

WORTHAM & BURGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) of Wortham & Burgate held 2nd April 2019 at 7.00pm in Wortham Village Hall

Cllr J Bradley (Vice Chair Wortham PC) County Cllr. J Fleming, 18 members of the general public & N Verkroost (Clerk to the Council)

1. **Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council** – The Vice 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 . A full report can be located at **Appendix B**. Cllr Kearsley informed the PC that she would not be standing at the next election on May 2nd. The Clerk to contact Cllr Kearsley and thank her for all her work in the past 16 years.
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** –None
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 regarding the pot holes in the track at the Village Hall. - This to be discussed at the Parish Council Meeting.
 - Wortham, Burgate & District Twinning Association- See appendix E**
 - Wortham Welfare Trust** - Cllr Bradley informed the meeting about the workings of the Trust and how it was set up. Land was left for the benefit of the Parish which was sold and the money invested to provide an income. At the moment this income is around £3000 per annum. This money is used to help parishioners facing difficulty and a great deal of care and discretion is used when providing this support. Contacts for the Trust are Sue Bawden, Jacky Bradley , Maureen Ling, Jenny Piper, Janice Lloyd , Jonny Dickson, John Scott and The Rector.
8. **To receive a presentation from the Parish Council on the possible provision of a New Village Hall in Wortham-** Cllrs Wright & Hovey gave a short presentation explaining the idea of replacing the existing Wortham Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee decided to re-think the planned extension of the existing village hall (by majority vote) and presented the idea to extend the cricket pavilion instead to the Parish Council at the last meeting in February.

The Parish Council thought that this was a suggestion worth considering due to the age of the existing hall and the potential for being able to provide more facilities to the parish subject to funding and planning considerations.

This could mean that the existing hall and land would be sold and the Parish Council were strongly in favour of this site being used to provide affordable housing.

None of this would be possible without the agreement of the majority of parishioners and the agreement of the Charities Commission.

Meeting the needs of existing users and hall events is a key requirement, more formal consultation will be held as to what additional facilities could be considered for incorporation into a new hall.

Those present were to asked for their comments on the idea and the reaction was a positive one.
9. **Parishioners Forum - Nothing to report**

The Vice Chair thanked those who attended.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

1275 **APPROVED**

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Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

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Appendix A



Annual Report 2018/ 2019

Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming

State of the County – A new administration took over running the Council last May. The administration now includes Leader Cllr Mathew Hicks , a new Deputy, Cllr Mary Evans who is also Cabinet Member for Highways, and a new Chief Executive, Nicola Beach. Improving local roads and infrastructure and using limited funds efficiently have been the main focus over the past year.

Major Road Improvements –The Council has started detailed design for the Lowestoft Third River Crossing, the Beccles Southern Relief Road was officially opened in September; and planning approval is expected shortly for upgrades to the A140 near Eye (2 new roundabouts and a link road).

The Council is considering options for an Ipswich Northern Fringe Road. Public consultation on possible routes and junctions with the A14 and A12 will begin in the Summer 2019.

'The Hold' Historic Records Centre, Ipswich - construction has commenced and the new centre is set to open in Spring 2020. It will replace the existing Ipswich Record Office in Gatacre Road, the Lowestoft and Bury Record Offices will remain open. On this basis Suffolk Record Office was on March 28th awarded Archive Service Accreditation, a quality standard which allows records of national importance to be retained in the County in the long term.

Upgrades to Suffolk Recycling Centres – The County is investing £6m into upgrades or replacement at Foxhall, Haverhill, Ipswich and Stowmarket; a suitable new site is needed for the latter. Construction is expected to get underway in 2019/20.

Highways - Suffolk Highways service centres at Rougham, Halesworth and Ipswich are now well established and community wardens have been working with parishes. In January Suffolk Highways purchased three Nu-phalt Thermal Patching machines aided by a central government grant. This enables Highways teams to carry out more effective, durable road repairs in poor weather.

The web based reporting system is now widely used for road and drainage issues -as a reminder:

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

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

Broadband – The Council, in partnership with Districts, has secured £1.725m from DEFRA to help provide Superfast Broadband access to rural businesses currently excluded from fibre broadband rollout, and to enable additional non-business premises to upgrade. This will help connect some of the remaining 2% of the County not covered by existing contracts, although more work is needed to reach all premises. Connections for the qualifying rural areas will begin later in 2019.

