

# WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council**  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall, Worlington

**Councillors present:** Cllr Lesley Osborne (LO) –Vice Chair, Cllr Brian Fry (BF), Cllr Alan Marshall (AM) and Cllr Nick Foster (NF)

**Present:** Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP) and Cllr Lance Stanbury (LS) Suffolk County Council

- | ITEM           |   | Action   |
|----------------|---|----------|
| 26/03/1        | <b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2))</b><br>LO welcomed everyone to the meeting. Two parishioners attended and apologies received from Cllrs Tim French, Chair (TF), Brian Harvey (BH) and Steve Foster (SF).  |          |
| 26/03/2        | <b>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III)</b><br>None.  |          |
| 26/03/3        | <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2))</b><br>The minutes of the meetings dated 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, having previously been circulated by JP, were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Vice Chairperson.   |          |
| 26/03/4        | <b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING</b><br>JP confirmed that all councillors were now using the new gov.uk email addresses. LO explained that after researching the possibility of installing grit bins at the Village Hall in place of the bottle banks, there was no funding available and this would have to be paid for by the PC. A grit bin costs between £150 and £450 but salt would be provided by WSC. This spend has not been included in next year's budget but would be discussed at the next meeting.  |          |
| 26/03/5        | <b>PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1)</b><br>One parishioner explained he was having trouble locating the agendas on the website which was now <a href="http://www.worlington-pc.gov.uk">www.worlington-pc.gov.uk</a> . It was agreed to put a note on the roadside to show that the agenda was located on the noticeboard on the Village Hall and to put the agenda on Facebook to better advertise meetings.<br>Another parishioner asked about progress on the Church Lane enforcement matter. JP confirmed that the PC were still waiting to hear from the enforcement officer. JP to chase and copy in Cllr David Taylor.   | JP<br>JP |
| 26/03/6<br>6.1 | <b>EXTERNAL FORUM<br/>County Councillor</b><br>Lance Stanbury explained that the SCC had set their budget amid tight expenditure by the maximum of 4.49% but more money has been made available from the Government. The budget was only rejected by the four Reform councillors. LS stated that there will now be local elections and he will stand in May. Next year there will be elections for the unitary council and the year after, mayoral elections where LS will not stand for re-election.<br>LS explained that the white road lines will be reviewed and he will update when work will start. LS is looking to give financial support from his locality budget. This has been used for this financial year but hopes another pot will be available from April. LS reminded the PC that there is also community chest funding from WSC and locality funding from both and that the PC can mix and match with different funding for larger projects.<br>BF asked about fly tipping, specifically a dumped a metal incinerator set alight on Green Lane which the fire brigade extinguished. On speaking to WSC, they wouldn't remove it and directed BF to Suffolk Highways who then redirected him to WSC. LS asked BF to forward correspondence to him to look into the matter.<br>LS' full report for February is available on the PC website. |          |
| 6.2            | <b>District Councillor</b><br>Cllr David Taylor was not present and did not give a report.  |          |

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## **26/03/7 FUNDING** **7.1 Play Area**

LO explained that someone is meeting Tim at the play area on 23<sup>rd</sup> March to draw up a free plan with proposals for suitable play equipment with costs and then LO will be able to get alternative quotes. LO sent him comments from the play area inspector to assist him and to give an idea of how long the current equipment will last. LO was informed that wood has a 20 year lifespan and metal would last longer but requires more maintenance.

## **26/03/8 FINANCES** **8.1 Bank Balances**

JP stated that as at 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the current account stood at £2,187.92 and the savings account was £22,377.69. VAT reclaim was sent last week for just under £1,100.

## **8.2 Approval to authorise payments of outstanding invoices**

The following payments were approved:

<b>Online payments</b>		
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
HMRC	PAYE Q3	45.59
Worlington Village Hall	Community Speedwatch hall hire	24.00
Joanna Priestley	January Wages	486.99
Joanna Priestley	December Expenses	44.40
Geosphere Ltd	Digital mapping subscription	48.00
Steve Foster	No Dogs signs for play area	8.99
Joanna Priestley	January expenses	53.96
Steve Foster	Pits fence posts	251.81
Joanna Priestley	February Wages	487.19
SALC	Payroll to March 2026	54.00

JP also confirmed that monthly direct debits have also been gone out for streetlighting, bank charges and the Wifi subscription at the Village Hall.

## **8.3 Antivirus subscription**

JP explained that she had not had a good experience using Norton antivirus this year and asked to return to Kaspersky when the subscription expires in April. This was agreed. **JP**

## **26/03/9 PARISH MATTERS**

### **9.1 Registration of Parish Land**

JP confirmed that she had started completing the application form to register The Pits and will be sent to the Land Registry next month. **JP**

### **9.2 Police Matters**

JP reported there was one reported vehicle crime in January according to Suffolk Constabulary's website. BF observed reported oil thefts in media with the rising costs. Advice to screen oil tanks and it was agreed to put this in the Pump. LO commented that hedge plants had been stolen from a front garden in village this week.

### **9.3 Play Area**

LO explained that the lease with the landowner needs to be renewed. LO has been told that if the play area was run by a charitable trust there may be better opportunities for funding but that as the PC already owns the equipment and maintains the play area, it seemed sensible to renew the lease with the PC as the tenant. LO proposed renewing the

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lease under the name of the PC to limit the liability against individuals. This was seconded by AM and voted in favour. JP to contact solicitors to draw up a new lease. **JP**

NF confirmed there was no update from SF on repairs but thought works were up to date.

