

# WORTHAM & BURGATE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) of Wortham & Burgate held 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm in Wortham Village Hall

Cllr Rash ( Chair Wortham PC) County Cllr. J Fleming, 5 members of the general public & N Verkroost (Clerk to the Council)

1. **Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council** – The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting
2. **Apologies for absences:** Cllr Kearsley
3. **To receive an annual report from the County Councillor, Jessica Fleming** – County Councillor Jessica Fleming summarised her report to those present at the meeting; full details can be located at Appendix A. Jessica was thanked for her report.
4. **To receive an annual report from the District Councillor, Diana Kearsley** – District Councillor Diana Kearsley sent her apologies as she may be late arriving as she was attending a meeting in Ipswich. She had not received a report from MSDC so no report given.
5. **To receive an annual report from the Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team** –None
6. **To receive an annual report from the Chair of the Parish Council** –Full details can be located at Appendix B
7. **To receive reports from local clubs and organisations**
  - Wortham Bowls Club.- See appendix C**
  - Wortham Tennis Club - See appendix D-** In answer to the question at the end of the WLTC Report - No upgrading can be discussed until the Parish Council finalises the purchase of the track.
  - Wortham Village Hall-** Thanks was given to Cllr Piper as PC VH Rep. The Village Hall is in a good financial position although it made a small loss in the past financial year. Approx £4000 was spent on repairs and renewals in the past year. The next project is to add a side extension to the east of the existing hall which will provide storage for hall equipment and an archive of important village historical documents and photos.
8. **Parishioners Forum - Nothing to report**

**Meeting closed at 7.45pm**

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## Appendix A

### Annual Report 2017/ 2018

#### Worham & Burgate Parish Council

By County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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State of the County – As Districts and Boroughs in Suffolk redefine themselves and merge or move, the County Council cannot remain unaffected and must work with its partners to be as efficient as possible in managing public funds. The year ahead may see debate over changes at County level as well with the prospect of another look at unitary possibilities.

The Council has initiated several large projects over the past year with help from Government funding, these include The Orwell Crossings in Ipswich (below); the Lowestoft Third River Crossing; planning approval for The Hold records repository in Ipswich; upgrades(2 new roundabouts) to the A140 near Eye; and potentially A12 upgrades near Fornham and Stratford St Andrew.

Highways - Suffolk Highways has established its regional customer service centres at Rougham, Halesworth and Ipswich and the reporting system is now widely used for road and drainage issues. More money has been allocated to pothole repair during 2018 given the hard winter and large number of potholes and defects that need attention.

As a reminder:

Report a defect/ pothole <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

To check on area roadworks - <https://roadworks.org/>

Planning – Suffolk County Council is statutory consultee on highways, flooding, education, and natural and historic environment, it also maintains traffic data and models flow and congestion. SCC continues to work with applicants and others to represent Suffolk’s interests on major projects, such as Sizewell C, the Eye Airfield Gas Fired Power Plant (likely to go ahead in 2019 despite failing to obtain a contract in February), and Scottish Renewables’ offshore wind farms (see below):

Anglia Three (green) received planning approval in 2017 with construction expected to commence in 2022. Anglia One, Two and One – North are at various stages of planning and construction. These projects all demand major supporting infrastructure such as power cables and grid connections.

Nationally the Government has issued several planning White Papers over the past year and recently proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (still time to comment, the consultation ends May 10<sup>th</sup>).

More locally, the County Council advises and comments on planning applications and offers an advisory role on Neighbourhood Planning such as the Diss Area Neighbourhood Plan, the Eye Neighbourhood Plan and the Rickinghall & Botesdale Neighbourhood Plan.

Education – Most people will have seen or responded to proposals to change the way Home to School Transport is organised in the County, the main change would limited free transport to the nearest geographic school. The results of public consultation conducted earlier this year are under review, any changes would be proposed and decided upon this summer.

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Council Budget Challenge –We are now a Business Rates Retention Pilot county with 100% retention being phased in over the next two years. Rates and Community Infrastructure Levy monies are collected by Districts so the County has to bid for the funds it needs to support growth. These ways of raising funds are fairly new and designed to replace the Revenue Support Grant over time.