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Planning and Major Projects – Suffolk County Council works closely with applicants and comments on national scale projects, it determines applications for waste, minerals, highways and some schools and is a consultee on local planning proposals.

In the past year the Council has reviewed and objected to several aspects of EDF's Stage 3 plans for Sizewell C namely road transport, effects on protected species and landscapes, and construction logistics. Similarly, it has objected to plans for land based infrastructure associated with off-shore wind farms over harm to the natural environment and cumulative effects on the East Suffolk coast.

Nationally the Government issued an updated National Planning Policy Framework in July and new guidance on Neighbourhood Plans. The Council has begun work on its own Design Guidance which will be available later this year to help influence and improve the quality of new development.

Council Budget Challenge – With the reduced government revenue support grant the Council needed to raise council tax this year to help pay for needed services, particularly health and social care which now take ¾ of the total budget of £519m.

If you have comments or questions about this report or any other matter 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

**Mid Suffolk District Councillor Report to
Wortham & Burgate Parish Council**
Cllr Diana Kearsley, Gisingham Ward

April 2019

An issue that creates a great deal of concern amongst our village community is the housing need and national government's directive to build more homes up and down the country. Mid Suffolk has been addressing this for several years and designing new policies, a Joint Local Plan, encouraging Neighbourhood Plans etc. to give communities more say in this. There are now some results inasmuch as the Joint Local Plan will be finalised this year, more neighbourhood plans are being produced, all of which will help to make sure our lovely, local rural villages are not lost. National government have stipulated that MSDC is expected to provide an annual build of approximately 500 homes per annum. The imminent Joint Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans etc. will allow a greater degree of control and protection of our rural Suffolk scene. The plus sign resulting in any increased development is the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), (which came into force in April 2018) and the first 'bidding round' was announced on the 1st May last year. Parishes within villages who have a 'neighbourhood plan' receive 25% of CIL funding collected from developments within their village and those who do not have such a plan receive 15% to spend on infrastructure needed in the village. Other more major infrastructure needs can enter into a general CIL123 funding – this is mainly for major needs such as new sports and recreational equipment, village hall refurbishments, school extensions etc. For information about the next 'bidding round 3' is available on the MSDC website and opens on 1st May 2019.

Since I became your District Councillor, 16 years ago much has happened within local authorities and one project in MSDC comes to mind – in 2003 when I was first elected to stand as your councillor the word SnoAsis kept cropping up at various meetings. At that time I hadn't a clue what this was about but after a while I realised that this was an idea for a major ski-slope and sports centre in Great Blakenham – and in fact a far bigger project incorporating a ski-slope, toboggan run, ice rinks, usual sports facilities, entertainment dome, hotel, retail area, houses, apartments, chalets conference & exhibition centre all covering 304 acre site in Gt Blakenham. Sixteen years later permission has been granted for this amazing project and is possibly the most exciting development in Suffolk - phase one of this sports complex will start this year.

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On that note, I have decided not to stand for another 4 years on the District Council and will not be seeking re-election in May. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over these last 16 years - it has been a privilege to represent you in the Gislingham Ward and I have enjoyed my work, involvement and commitment to MSDC very much – albeit a few difficult moments now and then!

Best wishes,
Cllr Diana Kearsley
Gislingham Ward, MSDC

Appendix C

WORTHAM BOWLS CLUB 2019

WORTHAM BOWLS CLUB Once again, Wortham finished comfortably in the top half of the Stowmarket League and maintained its position in Division One of the Upper Waveney League. We will be back from the winter break soon with the official season opening event to be held on Easter Saturday (20th April 2019). In addition to the Upper Waveney League and Stowmarket League, we have entered a team into the Bury & District League for the first time in many years which will play on a Monday afternoon.

Presidents Day, 11th August 2019 Also, 2019 will be a special season as our Chairman, Bernie Trigg, is also Honorary President of the Upper Waveney League for one year and will be hosting a 'Presidents Day' bowls competition in August 2019. Clubs from across Norfolk and Suffolk will enter teams and the village hall will be used to serve post-match refreshments and to host the award of competition prizes. Drainage and Irrigation The club would like to thank the Parish Council for the work undertaken on drainage for the playing field and advise that the flooding of the green experienced in recent years has been avoided in 2019 (so far!). To further enhance the playing surface at the club, we have been actively raising funds for an automated irrigation system which will ensure that the correct amount of water is applied to the bowls green throughout the season. This will be especially important this year as the club will play more home fixtures (three leagues) and will host the Presidents Day. We also aim to encourage as many 'casual bowlers' to try bowls in an informal environment on Friday evenings. The initial support from the Parish Council for our 'irrigation project' was very helpful and continued support in relation to the Sport England funding award would be much appreciated.

