

Wortham and Burgate Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wortham & Burgate Parish Council at Wortham Village Hall on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 7.30pm

(Cllrs) present: Chair S Rash, J Bradley, C Williams, C Grocott, J Erith, B Cole, S Wright, M Odams, P Weaver, J Piper

In Attendance: Jane Wright (Clerk), Netty Verkroost (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Prior to the commencement of the Parish Council meeting, Cllr Rash paid tribute to David Howard, a former valued and long standing member of Wortham & Burgate Parish Council, who sadly died on December 6th 2019. David had also served for many years as Wortham Common Reeve, and was a much respected member of the community.

As a mark of respect Councillors stood in silence to remember David, who will be sadly missed.

1. **To consider accepting apologies for absence** - The PC unanimously accepted apologies from Cllr Ling who had work commitments, Cllr Hovey who was on holiday, District Cllr Worboys who had family duties and County Cllr Fleming who was on holiday.
2. **To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting/s** - It was unanimously agreed to approve the December Parish Council Minutes.
3. **To record declarations of Interest from members in any item to be discussed** - Cllr Weaver - 7.6 Personal and prejudicial.
4. **To consider dispensations from members in any item to be discussed** - None

5. Members of the public

5.1 A member of the public gave a short presentation on behalf of FOWL (Friends of Wortham Ling) regarding a bid for a Locality Award for the provision of 2 new information panels and 1 new dog bin on Wortham Ling. 1 Councillor abstained and 11 Councillors agreed in favour of the Parish Council submitting the application for a Locality Award on the condition that permission is granted by the landowner and that the Parish Council are not responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the panels/dog bin.

5.2 To receive reports from District & County Councillors - The District Councillors report was circulated in advance of the Parish Council meeting and was taken as read. See Appendix 1. There was no County Councillors report due to holiday.

6. **To re-convene the meeting** - 7.52pm

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

7.1 To receive an update on the removal of gravel and remaining driveway materials from Common Land next to South View, Furze Way - No update received.

7.2 To receive an update on planning issues at The Oak Trees, Great Green - No update received.

7.3 To receive an update regarding the planning consultation request letter relating to planning application DC/19/01020 - Land South of Bury Road, Wortham IP22 1PW - remove option of 4no affordable dwellings - No update received.

7.4 To receive an update regarding application DC/19/02698 Land on the east side of Church Road, Wortham, Suffolk - Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered) - Erection of up to 3no. Dwellings and garages - No update received.

7.5 To receive an update on a letter sent to Philip Isbell, MSDC, re Honey Pot Farm - No update received.

7.6 To receive an update regarding application DC/19/05310 Application for reserved matters at the Former White House, Rectory Road, Wortham - Application Withdrawn.

7.7 To receive an update regarding the re-submitted outline application DC/19/03712 (Access to be considered) Erection of 4no single storey detached dwellings - Land at Howards Close, Mellis Road, Wortham, Suffolk - Permission Granted

7.8 To receive an update on application DC/19/04542 - Land lying on the south side of Bury Road, Wortham, Suffolk - Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act for the variation or removal of a condition following grant of 2480/16 (Erection of 12no dwellings, parking and/or garages, and upgraded highway access) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 without Compliance of Condition 2 (Approved Drawings) - Substitute drawings 01B, 02A and 06 with WBR/01C, 02E and 06C relating to footpath and design of Plot 1 - No update received.

7.9 To receive an update on application DC/19/05434 Application for Planning Permission without compliance of conditions - Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act - To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) relating to 2480/16 dated 12.05.2017 (and Section 73 Application DC/19/04542) - Change to joinery materials, window positions, plinth detail and external finishes as identified in the submitted statement. Location: Land lying on the south side of Bury Road, Wortham, Suffolk - No update received

7.10 To receive an update regarding application DC/19/05422 Erection of first floor extension and carport; Changes to windows and doors including insertion of rooflight. Location: The Flint Barn, Church Road, Wortham, Suffolk IP22 1PT - No update received.

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7.11 To receive an update regarding application DC/19/05440 Erection of timber framed cart lodge/garage (retention of) Location: Merels, Long Green, Wortham, Diss, Suffolk IP22 1PU - No update received.

7.12 To consider, discuss and agree on any comment regarding Application DC/19/05948 Application for approval of reserved matters following grant of Outline Application DC/18/05622 dated 19/02/2019 - Appearance, Landscaping, Layout, Scale Erection of 3no dwellings and new access. Location: The Croft, Mellis Road, Wortham. - It was unanimously agreed that “no comment” is sent to MSDC on this application.

7.13 To consider, discuss and agree on any comment regarding Application DC/20/00013 Conversion of and extension to 2no outbuildings to form annex including walled entertainment area. Erection of storage outbuilding. Ellesmere Coach House, Church Road, Wortham, Diss IP22 1PT - It was unanimously agreed that “no comment” is sent to MSDC on this application.

8. Chairman’s Report. Cllr Rash paid tribute to former Wortham resident George White, who sadly passed away on 21st December 2019. George had been a stalwart of many sporting clubs for many years as well as living and working in the village, until a few years ago. He will be sadly missed.