The County Council needed to raise Council Tax this year to help pay for needed services, unfortunately the demands on services are increasing mainly for health and social care meaning other areas are squeezed. The graph shows how County funds are allocated:  
Our priorities of inclusive growth, health care and well-being, and efficient public services were agreed last June and guide decision making about funds and resources. If you have comments on the priorities or any of this report please get in touch as I would like to hear your views. Thank you for your support and participation over the past year.

### Appendix B

#### **Chairmans Report for Wortham and Burgate APM 3/4/18**

It's been a comparatively quiet year for the Parish Council with several long term issues being progressed slowly due to legal issues.

We have almost reached a successful conclusion on a common land and planning issue in Burgate, but a longer standing planning enforcement issue in Wortham seems never to progress very far.

We hope to complete the purchase of various parcels of the Long Green in the near future but again this has been delayed somewhat by legal matters amongst other things.

After discussing the idea of a neighbourhood plan at last year's Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council spent a great deal of time looking into the matter further. There appeared to be several options, amongst them joining in with the Diss plan, or the Rickinghall and Botesdale plans. Neither of these 2 options appeared to be a good fit and as they were Appendix B cont....

already in progress we had very short deadlines in which to make a choice, so it was decided not to join either of these schemes. The third option was for a plan solely for Wortham and Burgate, after much consideration it was decided that a neighbourhood plan was not suitable for the villages. As a plan would involve identifying areas for development, we felt that rather than being forced into nominating certain areas, we would continue robustly scrutinise any development applications as and when they arise. We have decided to review and amend if required the Village Design Statement and this is underway.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of all our Parishioners, our District and County Councillors for their technical and financial support throughout the last year. I would also like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their work throughout the year.

Cllr Stephen Rash

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## Appendix C

### WORTHAM BOWLS CLUB 2018

In 2017, the club finished well up the Stowmarket League and reached the semi final of the Bullen Knockout competition. A top half finish in the Upper Waveney League coupled with reaching the final of the Plate competition rounded off an enjoyable and successful season.

In 2018, Wortham Bowls Club will once again fields two teams, one in the Stowmarket Triples League and one in the Upper Waveney League. Matches are played on a home and away basis with the first home match against Diss & District Bowls Club on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Thereafter, there will be home fixtures every other week through the summer.

The club has twenty three playing members, with thirteen resident in Wortham. At this stage there are no members from Burgate!

The season officially opens with an informal roll-up at 2pm on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and once again everyone is welcome, including potential new members interested in trying their luck at bowls (especially from Burgate).

The improvements to the access track past the village hall and tennis club are appreciated and the bowls club would consider contributing to the future upkeep if appropriate.

Finally, we are very proud to represent the villages and thank you for your continued support.

Brian Callin

**Hon Secretary, Wortham Bowls Club**

## Appendix D

Wortham Lawn Tennis Club Ltd

Report for Parish Council AGM 2018

The Tennis Club continues to thrive with a growing adult and junior membership, at the last count our membership numbers were in the high 200s. The club is recognised both within the county, region and nationally as a proactive club of best practice.

Our head coach Emily Wharton has forged strong links with Wortham Primary School and delivers coaching and after school clubs both at the school site and at the club as part of the school's sports premium budget.

The club has adult teams in the South Norfolk, Norfolk & Suffolk, Norwich Winter League and Vets League and also in the Ipswich and Felixstowe floodlit leagues. Our juniors compete in LTA team leagues within the region.

Part of why the club is popular is the fact that tennis is available to all comers, irrespective of age or ability.

Our social players are catered for as our beginners, and we aim to make it a welcoming environment..

During the year we raised over £1500 for two charities, and one of the highlights of the year was having Terry Waite at the club to present the awards for our fundraising Emmaus Charity event for which he is their national patron

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More recently a group of supporters went to Tallinn in Estonia to support the GB ladies team, and the Wortham Union Jack flag was seen on national TV and on the LTA British Tennis website.

We are hugely indebted to the Parish Council for their continued support in all that we aspire to achieve, (in my role as vice chair of Suffolk LTA, I see the difficulty some clubs are experiencing, due to a non-co-operative PC)

Julia Waters – Chairman Wortham LTC Ltd

PS Is there any news on when the access road will be upgraded ?