Brian Callin
Hon Secretary, Wortham Bowls Club

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Appendix D

Wortham Lawn Tennis Club Ltd

Report for Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 2nd April 2019

The tennis club continues to thrive with approx. 240 members, comprising of minis, juniors, students, adults and veterans (now renamed seniors by British Tennis). We are regarded in high esteem both at county and national level, and for those of you who watch Davis Cup or Fed Cup on tele, the Wortham flag is always visible, and we are constantly being asked by fellow supporters "Where is Wortham", proud to say in Suffolk !!!

During the last 12 months we also introduced an additional category called Younger members aged 18-25 not in education, this was in a bid to retain or attract young adult members without having to incur the full membership fee of £110, and this was reduced to £50.

A relatively new member has introduced what is called the "Pub League" it is a social league mostly for players not in the teams, to play competitive team tennis on one Friday per month, with the proviso that they all go down to The Manor House for a drink afterwards (even if just for a Coke!!). This has been greatly received and it's great for us to integrate with the local businesses. The Tea Shop is always well supported by the ladies in the club for the coffee and cake.

The courts are very well used during the weekday mornings, and for the summer term on Tuesdays from 1pm – 3pm the courts will be used by Palgrave school to deliver tennis activities, in the past the same has facilitated to Wortham School.

The 4 tennis courts are being repainted in early May at a cost of £9500, which will obviously be done in two tone green to keep in with surroundings' of the common.

In addition to this, as we speak, unfortunately, we have a major electrical fault, which has been diagnosed as a cable problem between the hut and the pavilion, this repair will be in the region of £2000. The current electric bill caused concern with a rise from approx. £270 to £850, however, the meter readings were correct, and the electrician said that there was a possibility, that this was caused by the current problem, with the floodlights tripping and major surges needed to reboot the lights, and the possibility of electric leaking through a broken underground cable.

Whilst I understand that there are difficult financial times ahead for PCs, but one area of great concern to us is the condition of the road, the holes are getting bigger and bigger and deeper and deeper, and it's now hard to find a bit of road to go around to miss a hole, we are just hoping for no damage to the vehicles.

Can I finish by thanking Netty for all of her help and advice, and to the Parish Council and Playing Fields committee for their continued support to Wortham TC, with my Suffolk LTA hat on I get to hear of many clubs having difficulty with their PC's, so I am extremely grateful of the relationship we have with our PC.

Regards

Julia Waters – Chair of Wortham Tennis Club Limited.

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APPENDIX E

WORTHAM , BURGATE & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Wortham, Burgate and District Twinning Association continues to have a healthy membership of around 80 including some families. Whilst our primary aim is to extend friendship to our twin town of Hédé Bazouges, by way of exchange visits, we also continue to have a programme of social and educational events for members throughout the year.

Last year it was our turn to host and we had a total of 41 visitors from Hédé, including 15 young people plus 2 from Badbergen in Germany who are also twinned with Hédé. Over a weekend of wonderful weather, we entertained our visitors with various activities. This included a trip to Oulton Broad, the cost for the French being part funded by the Parish Council. I would like to express our thanks for the Parish Council's for their contribution to this successful visit.

We continue to run French conversation groups and more structured French classes for adults at different skill levels. Also, In the last six months we have been working with Wortham School and recently took part in a French morning with activities for children and their parents. As a result, at least one family will be joining us when we visit France at the end of May. Currently 28 members will be visiting Hédé at that time.

We aim to ensure that we have sufficient funds to be able to give some subsidies to families for travel to Hédé, as well as being able to fund the hosting visit every other year (including some subsidy for host families). An important part of our fund-raising activities is taking produce to sell at the Christmas Market in Hédé each year. Not only is this important for fundraising but also important for our friends in Hédé. The Christmas market is the way they raise money to pay for our visits to them and as such it is important to them that we are a visible presence there.

In terms of social events we aim to organise two or three events per year, including film nights, talks and general social get togethers. The most recent of such events was a visit to Starwings Brewery at Redgrave.

Linda Simpson

Chair Wortham, Burgate & District Twinning Association