LO suggested a date of 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> May for delivery of wood chips to replenish the play area with a volunteer party to come and help put it down at the weekend. LO to speak to the farmer first and confirm the date with JP who will order the wood chips. **LO/JP**

### 9.4 Hythe

NF explained still needs to give JP a location map for the free trees from The Woodland Trust. NF explained the Hythe will be tidied up in time for summer visitors. **NF**

### 9.5 The Pits

LO confirmed that SF has cleared the land and a new fence installed. It was agreed to purchase three A5 metal signs explaining the Pits is 'Property of Worlington Parish Council'. Cllrs gave thanks to SF and everyone else who came to help. **JP**

### 9.6 The Ditch

BF reported a company previously quoted to renovate the ditch which was very expensive. BF had researched ways to reinforce the bank and footpath. BF proposed the bushes be removed from the roadside halfway to where the hedging is more upright and shore up the edge of the ditch to that point. NF suggested that BF liaise with a parishioner who has mini digger who may be able to advise. BF explained that scaffold boards could be used with scaffold poles driven into the ground to hold the boards in place costing approx £300. BF explained it is illegal to cut back hedges between March and August unless insecurely rooted and detrimental to the environment. This work will prevent flooding and danger to life. LO proposed getting exact prices ready for first 28m of ditch for work to be done as soon as bird nesting is over. This was seconded by AM and approved. **BF**  
**BF**

### 9.7 War Memorial

AM explained that he met two masonry firms since the January meeting. The second estimated was £7k lasting 3-4 years. They suggest taking it down and putting plaques over the inscriptions which would last 20 years. They conclude that the road side has been affected by salt splash and asked why are white block are on the concrete which the cllrs could not answer. It was suggested that the memorial be moved to where the village sign is located. LO said it is listed and the PC would need to seek permission to move it. LO will check with Mildenhall's Deputy Mayor as they have may plaques on the town memorial. LO to ask local historian about the concrete seating. This would be discussed at the next meeting once the third quote had been received by JP. Two other quotes varied in specifications costing from £2-20,000. **LO**  
**LO**  
**JP**

## 26/03/10 PLANNING

### 10.1 3 Lark Close – DC/26/0247/VAR

LO explained this was a variation of amended plans for application DC/24/0741/HH - no objections.

### 10.2 5 Pen Villa, The Studio Isleham Road - DC/26/0269/HH

LO explained this was for a rear single storey extension– no objections.

### 10.3 18 Church Lane - DC/26/0187/HH

LO explained this was a single storey rear extension and part relocation of solar PV from existing roof to new extension – no objections.

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- 10.4 17 Church Lane - DC/26/0197/HH**  
LO explained this was for part render to ground floor front, side and rear elevations– no objections. JP to write to planning officers for all four applications. **JP**
- 10.5 Consultation on Local Validation Requirements**  
LO explained that JP had checked with WSC which section of these proposals would be covered by certified neighbourhood plan but had received an unsatisfactory reply only referring to the Local Plan. JP reissued the question and awaited a response.
- 26/03/11 HIGHWAYS**
- 11.1 Streetlights update**  
A parishioner noted that the last remaining streetlight had been upgraded by Church Lane. BF explained he would do another walk about to ensure all streetlights were working. **BF**
- 11.3 Community Speed Watch**  
BF confirmed that volunteers gave five hours of their time per month for the speed watches and in January 40 motorists were caught doing over and in February it was 35. Motorists definitely became aware of their presence and slowed down and BF will monitor the figures over the coming months to see if there is a trend. BF aims to do speed watches five times a month at various times of the day.
- 12 WEBSITE**
- 12.1 Accessibility Scans - Assertion 10 - digital and data compliance**  
JP explained that there is new legislation requiring websites to be more accessible to people with disabilities. Cllrs agreed to look into this, compare the website with other parish councils and discuss it at the next meeting. **ALL/JP**
- 13 WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL (WSC)**
- 13.1 Review of West Suffolk Council (Dogs) 2020**  
BF explained a review into the legislation regarding dog fouling is due to take place in September with WSC seeking views on any amendments. Cllrs discussed the lack of enforcement of the current Public Space Protection Order and did not feel that any improvements could be made in any case. BF stated that Friends of Worlington Village Hall have recently installed a dog waste bag station by the gate to the recreation field and it was agreed that local communication works better than any legislation.
- 26/03/14 SUNNICA**
- 14.1** JP confirmed that BH reported there was no update.
- 26/03/15 DEFIBRILLATOR**
- 15.1 Weekly Checks**  
LO confirmed she is continuing to do the checks. JP has requested new pads.
- 26/03/16 100 CLUB**  
NF drew two numbers out and the winners were as follows:  
First prize of £20 – Ivan Hammond and second prize of £10 – Brian Harvey. The 100 Club begins a new year in April when new and previous entrants will be invited to join. This will be promoted in the Pump. **JP**  
**NF**

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## **26/03/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Due to elections being held on 7<sup>th</sup> May, it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

LO proposed cheese and wine be provided at the Annual Parish Meeting which was seconded by AM and voted in favour.

**LO/JP**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed:

Date:

2026

**Chair, Worlington Parish Council**

DRAFT