Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wortham & Burgate Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 in Wortham Village Hall at 7.30pm

Councillors present: Barry Cole, Jacky Bradley, Sue Wright, Chris Williams, Chris Grocott, Carl Baker, Jenny Piper, Ian Hovey, Richard Thornton, Nick Castle, Mike Odams, David Ling

In attendance: CC Cllr Fleming, DC Cllr Warboys and Jane Challis (Clerk)

- 1. Chair's Welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence Cllr Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- To approve the draft minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting -2.1 Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29th November 2022 – Approval proposed by Cllr Hovey; seconded by Cllr Bradley and approved unanimously with two abstentions (councillors who were not present at the meeting).
- 3. To record declarations of Interest from members in any item to be discussed Cllr Cole and Cllr Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest against agenda item 11.4.Cllr Ling declared a non-pecuniary interest against agenda item 9. Councillors agreed unanimously that Cllr Cole, Cllr Williams, and Cllr Ling could participate in the discussions for the items they had made a declaration against, but abstain from voting.
- 4. To consider dispensations from members in any item to be discussed See agenda item 3.

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation – 7:32pm

5.1 To receive residents' questions or comments – no residents present.

5.2 To receive reports from District & County Councillors -

CC Cllr Fleming read highlights from her report, which had been sent prior to councillors prior to the meeting; Appendix 1. In addition, CC Cllr Fleming advised that she has written a letter of support against agenda item 11.4.

7:37pm DC Cllr Warboys arrived.

Cllr Cole proposed moving to agenda items 12 and 13; agreed unanimously.

(12. Update on School Flashing Light Units on A143)

CC Cllr Fleming reported that one of the lights is broken and a replacement due. The timing of the flashing lights will default to the county wide setting unless the school requests otherwise.

(13. Update on extending the 30mph speed limit on the Mellis road) Progressing: CC Cllr Fleming reported that the County Council has conducted speed testing which has confirmed speeds close to 60mph on the Mellis road. Suffolk Police have confirmed their support of the speed limit extension.

There were no questions from councillors. Cllr Grocott thanked CC Cllr Fleming for all of her help with both items.

2022/PC/107..... Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council DC Cllr Warboys read through his report, which had been sent to councillors in advance of the meeting: Appendix 2.

There were no questions from councillors and Cllr Cole thanked CC Cllr Fleming and DC Cllr Warboys for their reports.

6. To reconvene the meeting – 7:55pm

7:56pm CC Cllr Fleming left the meeting.

- 7. To receive the Chairman's report a report has been received of builders parking their vans on the area of common outside the school. They are working on a site near Cherry Tree Close which it appears may be ongoing for 9-12 months. Cllr Cole has spoken to the Head of Wortham Primary School who has subsequently spoken to the Foreman, and they are now parking elsewhere.
- 8. To receive the Clerk's report & o/s actions from the last meeting (For information only) -EN020027 East Anglia GREEN EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation – the approved response from the Parish Council was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the 5th December 2022 deadline, and an acknowledgment received. Appendix 3. ESN Pylon Group Visual Impact Map - the identified locations were collated and added to the map.

9. Aura Power Solar Farm -

Palgrave Parish Council are keen to create a joint Working Group and arrange a date for the first meeting. After discussing, councillors agreed that they need to wait until a formal planning application consultation request is received for the proposed solar farm development, before deciding the council's collective response, and whether a Working Party is therefore appropriate. ACTION - Clerk to advise Palgrave Parish Council Clerk as above

10. Donation requests -

10.1 Wortham and Burgate PCC requests. A request has been received from Wortham and Burgate PCCs for a donation towards maintenance of the churchyards. After discussing, Cllr Wright proposed a donation of £450 to each PCC. Seconded by Cllr Thornton and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange donations as above

11. To consider, agree and/or note new planning applications:

To receive an update on Oak Trees Burgate - NO UPDATE 11.1

To receive an update for APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/22/02774. 11.2 Full Planning Application - Erection of 3No dwellings including new vehicular access, with associated garage and parking, as amended by revised plans and reports received 20th July 2022. Land North of Willow Corner Cottage, Church Road, Wortham - AWAITING DECISION

11.3 To receive an update for Application for Approval of Reserved Matters DC/22/05607, following Outline Planning Permission DC/22/00655 dated 15/07/22. Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Submission of details for Appearance, Scale, Layout and Landscaping - Erection of 4No. dwellings. Land at Honeypot Farm, bury Road, Wortham, IP22 1PW - WITHDRAWN

To consider and discuss APPLICATION FOR LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE 11.4 (EXISTING) - DC/22/06319. Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity including those in breach of a planning condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Continued use of land used for an airstrip and taxiways, and buildings used for hangarage of aircraft and associated storage. Brook Farm, Mellis Road, Burgate, IP22 1QB.