9. To receive the Clerks report and outstanding actions from the last meeting: An email from Mr Jackson at Gudgeons-Prentice confirming that the Land and Track purchased has now been registered with the Land Registry. It had been suggested that an Indemnity Insurance Policy be taken out as the Title has been registered as a Possessory Title. Mr Jackson has been asked to look into this on our behalf.

The Clerk will be attending a course in Claydon on 22nd and 29th January. Thanks were given to Netty Verkroost for her help in the transition of the clerks position.

10. To receive an update regarding any improvements to the Track and Land at Wortham School. Construction Engineers, Waterfields made a site visit and provided an estimate in the region of £64,000. Two further estimates are currently being sourced. Once all estimates are received, the residents will be consulted for their views on the design.

11. VE Day Event 2020. A Tug of War rope has been sourced. A sub-committee of 4 councillors was formed and have agreed to meet at the end of January to discuss the event further.

12. To receive an update on proposed new village hall project - No update

13. To receive information regarding the purchase of mobile phone and/or contract for the parish clerk in order to perform duties on behalf of the Parish Council - Various options had been sourced with regards to a mobile phone/contract. It was unanimously agreed to purchase a Samsung phone for a 24 month contract at £17.00 per month.

14. To receive an update of the PIIP (Parish Infrastructure Improvement Plan) - No update.

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15. To agree Precept and complete Precept Upon Charging Authority form - The Precept was agreed unanimously and the Precept Upon Charging Authority form was duly signed and completed.

16. To consider, discuss and agree the application for funding for new signage on Wortham Ling on behalf of FOWL - see item 5.1

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

17.1 Playing Field Committee - A very productive meeting was held with 3 representatives from MSDC to discuss funding options. No further update at present

17.2 Commons Committee - A problem with a willow tree at Harts Close had been reported. This was duly cleared away.

The sleepers at the post office had been reported as being slippery when wet. There are signs in place, so the situation will be monitored.

17.3 Finance Representative - Nothing to report

17.4 Employment Committee - Nothing to report

17.5 New Village Hall Working Group - Nothing to report

18. Accounts

18.1 Account Balances as at 30/12/2019

18.1.1 Current Account	£4170.14
18.1.2 Reserve Account	£12494.47
18.1.3 Projects Account	£25004.87

18.2 Account Payments

18.2.1 Netty Verkroost Salary January 2020	£416.85
18.2.2 Netty Verkroost Expenses December 2019	£85.47
18.2.3 Niki Hinton Salary January 2020	£87.75
18.2.4 Jane Wright Salary December 2019	£355.60
18.2.5 Jane Wright Salary January 2020	£355.60
18.2.6 Jane Wright Expenses December 2019	£67.51
18.2.7 Safe and Sound Moles December	£48.00
18.2.8 Donation to Burgate PCC - Churchyard December	£400.00
18.2.9 Donation to Wortham PCC - Churchyard December	£400.00

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Additional Payments prior to the meeting

18.2.10 MSDC Annual Play Inspection	£60.22
18.2.11 Village Hall December Inv No 5403	£22.00

It was unanimously agreed to make all payments

Direct Debit Payments

EON Electricity	£200.00
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18.3 Account Receipts

18.3.1 Rural Payment Agency Treasury Credit	£23.81
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Additional Credits prior to the meeting

18.3.2 Rural Payment Agency Treasury Credit	£2381.00
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19 To receive and discuss items/reports from Committees, Groups and Councillors:

19.1 VHMC - Nothing to report

19.2 Rights of Way - Nothing to report

19.3 Councillors - Clarification was requested regarding money from the projects account being available for the New Play Equipment. It was confirmed that funds have been set aside for this project.

20 Correspondence received - None

21 To receive items for the next agenda - VE Day

22 Date and time of next meeting - Tuesday 18th February at 7.30pm in Wortham Village Hall
Meeting closed - 8.35pm

1328.....APPROVED.....
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APPENDIX 1

District Councillor Report: Gislingham Ward

Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, Wickham Skeith, Wortham and Burgate Parish Councils

January 2020

General Election – December 12

Last month saw the General Election on 12 December with many of our staff involved administering and counting the votes. You can find the full results on our website.

Mid Suffolk councillors consider budget for 2020/21

The first draft of Mid Suffolk District Council's budget for 2020/21 is set to be considered by councillors later this month, including a 1.66% increase in its share of council tax, adding £2.76 a year to the bill of a Band D Property.

District Council Budget and Council Tax Notes

Members received a briefing on the draft budget for 2020/21. This draft budget will be considered by Cabinet on 13 January and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 January; it is expected to be approved at full Council meeting on 27 February. Government have agreed that Shire Districts may increase council tax by £5 or 2% whichever is the greater. There are no new proposals for Central Government grants to District Councils. Government propose to phase out or replace New Homes Bonus. Any new grant is likely to be based upon achieving higher house building targets.

New Homes Bonus for 2020/21 will be £1.612M, an increase of £232k over 2019/20 but is likely to reduce (possibly by 50%) in 2021/22.

