

Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) of Wortham & Burgate Parish Council held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7pm

Council members present: Cllrs B Cole (Chair), J Bradley (Vice Chair), S Wright, J Piper, R Thornton, D Ling, M Odams and I Hovey
County Councillor J Fleming, District Councillor R Warboys, 1 member of the general public & J Wright (Clerk to the Council)

1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council - Councillor Cole welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the 2019 meeting - Due to lockdown restrictions in place, the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting did not take place, Due to these restrictions discussions regarding the redevelopment of the Village Hall that had been discussed previously are still unfortunately work in progress.
3. To receive an Annual Report from the County Councillor, Jessica Fleming - County Councillor Jessica Fleming summarised her report to those present. For full details of the report, please see [Appendix 1](#). Councillor Fleming was thanked for her report.
4. To receive an Annual Report from the District Councillor, Rowland Warboys - Councillor Warboys congratulated the Parish Council for rising to the challenges that lockdown restrictions had presented. Councillor Warboys was pleased to have been able to help support the new notice boards at Wortham Ling and passed his thanks to Sue Sidle and Caroline Blacker for all their hard work. Together with Councillor Fleming, Councillor Warboys has taken quite an interest in Wortham Ling and all the planned improvements. For the full report please see [Appendix 2](#). Councillor Cole thanked Councillor Warboys for his report.
5. To receive an Annual Report from the Chair of the Parish Council, Barry Cole - For full details of Councillor Cole's report see [Appendix 3](#)
6. To receive reports from local clubs and organisations -
Wortham Bowls Club - see [Appendix 4](#)
Wortham Lawn Tennis Club - see [Appendix 5](#)
7. Parishioners Forum - Nothing to report
The Chairman thanked those in attendance.
Meeting closed at 7.23pm.

2021/PC/28.....APPROVED.....

Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

Appendix 1 & 2 attached separately

WBPC ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 6 APRIL 2021

CHAIR'S REPORT - APPENDIX 3

It has been a strange, but busy year all round with no face-to-face meetings.

Over the last 12 months Stephen Rash, Chair of the Parish Council resigned and I was duly elected in his place. We are very grateful to Stephen for his many years of service and his contribution to village life.

We were also very saddened to hear of the death of Terry Quinn, who was a long serving member of the Council.

Within the last week, Paul Weaver has resigned from the Council and we wish him well for the future.

Planning activities have taken up a good part of our time and we also commented on the Government's proposals to reform the Planning Policy.

We continue to take forward plans for a number of major projects in the Parish; these include the updating of the children's playground, the redevelopment of Wortham Village Hall, the development of the space in front of the school used for parking, continuing to repair the potholes on the track leading to the Pavilion (and possible complete resurfacing). Public consultation will be needed for some of these projects in due course.

A working group is being established to develop a structured strategic plan to meet the needs of the community and to make sure that we benefit from levies and other funds generated through developments.

I am very grateful to all my colleagues for the unpaid contributions that they make to the work of the Council and to Jane, our Clerk, for keeping us all in order.

I should also like to thank both Rowland and Jessica, our District and County Councillors, for their staunch support and contributions from their budgets to the life of the Parish.

Barry Cole
Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

Appendix 4 - attached separately

Wortham Lawn Tennis Club Report 2021 - Appendix 5

2020 impacted on us all in many ways, not least on tennis. Looking back to the start of our season, I was elected Chair of the tennis club at our own AGM, taking over from Julia Waters who served for many years on the committee and a decade as Chair. Just three weeks later we went into our first lockdown and all tennis activity was suspended.

Shortly afterwards we received the sad news that a former stalwart of the club, Paul Howling, had died suddenly. Paul fulfilled almost every position on the club committee over the years and many will know him from his work at Howards and volunteering at the Corn Hall. He was very knowledgeable about the history of the club and is missed.

After a few weeks, singles tennis was allowed and, as many of our members are classed as vulnerable, it was important to take precautions. We made a video with club members demonstrating safe play and conduct around the court and car park. Members were very respectful of each other and followed the rules to help keep everyone safe and able to play, even putting up with Track and Trace and having their temperatures taken.

So desperate were many of us to hit a tennis ball that we resurrected our rather rusty singles play, serving only with personal, marked balls and clacking our racquets instead of shaking well-gelled hands. Eventually doubles play and junior coaching were permitted, and the junior holiday camps were busy and successful.

Although we have been unable to have our normal social and open events, our intra-club tournaments and box leagues flourished. We had a different but friendly Finals Day in September before lockdown hit again. Although we were not able to have our usual barbecue and home-made cake, family groups brought picnics and created a great atmosphere with lots of support for the adults and juniors who were competing.

We have taken the opportunity to undertake a lot of maintenance, including two lots of de-mossing, trimming the hedges, re-hanging the club hut door and regular visits to remove the walnut shells kindly left on the courts by the birds and squirrels. We have made plans for a path from the car park to the courts which will enable better access including disabled tennis.

This year has reminded us of the vital importance of village activities: being able to play social and competitive tennis in Wortham has meant a huge amount to our members, and I would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support and encouragement.

Dr Pamela Chrispin, Chair WLTC