2022/PC/108..... Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

After discussing councillors agreed that there is no reason to object to this application. Cllr Wright proposed the council support the application; seconded by Cllr Bradley and approved unanimously with 2 abstentions.

ACTION - Clerk to add comment against DC/22/06319 to MSDC Planning Portal as above

- **12. Update on School Flashing Light Units on A143** As above.
- **13. Update on extending the 30mph speed limit on the Mellis Road** As above.

14. Update on electricity meter at the Pavilion -

The Clerk reported that EON have read the meter and confirmed there is a £954.00 refund due. The charges were previously being calculated on estimates. They have suggested fitting a Smart meter to ensure accurate remote readings. Pricing and further details have been requested. A surveyor from UK Power Networks is conducting a site visit tomorrow morning, due to the one scheduled for 12th December 2022 being cancelled. Cllr Williams agreed to be present for the site visit, with the Clerk.

15. Green outside Wortham Primary School

Further to discussions at the last meeting, Cllr Ling prepared a site plan with proposed renovations/parking improvements to the area of common land outside the school, which he presented to councillors. A lengthy discussion ensued with the following points raised: Recent weeks indicate that it is not only the school using the area for parking.

Green spaces should be preserved and we should be encouraging people to walk more.

There are public liability concerns against it being used as a parking area.

Alternative options need to be investigated, such as a phased school drop off system, and timecontrolled traffic lights which would also encourage parents to park at the pavilion instead. Could signage such as 'park here at your own risk' be erected.

Could the council approach the school, and possibly immediate residents, to see if they would be interested in purchasing the area of land, and therefore being wholly responsible and liable. Councillors discussed the idea of selling, or possibly leasing, the area of land to the school or residents further, with an initial letter to the school being suggested in order to ascertain their interest. There were however concerns over the implications of the council losing control of the land, and whose responsibility it is to resolve the parking issues outside of the school. It was agreed to speak to the insurance provider regarding public liability concerns and find out more on the implications of a 90 year full repairing lease, before discussing further. Cllr Cole thanked Cllr Ling for the plans he had prepared.

ACTION – Clerk to speak to insurance provider and look at leases as above

16. King's Coronation May 2023

Councillors agreed the Parish Council will arrange an event to celebrate the King's Coronation, possibly a picnic on the common on the 8th May. The beacon will also be lit although there appears to be no official lighting of the beacons as there was for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A Working Group will be arranged.

17. To consider and approve Budget 2023/24

A draft budget 2023/24 was prepared by the Clerk and forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting. After discussing, Cllr Williams proposed approval of the Budget 2023/24; seconded by Cllr Wright and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to update and publish Budget 2023/24

2022/PC/109..... Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

18. To consider and approve Precept request 2023/24

After discussing and taking into account the approved Budget 2023/24, Cllr Williams proposed a precept request of £19,300.00 for 2023/24. Seconded by Cllr Baker and approved unanimously. Cllr Cole (Chair) and the Clerk signed the completed Precept request form. **ACTION – Clerk to submit completed precept request form to BMSDC by 31st January 2023 deadline.**

19. Accounts:

19.1 Account Balances as of 12th January 2023

19.1.1	Current Account	£38,171.76
19.1.2	Reserves Account	£71,921.92
19.1.3	Commons Account	£7,393.63

19.2 Account Payments

19.2.1	Jane Challis	January Salary	397.75
19.2.2	HMRC	January NIC payment	99.60
19.2.3	Niki Hinton	January Salary	97.50
19.2.4	Safe & Sound	Mole control November 8804	60.00
19.2.5	Safe & Sound	Mole Control December 8872	60.00
19.2.6	Wortham Village Hall	November hall hire	22.00

19.3 Direct Debit Payments

19.3.1	HSBC	Bank Charges	8.00
19.3.2	02	Mobile Phone Dec	29.62
19.3.3	02	Mobile Phone Jan	29.62

19.4 Receipts

19.4.1	DEFRA	Rural Payments Agency	2,380.00

Any additional payments/receipts received prior to the meeting:

19.2.7	C. Grocott Expenses	Padlocks for new Magpie Green sign	20.00
19.2.8	Jane Challis	February Salary	397.75
19.2.9	HMRC	February NIC payment	99.60
19.2.10	Niki Hinton	February Salary	97.50

Proposed by Cllr Hovey that all payments be approved en bloc; seconded by Cllr Baker and approved unanimously with one abstention against item 19.2.7.