Baseline business rates will increase by 2%. Government propose a full business rates revaluation in 2021; a fundamental review of business rates is also likely.

Factors taken into account in preparing the draft budget include: a recent increase in the Public Works Loans Board interest rate; the Climate Emergency and continuing uncertainty over BREXIT.

There is £5.8M in Suffolk Pooled Business Rates Fund; £280k remains unallocated from the Mid Suffolk Business Rates pilot; MSDC is holding CIL of £8.5M; Mid Suffolk Growth and Efficiency Fund has £3m unallocated;

The effect of the Provisional Settlement from Government is £213k better than previously assumed.

£500,000 is being allocated this year for measures to mitigate climate change, followed by a further £500,000 next year.

The net revenue budget is proposed to be £10M and the Capital Programme £12M, the latter includes a proposed further investment of £8.7M in commercial properties.

Housing Revenue Account

After four years of government-enforced reductions, the council is also proposing putting up council house rents by 2.7% - 1% above Consumer Prices Index. This will result in an average increase of £2.19 per week increase for tenants. Sheltered housing tenants also face an increase of £2 a week on their bills plus a 62p a week increase to their utility bills. It is proposed to build or acquire 200+ new homes over the next two years at a cost of £45m, and it is proposed that £16.2m will be needed to fund the maintenance and improvements to council properties.

Stowupland High School CIL Bid

MSDC Cabinet on 6 January will consider an application for CIL Funding for the new Sixth Form Centre at Stowupland High School. The bid is for £2.45M (total project cost £2.98) and is subject to the completion of a Community User Agreement. The concerns of Stowupland Parish Council, in respect of traffic, safety, parking etc, are included in the report to Cabinet.

Council Tax Payments

MSDC Cabinet on 6 January are to discuss an initiative to introduce new fines for Council Tax fraud.

Cabinet will also consider adoption of a new protocol produced by Citizens Advice and Local Government Association for the collection of council tax arrears. This seeks to assist those falling behind with their payments in a less confrontational way.

Read the full story

Councils to consider move to clamp down on Council Tax fraud – while helping those in need

Penalties may be introduced in Babergh and Mid Suffolk to tackle council tax fraud, alongside a new Citizens Advice council tax protocol to help those in genuine need, following cabinet discussions this month.

Read the full story

Next phase in development of Needham Lake visitor centre and café agreed

Plans for a £600,000 visitor centre/cafe at Needham Lake have been approved and a local operator selected to run it – supporting local youth work and boosting tourism to the town.

Read the full story

1000 Endangered Animals

Over Christmas the Suffolk Waste Partnership's celebration of recycling took on a theme of endangered animals.

The artwork created by schools across Suffolk will be on display at Ipswich Town Hall café Gallery until 11 Jan, and The Apex , Bury St Edmunds until March 2020.

Read the full story

More than £791k funding boost for communities

Communities across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received a funding boost totalling £791,000, for local projects including a new car park and bus shelter.

Read the full story

New recycling wrap up The festive and New Year period are always a great time to encourage residents to think about reducing waste and improving their recycling knowledge and this year Suffolk Recycling launched a new Christmas Wrap Up.

The guide has tips on how to reduce waste and improve recycling habits over Christmas, all in one place - including information on what to do with old fairy lights, wrapping paper, baubles, trees, food, metals and more. You can find the full guide on our website.

Suffolk's Recycling Centres also offer free 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - not a Waste of time!' sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and recycling. Providing an alternative way to access information about recycling which is also available on the Suffolk Recycling website.

To book a visit from their Information and Education Manager any interested parties can email Sharon Lockhart

Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice - Mid Suffolk CAB recently held their AGM. During the last year they addressed nearly 10,000 issues and helped 3,400 clients. So far their client numbers are up 17% on last year. In 2018/19 the CAB helped clients in Mid Suffolk achieve over £1.4 million in financial gains through benefit claims, employment negotiations, consumer refunds and charitable support. The work done by the 45 volunteers has been officially valued at more than £380,000. The

Overview and Scrutiny committee had commenced a scrutiny of CABs in Suffolk but the work was halted because of the General Election. This work will start again in January.

Tree Planting/Tree Wardens – The missing section of Cowpasture Lane between Mellis Common and Thornham Parva, south of the Railway Line has been restored by planting native trees and hedging to redefine its ancient boundaries and establish a wildlife corridor linking the intact sections of the lane. 2,500 plants and trees were planted on Saturday 30th Nov. A tremendous effort by local residents, made possible by the partnership formed by the landowner, Nigel Patel, The Woodland Trust, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Tree Warden Network coordinated by Frances Jannaway, Thornham's Tree Warden.

Useful Websites -

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/pre-application-advice/free-online-planning-guidance/interactive-mapping-service/>

This takes you into an interactive map that you can zoom into individual houses, check what planning applications are associated with these properties and indicates planning constraints.

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

This takes you to a reporting site, again map based, where any concerned member of the parish may paste comments.

Rowland Warboys 05/01/2020

