

Minutes of a meeting of Wortwell Parish Council held in the Community Centre, on Monday, 23rd February 2015 at 7.30pm

Parish Councillors attending – Councillors Robert Hadingham (Chairman), Allison Copeman (Vice Chairman), Daphne Cook, Jayne Moore, Sarah Noy, Malcolm Perry and Derek Woollorton.

Also attending County Councillor Mrs. Margaret Sommerville and seven members of the public, and the Clerk Mrs. Jane Pearce.

839 Apologies

839.1 Apologies were received from District Councillor, Dr. Murray Gray who was attending a South Norfolk Budget meeting.

839.2 Declarations of Interest

839.3 Councillor Hadingham expressed a prejudicial interest in Item 19 on the Agenda – Planning Application 2015/0084, erection of a single storey dwelling with attached garage at 133 High Road, Wortwell.

840 To approve Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 5th January 2015 and the January 2015 Parish Council meeting

841 Both sets of Minutes were signed, by the Chairman, as an accurate record.

842 To receive reports from our District and County Councillors

842.1 An email from Dr. Gray said

- In response to a complaint, I visited Oak Hill on the day that work on the Tree Preservation Order Oak tree was being carried out and was able to confirm that the work had consent from South Norfolk Council.
- I've continued to press the case for a roundabout at Hempnall crossroads to be included in the Long Stratton Area Action Plan and to be built early in the bypass project. I'm told that it's already being designed, (but I don't necessarily believe that).
- I've managed to secure a debate at the SNC Scrutiny Committee on 5th March to review the issue of decision making over the new, self-cleaning Harleston toilets (including costs, vandalism and design) and whether there are any lessons to be learnt before the other 5 are installed in our other Market Towns. This project was not previously discussed in public prior to being given the go-ahead by someone. I'm trying to discover who!

842.2 County Councillor Margaret Somerville reported:

- Adult Social Care is a major concern and interestingly, none of the Parties on the Adult Social Care Committee voted for the proposed budget as we felt that Adult Social Care could not withstand more cuts. This is a demand led Service and with an increasing elderly population, this is not an appropriate area to cut.
- There are still problems with recruiting GP's especially in rural areas. Majority of Doctors prefer to work in hospitals. Women GP's were mostly retiring at the age of 38. Parishioners explained that they were still having problems in arranging appointments at the Harleston practice. She advised that parishioners write to her and she would take the matter up again, with the relevant committee.
- Now that roads and footways are getting icy, requests for additional gritting are being raised. We cannot grit all of Norfolk's roads because of time and cost.

843 Chairman's Report

843.1 The repainting of the white lines at the Homersfield junction had been completed today. The keep left sign had been knocked down on the central reservation at this junction. Clerk to inform Highways. **Action Clerk**

843.2 The gulleys on Low Road had now been cleaned.

844 Parish Councillors' Reports

- 844.1 Councillor Copeman – The Garage/Car Boot Sale will now take place on 19th April.
- 844.2 Councillor Perry – had been told that the old Farm Shop was re-opening as a Farm Shop.
- 844.3 Councillor Cook – had been contacted over the trimming of the Tree Preservation Oak Tree at Oak Hill. Saffron had been removing dangerous branches.

845 Clerk's Report

- 845.1 **Footpath behind the Bell** – Councillor Hadingham had removed all brambles from the footpath.
- 845.2 **'Low Road' Sign on the Knoll** – New sign awaited from the District Council
- 845.3 **Overgrown Trees on the A143 next to chain link fencing** – Margaret Somerville agreed to take the matter up with Highways Department. **Action Margaret Somerville**
- 845.4 **Highways 30mph sign** – This had been removed
- 845.5 **Parish Allotments** – The resident of no. 4 Willow Close had telephoned the Clerk saying that he had only removed a conifer hedge on his side of the Parish Council's hedge and intended to erect a fence in its place.
- 845.6 **Overgrown Trees on the Knoll** – Waveney Trees would carry out agreed work on the 9th March. A notice would appear in the March/April Mardler requesting parishioners not to park their vehicles on the Knoll, on Sunday night 8th March .
- 845.7 **Auditor** – Notification from Mazars that their address is now Mazars LLP The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TS
- 845.8 **Graffiti Removal Kit** – Notification from the District Council that a free Graffiti Kit was available to Parish Councils – The Clerk had ordered a Kit.
- 845.9 **Crime Statistics** – There had been one 'Violence against a Person' crime in the village during January 2015.