20. To receive and discuss items from Committees / Working Groups

20.1 Playing Field Committee – nothing to report.

20.2 Commons Committee – nothing to report.

20.3 Finance Representative – a meeting was held with the Clerk prior to the meeting, to discuss the draft Budget 2023/24.

20.4 Employment Committee - Review meetings will be held in early February.

20.5 Planning Committee – a meeting of the Planning Committee will be arranged by March. **20.6 New Village Hall Working Group** – Cllr Hovey reported that he has contacted Ashtons Legal, and is waiting for their confirmation as to whether or not they are in procession of the original Deed for the village hall.

20.7 VHMC – nothing to report.

20.8 Rights of Way – Asbestos has been fly tipped near Stubbings Entry, as well as some old fridges on the concrete pad area. Cllr Bradley said she will report them and arrange for their removal.

20.10 Councillors: - Cllr Baker asked the Clerk to ensure the Football Club Agreement and invoicing are up to date. Cllr Wright said that despite a report being raised with Suffolk Highways, no action has been taken regarding the dead willow tree opposite the Manor House.

ACTION – Clerk to follow up Highways report raised regarding the willow tree, and ensure invoicing is up to date as above.

21. Correspondence Received –

An email has been received from a resident regarding parking issues outside of Wortham Tea Rooms, and repairs/improvements required to the gravel track and broken signage and posts. The Clerk will advise that improvements requested by way of installation of disabled parking bays and electric vehicle charging points, are not the Parish Council's responsibility, but the repairs to the track and broken posts will be investigated and discussed further at a future meeting. An email has been received regarding maintenance of an area of land in Long Green. After discussing, it was agreed for the Clerk to reply to confirm the Parish Council is happy for the resident to maintain the land.

An email has been received, further to the correspondence as per the minutes of 18th October 2022, regarding a community orchard and Dark Skies certification. After discussing it was agreed for the Clerk to advise the resident that due to the nature of the common land owned by the Parish Council, there is nowhere suitable for a community orchard project. Regarding the Dark Skies certification, if the resident wishes to nominate a site as a Dark Sky Place, they need to submit a written application to the International Dark Sky Association. This can be done by an individual as well as a group.

2022/PC/111.....

Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

9:25pm DC Cllr Warboys left the meeting.

22. To receive items for the next agenda – none received.

23. To agree date and times of 2023 meetings – the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th March 2023 in Wortham Village Hall at 7:30pm. The Clerk will circulate proposed meeting dates for 2023/24 to councillors for approval at the next meeting.

Meeting Close - 9:31pm

APPENDIX 1

County Councillor Report



January 2023

Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division Tel. 07714-597980 Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk

The 'County Deal' – Council Leader Matthew Hicks has signed a 'minded to' agreement with Government for provisional devolution of powers and funding. If it proceeds, this would provide new money for sustainable building, regeneration of brownfield land and other areas aimed to stimulate the local economy. Neighbouring counties Norfolk and Essex have signed the same provisional agreement and we are working closely with them. The 'deal' includes acceptance of different local governance arrangements including a directly elected County leader. Details and public consultation are planned before debate at full council where a decision will be made.

Police & Crime Commissioner precept survey – The Police and Crime Panel is considering a proposal to raise the policing precept by £15 a year (for a Band D property) which is considered essential to maintain an efficient and effective service. Please take part in the survey (link below) - click <u>here</u>. Information about the work of PCC Tim Passmore is <u>here</u>.

Domestic Abuse Update - Suffolk's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy was published last year and some funding set aside for victim support and training. Domestic Abuse Champion training is free to anyone who lives or works in Suffolk. I To book training please visit Eventbrite's website and search 'Suffolk Domestic Abuse Champions Network' or email <u>dachampions@suffolk.gov.uk</u>

Warm Spaces - There are also more than 250 voluntary warm spaces across Suffolk, where residents can meet up with members of the community in a warm, safe space, at no charge. A map of warm spaces in Suffolk can be found on the Rural Coffee Caravan website: <u>https://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/map/_</u>Also Suffolk Libraries are registered as warm spaces this winter. Information and opening times for Suffolk Libraries can be found at <u>https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/</u>

Communities can set up their own Warm Space for local residents, refer to the Rural Coffee Caravan and Community Action Suffolk at: <u>https://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/winter-warmth/#warmspaces</u>

Sunnica Solar Farm – update - SCC has commented at the first hearing of the formal Examination process (Tuesday 6 December 2022) that the current proposal is 'not close to being acceptable'. The planning inspectorate examination concludes on 28th March 2023, during which time more sessions will be held, a decision is expected by the end of the year.

