

WORLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Worlington Parish Council

Thursday 6th November 2025 at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall, Worlington

Councillors present: Cllr Tim French (TF) – Chair, Cllr Lesley Osborne (LO) – Joint Vice Chair, Cllr Brian Harvey (BH) – Joint Vice Chair, Cllr Steve Foster (SF), Cllr Alan Marshall (AM) and Cllr Brian Fry (BF)

Present: Cllr David Taylor - WSC (DT), Clerk – Joanna Priestley (JP)

ITEM		Action
25/11/1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972, SECTION 85 (2)) TF welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were four parishioners in attendance and apologies received from Cllr Nick Foster (NF) and Cllr Lance Stanbury, Suffolk CC (LS).	
25/11/2	DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS (LGA 2000 PART III) None.	
25/11/3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(2)) The minutes of the meetings dated 10 th September and 2 nd October 2025, having previously been circulated by JP, were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.	
25/11/4	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING None.	
25/11/5	PUBLIC FORUM – LGA 1972, SECTION 100(1) A parishioner asked if a representative of the PC had attended the meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner at The Hub on 13 th October. TF explained that unfortunately no one from WPC had attended this event but he hoped that there would be a representative in attendance next time.	
25/11/6	EXTERNAL FORUM	
6.1	County Councillor LS sent his apologies but his monthly report would be available on the PC website.	JP
6.2	District Councillor Cllr David Taylor explained that the Local Plan had been approved and will last 40 years. Discussions included a new settlement area and improvements to the Fiveways roundabout to include a business estate. Locality funds need to be spent before December 2025 and match funding is also an option. LO suggested a defibrillator. DT stated that Better Recycling has been approved to take food waste and glass but three weekly black bin collections had been rejected. A small food waste bin would be provided for the kitchen and a half size bin to put on the kerb for collection. The bottle bank at the village hall will be removed. This will begin in June 2026. BH asked about cost ratio and DT explained that extended producer responsibility would be charged for the cost of production to change their products to make them cheaper to recycle. The hope is there will be no additional cost for Better Recycling. BH was not reassured that food recycling would not mean an increase in council tax for residents and DT to send more information. DC reported that Newmarket Town Council now has a Reform councillor who desires to reopen the recycling centre there. SCC cannot afford to operate it and Open Door tried but couldn't make it work. A unitary run council may change this and County Councillor elections should happen in May 2026. Western Way in Bury going to be transformed into a leisure centre with new trampoline park and paddle board courts. DT to send more information.	DT

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AM asked if the banking hub is going to come to the bus station at Mildenhall and DT said this is progressing slowly but the projected spend is £100,000. DT to provide more information to JP.

DT

25/11/7 PLANNING

7.1 DC/25/1369/HH - Ashdown Cottage 1 Freckenham Road

TF explained this was a small double storey extension at the back of the property. Comments were made regarding the blind bend and to avoid potential damage to the Green and the war memorial. No objections but JP to advise the planning officer on concerns about parking during construction and thereafter.

JP

7.2 DC/25/1382/HH - Clontarf 3 Freckenham Road

As above.

JP

25/11/8 FINANCES

8.1 Bank Balances

JP stated that as at 6th November 2025, the current account stood at £6,387.12 and the savings account was £22,324.31. JP explained she had moved another £5,000 of the precept from the savings to the current account to cover expenditure.

8.2 Approval to authorise payments of outstanding invoices

The following payments were approved:

Online payments		
Payee	Subject	Amount (£)
R H Landscapes	September Landscaping invoice	372.00
Geosphere Ltd	Parish Online subscription	48.00
Joanna Priestley	September Expenses	34.80
HMRC	PAYE Q2	28.12
British Legion	Remembrance Wreath	20.00
SALC	Training for BF on grant applications	43.20
Steve Foster	Play area maintenance supplies	78.64
AJ Gallagher	PC Insurance	908.04
Worlington Village Hall	July-November hall hire	72.00
Joanna Priestley	Sept-Oct 2025 wages (inc pay rise/holiday)	1,126.90

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

8.3 Projected 2025-2026 spend and 2026-2027 Budget

TF explained that he and JP had gone through the accounts for 24/25 and the budget for 25/26. Significant savings had been made on the cost of the streetlight electricity from the installation of the new LED lamps and the audit was less costly as the PC had not gone over the £25,000 threshold last year. There was still money in this year's budget to be spent on the Hythe and JP to ask NF if he has plans for these funds. The play area still needs to be resurfaced (see item 9.3) and the budget for defining the boundary at The Pits remains unspent (see item 9.5).

