Lua Leggett updated the Councillors on the progress of the VESPA project.

The feasibility study was completed ahead of schedule and within budget and LL thanked those present for their support. LL explained that the spiraling cost of energy prices is having a hugely detrimental impact on the building costs and is now a serious threat to the survival of the building. It is imperative that we raise the funds for the VESPA rescue package which is what it has now become.

The following figures were discussed in depth and after consideration, it was agreed that the Council could assist in three ways:

- 1 by taking the lead with the suppliers to make the orders, the Parish Council can reclaim the VAT on the costs. This provides an immediate saving of over £16K
LL has checked with SNDC and also with the governing document and the lease that the building freehold is owned by the Parish Council and the governing document permits renovations, improvements and other work on the fabric of the building which in turn permits the Council to make the order and reclaim the VAT.
- 2 By donating £5,000 to the overall cost from reserves this preserves the floor limit of £25K that the PC has already agreed to maintain at all costs.
- 3 By lending a further £8,000 which will be matched by £12,000 from the Community Centre reserves, this provides the necessary £25K match funding for the capital funding application to the Pride in Community Grant.

LL will draw up the necessary paperwork and transactions for approval at the next full Parish Council Meeting on the 29th January where a formal resolution will be proposed and past by vote in Council.
Meanwhile, LL will continue to reach out to other funding bodies for the remaining shortfall of

Supply and install Solar panels	£39,563.26
Scaffolding	£ 2,800.00
Supply and install Batteries	£22,866.77
Supply and install 4 Maxicharge wall box EVCP	£ 9,752.00
Replace all florescent lighting for LED	£ 7,700.21
Subtotal	£82,682.64
VAT 20%	£16,536.52
Total	£99,219.16

Grants and Collaboration	£99,219.16	
Purchase of all supplies WPC	- £16,536.52	£82,682.64
Grant NCC EVCP	- £ 9,752.00	£72,930.64
Grant Pride in Place in the Community Matched	- £25,000.00	£47,930.64
Wortwell Community Centre	- £12,000.00	£35,930.64
Wortwell Parish Council	- £13,000.00	£21,930.64
Grant NCC LED	- £ 7,700.00	£15,230.64

Community Action Norfolk
Norfolk Community Foundation
National Lottery
Borrow ?? unlikely to be approved as not for profit organization.

Green funding agreed
Amber funding being sought
Red funding still to be found