Council Budget – A residents' survey of council priorities conducted in October shows that adult and young persons social care are highest priorities for council expenditure, with mental health services roads and pavements, and local transport following. Under the proposals, the budget would increase by 9.6% (from £625.3m to £685.3). Additional funds would come from a total 3.99% overall increase in Council Tax, 1.99% in general Council Tax and a 2.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care. The budget will be debated at the February County Council meeting.

A Band D property would pay £28.70 per week (£1.10 pence per week increase from 2022-23).

EAG - A letter has been sent by the Minister of State Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP to interested parties across East Anglia impacted by new transmission infrastructure, offshore wind connections, or interconnector projects. This letter has been sent separately to the parish council. It addresses:

1. A review of *existing* connections in East Anglia: - requested by MPs but will not take place as;

"In most cases, offshore wind developers in the region already have connection contracts in place with National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) and the Government will not, and cannot, force changes to these contracts; any attempt to mandate changes to connection contracts at this stage would be open to legal challenge by developers"

2. Revised Energy National Policy Statements (These policies set out how the Secretary of State should determine applications for energy National Infrastructure Projects such as, pylon lines, windfarms and Interconnectors, when they are in the scope of the Planning Act 2008).

"Our proposed changes to National Policy Statements (which set out the expectations against which planning proposals are tested) will strengthen emphasis on the coordination of transmission infrastructure and include the need to demonstrate a reduction in environmental and community impacts through coordination. Communities will be able to respond to the consultation on these changes in early 2023. Following the consultation, the revised documents will also need to be approved by Parliament, ensuring full democratic accountability both locally and nationally."

- 3. Reducing onshore impacts and supporting coordination by voluntary means
- a) Nautilus Interconnector

"In recognition of the significant volume of infrastructure planned for development in East Anglia, my Department is working closely with developers to encourage voluntary coordination of connections for projects that already have grid connections. This could reduce landing points in East Anglia, and we have already seen progress. National Grid Ventures has confirmed it is investigating an alternative brownfield connection point for their Nautilus multi-purpose Interconnector, on the Isle of Grain in Kent, as an alternative to Friston, Suffolk."

b) Coordination of offshore wind and interconnectors

"I launched the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme(OCSS). This is an open competition grant scheme with up to £100m available, targeting well advanced offshore wind and certain offshore energy assets (such as interconnectors) in Great Britain.

It will provide funding to successful applicants to develop feasible coordinated designs for their transmission infrastructure, which could reduce connection infrastructure. We are engaging with developers in East Anglia who we hope will apply. The scheme will close for applications in February 2023, with funding allocated by the middle of 2023"

4. A review of revised connections by National Grid

Given the potential outcomes of achieving coordination through incentivised voluntary means and the potential alterations to connection arrangements

"The Electricity System Operator (ESO) is exploring how it could undertake a study into the implications of coordination on the network, onshore and offshore, in and around East Anglia. This study would be independently conducted by the ESO It is important to note that this would follow on from the conclusion of the OCSS grant scheme."

5. Community Benefits

"While steps are being taken to coordinate and reduce infrastructure where possible, new infrastructure will be needed. Communities that host network infrastructure are playing a vital role in enabling a cheaper, cleaner and selfsufficient energy supply for Britain and it is only right that they benefit from this<u>. A consultation on gov.uk is planned</u> in the first quarter of 2023 on community benefits for communities hosting onshore transmission network infrastructure"

6. The future role of the Minister of State will be changing

"Given my intention to engage actively with local MPs, developers, and other interested parties on all of the issues here, I should make clear that I will not be the decision-taking Minister for these forthcoming planning applications in East Anglia"

7. Future meetings with MPs and project developers

"Last month I met with East Anglian MPs and separately with developers of projects in the region, to understand community concerns and encourage efforts to reduce infrastructure. I will be meeting with both groups again on this matter early in 2023."