846 Playing Field

- 846.1 Councillor Hadingham reported:
- Moles working on the old field. Clerk to inform Norfolk Pest Control **Action Clerk**
 - Safety surfacing under the basket swing needs attention.
 - All play equipment in good order
- 846.2 Councillor Moore to carry out weekly checks during March. **Action Councillor Moore**
- 846.3 **Chain Link Fencing – new field** – Waveney Trees would remove all brambles from the fencing on 9th March
- 846.4 **Groundsman's Work Sheets** – The Groundsman would in future hand in his monthly work sheets to the Clerk
- 846.5 **Playing Field maintenance 2015** – Quotations for 2015 amounted to £2,519.23 from Norse and £2,768.72 from Shaun Swann. Any additional cuts would amount to £142 by Norse and £75 by Shaun Swan, per cut. Proposed by Councillor Woollorton and seconded by Councillor Hadingham that we continue with the second year of our agreed three year Contract with Norse. All in favour.
- 846.6 **Report from the Fund Raising sub committee** – A grant application for £2,500 had been sent to Adnams. The sub Committee had begun to complete a form requesting a grant from Awards for All. If the requested grants were met in full, VAT would amount to over £14,000 which we would be unable to pay all at once. Councillor Perry to speak with Alburgh Parish Council to see how they overcame this problem. A letter had been sent to Children's Playground Co Ltd requesting that some items such as grass and woodchips be removed from the quote, in order to reduce the overall cost.
Action Councillor Perry

847 Recycling Centre

- 847.1 Councillor Hadingham reported that there had been some fly tipping at the Centre. The District Council had now removed this.

848 Fencing Account Bond

- 848.1 The two Bonds invested with HSBC would mature on 16th March. HSBC pointed out that the Business High Interest Deposit Account is no longer available, but we can however open a Money Market fixed term deposit account ranging from 3 months to 5 years. Rate for 2 years would be 0.8% and 3 years 1.1%. It was agreed that on maturity to borrow £15,000 to pay the VAT for new play equipment and take out a new Bond as soon as HM Revenue and Customs had repaid the VAT. The remainder of the money to be reinvested in a Money Market deposit account for 1 year. **Action Clerk**

849 2015 Litter Pick

- 849.1 Notification from the District Council that our application had been accepted for Sunday, 22nd March. We will be notified later about delivering the equipment to us.

850 2015 Parish Council Elections

- 850.1 Six members had downloaded nomination forms for the election on 7th May. The Election would be advertised in the March/April Mardler and on the web site. All forms had to be handed in to the District Council by 4pm on the 9th April. Councillor Perry agreed to take completed nomination forms to the Council Offices..

Action Councillor Perry

- 851 Clerke Charity** – A reply to our letter, asking if we could wind up the Charity, awaited from the Charity Commission.

852 Parking at the Bell

- 852.1 A letter from Land Registry said 'we have not issued a Land Registry index map plan because the Property is either, wholly indexed under a single title number, indexed under co-extensive titles, for example co-extensive freehold and leasehold titles; or subject to complex floor levels'.

- 852.2 Councillor Perry to speak to the Landlord regarding parking on the path outside the Bell.

Action Councillor Perry

853 Welcome Pack

- 853.1 Councillors agreed on amendments to the Welcome Pack.

Action Clerk

854 2014/15 Asset Register

- 854.1 This had to be reviewed annually for the end of year Audit. Councillors agreed that it should remain at £1,319,001.

855 Planning

- 855.1 **2015/0084 – Mr. Tony Sprake** – for the erection of a single storey dwelling with attached garage at 133 High Road, Wortwell.

- 855.2 Councillor Hadingham had expressed a prejudicial interest in this item and didn't take part in discussions or voting.

- 855.3 Seven members of the public attended the meeting and had expressed their concern, during the public 10 minutes, at the above proposal. They were concerned at the creation of a new access and felt that this would probably allow for more properties to be built in the future. Mr. Sprake, who attended the meeting, confirmed that he had no intention of applying to build further properties on the site at the present time. He said he would be more than happy to move the building further into the middle of the garden and also move the drive in order to retain an existing tree.

- 855.4 Councillors debated the application and agreed unanimously that they had no objection to the proposed application feeling that it would be an improvement to the site.

Action Clerk

856 Accounts

- 856.1 Copies of budget figures and all payments made to date, including current bank statements were circulated and approved by Councillors.

- 856.2 As the 31st March marked the end of our financial year, the Clerk was given permission to get the March cheques signed before the next meeting in order that they could be cleared before the end of the month.

857 Business for the March meeting

857.1 Members to let the Clerk know of any items they wished to be included on the March Agenda.

858 Close of Meeting

858.1 There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20pm

859 Payment of Accounts

859.1 Expenditure

859.2 E.On – February - £151.98

859.3 Wortwell Community Centre - £14

859.4 Mrs. Pearce – Salary £312.03, Allowance £69.44 = £381.47

859.5 Borderhoppa - Donation - £50

859.6 Bungay Printers – March/April Mardler - £143

859.7 Mr. Reynolds – 6 hours - £48

859.8 Norfolk Pest Control - £80

859.9 Rackhams – 2 barrier keys - £7.85

859.10 Income

859.11 Sale of WW1 books - £4

859.12 Earsham Football Club – January - £104

859.13 Mettingham Football Club – January - £52