JP

25/11/9 PARISH MATTERS

9.1 Registration of Parish Land

JP explained that she had sent the certified copy of the Conveyance for the Recreation Ground to the Land Registry but when they acknowledged receipt, there were some further points outstanding. JP has completed a form K15 to request an official search against the

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PC and has drafted a letter answering their other queries. JP asked for a cheque for £7 to send off the search and would post this tomorrow. On speaking to advisors at the LR, there should be no issue with requesting further extensions to their deadlines if necessary.

JP

9.2 Police Matters

JP confirmed that upon checking the Suffolk Police website, there was an offence for violence in July and for the possession of a weapon in August, both on Freckenham Road.

9.3 Play Area

SF confirmed that the concrete foundations continue to be covered in accordance with the play area inspector's report findings. SF considered half the amount of woodchips ordered in 2023 would be needed to cover the barer parts of the play area. JP to get a quote from Suffolk Woodchips. This would be done in the spring and volunteers would be needed.

JP

LO explained she is still looking into funding for new play area equipment and will report at the next meeting.

LO

9.4 Hythe

JP reported on behalf of NF that the Hythe was currently in hibernation but that a clear up would be done in the New Year in readiness for the spring.

9.5 The Pits

SF explained that a large amount of shrubbery needs to be cleared with hedge cutters and then a basic fence erected. SF explained that, after speaking to Chase Timber, 42 posts are needed at a cost of £230 plus £25 delivery. A parishioner has kindly agreed to provide the wire. This should be done in February 2026. This will be revisited in January.

TF suggested it was prudent to begin the application to register The Pits with the Land Registry and would seek advice on this and liaise with JP.

TF/JP

25/11/10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

10.1 Meeting on 16th October 2025

BH explained that a decision should be made in mid November and by spring 2026 we will know if Suffolk will have a unitary council or three large councils. There will be 16 area committees (the same applies to planning) to link in with parish and town councils. BH concluded that council tax will have to be equalised and a Band D property will have a reduction of £29 per year. The saving of £48m if Suffolk becomes one council was a big pull and he expected this to be the decision.

BH also noted that there would be a proposal next year making it easier to apply for 20mph speed limit after devolution has been agreed. The Police will be run by the Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. TF confirmed he will be attending the next meeting on 4th December as BH is unavailable.

TF

25/11/11 HIGHWAYS

11.1 Streetlights update

JP explained she had not heard back from SCC about the remaining light that has not been upgraded and will call Richard Webster next week.

JP

11.2 Speeding

JP explained that she had emailed Suffolk Police to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the number of prosecutions in the last year for speeding drivers

JP

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in Worlington. Whilst researching, JP had found a spreadsheet showing that in 2025, there had been 10 speeding offences in June, 23 in July and 30 in August in Worlington.

11.3 Road Safety Update

BF explained he was one of 25 councillors invited to a meeting by Moulton Parish Council to discuss speeding issues. Nick Timothy MP was unable to attend but Suffolk Highways were present. One question raised was about whether speed limits be changed and it was explained that it would cost £10-15,000 to change the speed limit between Mildenhall and Worlington to 40mph. Fordham has decreased the speed limit in places to 20mph via section 106 payments from the housing development. Once devolution has been decided, more changes could be made. A follow up meeting is to be held tomorrow.

WPC are to team up with Barton Mills and Freckenham PCs due to their localities and joint issues to represent each other if one cannot be present at meetings.

BF has procured two speed indicator devices from Icklingham PC which they no longer need. They may need new batteries but, if they work, these will be a welcome addition to the one currently in use in the village.

BF had begun a drive to recruit volunteers for a Community Speed Watch initiative. BF encouraged people to volunteer. Suffolk Police have completed their survey and BF hopes this will begin soon.

25/11/12 PC INSURANCE

12.1 Update

TF explained that after JP's exhaustive research to properly update the asset register and obtain competitive quotes, Cllrs had voted to continue with their current insurer for the next three years. TF thanked JP for her efforts.

25/11/13 DEFIBRILLATOR

13.1 Monthly Checks

LO confirmed she is doing checks every week and the defibrillator is fully operational. JP confirmed she had now received new pads and a sterile kit and passed these to LO to replace the old ones in the cabinet.

LO

LO explained that the current device is reaching the end of its life and suggested that the British Heart Foundation can provide free defibrillators. BF offered to look into this.

BF

25/11/14 100 Club

A parishioner drew two numbers out and the winners were as follows:

First prize of £20 – Alan Marshall who asked that the winnings be donated back to the VH.

Second prize of £10 – Jane Constable.

25/11/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8 January 2026 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed: *Tim French*

Date: 8th January 2026

Chair, Worlington Parish Council