APPENDIX 2

District Councillor's Report for Gislingham Ward: Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, `Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils

Voter ID	 Next year's elections will see the introduction of the need to present photographic ID before being allowed to vote. This will include: Various concessionary travel passes PASS cards Ministry of Defence identity cards Photocard parking permits issued as part of the Blue Badge scheme Driver's licenses Passports Free Voter Cards, provided by local authorities (B&MSDC's are in the process of planning this). Expired photographic identification will also be accepted if the photograph is of a good enough likeness to allow polling station staff to confirm the identity of the holder.
Mid Suffolk rural transport/electric minibus project. 21 st Nov. 22	Member Working Group meeting monthly – next meeting 19 th Dec. 22 Officers are now working to develop a proposal which aligns this project with Gateway 14 provision. In order to allow time to work with G14 colleagues on this the timeline is being pushed back to take this to cabinet to February, rather than January as originally intended. An update on how this is developing will be given at our next member working group mting on the 19 th December. Briefly: Proceed with a DRT (Demand Responsive Transport) option linked into G14 provision. Use ringfenced funding to add value to upcoming provision Work closely with G14 to see how the provision associated with the site will look and operate, and seek opportunities to add onto this provision, e.g., to fund an expansion of this operation to serve rural commuters, and other passenger needs, using the G14 shuttle as an 'anchor service' Formal adoption of the 'Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2037' by Mid Suffolk District Council
New Neighbourhood Plan	 Mid Suffolk District Council have decided to 'make' (adopt) the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan 2018 - 2037. This decision came into effect on Thursday 24 November 2022. This new version of the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan now replaces the previously adopted Plan (from March 2017) and must be used by both planning applicants and decision maker alike where it is relevant to do so. Links to the Adoption Statement and the new Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan can be found on our website at: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/MendleshamNP
Support for children during the school holidays.	Our capacity to support these children during the holidays comes through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, through national government. The Communities Team has run very successful HAF programmes during the summer by encouraging a wide range of providers across the district to offer activities including healthy food for those attending, with a key focus on children in receipt of free school meals. We have worked hard to encourage more providers to deliver activities during the Christmas holidays but there is a limited capacity for organisations to take part, resulting on fewer programmes available during this period. We have supplemented the activities with food hampers, which are being distributed across Eye, Stowmarket, Needham Market, Woolpit, Elmswell and Thurston. In particular Everyone Active are providing family and Teen swims (both centres) and The Mix are providing their activities in Stowmarket and in their new Needham Market base. There are 2220 children who are registered for free school meals in Mid Suffolk.

MSDC Council 24 th Nov.	In response to a question following the announcement of ClIr Morley regarding the Devolution Deal for Suffolk with a directly elected leader, we were assured that their would be no additional bureaucracy, nor would the democratic responsibilities of MSDC be affected.	
	Two cross party motions were debated and unanimously adopted.	
	To support the Debate not Hate Campaign	
	This council notes that increasing levels of toxicity in public andpolitical discourse is having a detrimental impact of local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents.	
	This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does.	
	And in response to concerns regarding water quality, untreated sewage discharges and the pressures of development.	
	The council resolved to:	
	1. Ask the chair of the scrutiny committee to invite senior officers of Anglian Water plus senior representatives from the relevant internal Drainage Boards, Natural England and the Environment Agency to attend a meeting to answer questions on the current levels of untreated sewage discharges to waters in Mid Suffolk.	
	2. Ensure that in gathering evidence for future iterations of the local plan the council consider the cumulative impact of sewage when deciding the overall level of housing and other development. The council notes that decisions about allocations in the Joint Local Plan will be guided by an updated Water Cycle Study. This should take into account the impact of combined sewer overflow discharges on water courses and the capacity of waste water treatment works to process anticipated new foul drainage.	
	3. Ask Anglian Water, from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major development, to identify which treatment works will be managing the sewage and what their capacity is to treat additional volumes of effluent; whether it has the information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required).	
	Proposed: Cllr. Andrew Mellen and seconded: Cllr. Jessica Fleming	
Locality Grant scheme 2022/23	The next round of Locality Grants is still open. Although the deadline is not until March 2023, I welcome applications from community groups. Details are available on the website https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-guidance/ . Please contact me in the first instance.	
	There has been some relaxing of the rules in response to the current energy and cost of living crisis and I would be able to fund social events aimed at improving community wellbeing.	

Cllr. Rowland Warboys (Green Party) MSDC

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2022/PC/112..... Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council