

Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wortham & Burgate Parish Council held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Councillors present: Barry Cole (Chair), Jacky Bradley, Ian Hovey, David Ling, Mike Odams, Jenny Piper, Paul Weaver and Sue Wright

Councillors absent: Chris Grocott and Chris Williams

In attendance: Jane Wright (Clerk), Councillor Warboys and 1 member of the public

1. **To consider accepting apologies for absence** - No apologies received
2. **To approve the minutes of previous Parish Council Meetings** -
 - 2.1 September Parish Council Meeting
 - 2.2 Commons CommitteeIt was unanimously agreed to approve all the above minutes.
3. **To record declarations of Interest from members in any item to be discussed** - Councillor Ling - item 11 Personal & prejudicial. Councillor Ling to stay online during discussion.
4. **To consider dispensations from members in any item to be discussed** - None
5. **To consider to co-opt a Councillor to fill 1 vacancy on the Parish Council (Wortham)** - the PC unanimously agreed to co-opt Richard Thornton as a councillor for Wortham.
6. **To adjourn the meeting for public participation** -
 - 6.1 To receive residents questions and comment - see item 14
 - 6.2 To receive reports from District and County Councillors - see appendix 1Councillor Warboys report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Planning White Paper was discussed at length. Councillor Warboys agreed to look into item 11 and report back to the Parish Council.
7. **To reconvene the meeting** - 8.05pm
8. **To receive the Chairman's Report** - Councillor Cole had nothing to report.
9. **To receive the Clerk's report and outstanding actions from last meeting** - The Clerk advised that the poppy wreaths have been ordered for Remembrance Sunday. Councillor Williams to be contacted to lay the wreath at St Mary of Pity Church in Burgate and Clerk to contact Stephen Rash, to ask if he would lay the wreath at St Mary the Virgin Church in Wortham
The Clerk asked if there were any allotments in either Wortham or Burgate, as a request had been received from a member of the public, and was advised that there are not any in either Parish. Enquiries had been made prior to lockdown regarding Possessory Title Insurance for land acquired in 2019. Councillor Weaver to assist the Clerk with these enquiries.
10. **To consider, agree and/or note new planning applications** -
 - 10.1 To receive an update regarding application - DC/20/03660 Householder application - Erection of front porch extension (following demolition of existing porch). Infill of garage door with walling and installation of window. Location: 2 Spiers Hill, Wortham, Diss, Suffolk IP22 1RE - GRANTED
 - 10.2 To receive an update regarding application - DC/20/03893 Householder application - Erection of single storey front extension (following removal of existing lean to extension) Roof extension to cartlodge to create first floor accommodation, linked extension and works to ground floor to create additional living accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling - Hegelians Barn, Little Green, Burgate, Diss IP22 1QQ - NO UPDATE

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10.3 To receive an update regarding application - DC/20/03389 Change of use, conversion and extension of existing building to form 1no dwelling - Wolsey House Motors, Wolsey House, Millway Lane, Wortham IP22 1SL - NO UPDATE

10.4 To consider, discuss and agree on any comments regarding DC/20/04490 Householder application - Erection of first floor extension. Location: Flint Barn, Church Road, Wortham, IP22 1PT - 8 councillors agreed to support this application, 1 councillor abstained

- 11. To receive an update on DC/19/01020 Modification of planning obligation relating to 280/16/erection of 12 new dwellings (to remove option of 4no affordable dwellings)** - The Parish Council are deeply disappointed that the option for the 4 affordable dwellings were removed as an option on land to the south of Bury Road, Wortham This matter was discussed with Councillor Warboys, who agreed to look into the matter further on behalf of the Parish Council
- 12. To consider and discuss the Planning White Paper** - The Planning White paper was discussed at great length. It is very important that the Parish Council make a contribution to the suggestions made in the White Paper and Councillor Wright made a very informed presentation. Response to the Planning White Paper will be submitted together with an Addendum
- 13. To consider and discuss quotes for planings required to improve the track outside of Wortham Village Hall** - The Clerk had obtained 3 quotes for planings which were discussed. It was agreed that further quotes be obtained for the work to be carried out by a contractor. Clerk to contact suitable contractors for quotes and bring back to the next meeting.
- 14. To consider, discuss and agree to a request from Wortham Bowls Club to ‘square off’ the Bowling Green** - It was agreed that section 138 was not necessary. It was proposed that Wortham Bowls Club could square off the Bowling Green and the motion was carried.
- 15. To receive an update on Green Farm Bungalow, Little Green, Burgate** - The Environment agency had made an unannounced visit to the site and had met with the landowner- Clerk to contact the Environment Agency to find out the timeline for their follow-up.
- 16. To receive an update on a Traffic Survey re Speeding on the Mellis Road** - The cost of a Traffic Survey is charged at a rate of between £360 and £400 plus VAT. Clerk to make enquiries with the Highways department to find out where the 30mph sign will be located once work on the development at The Croft, Mellis Road is complete.
- 17. To consider, discuss and agree on the Increase of the Parish Clerks Salary due to the new NJC Pay Scale 2020-2021** - It was agreed to increase the Parish Clerks salary inline with the new NJC Pay Scales for 2020-2021.
- 18. To consider, discuss and agree a request for 2 dog waste bins at Great Green, Burgate** - A resident of Burgate has been in contact to request 2 dog waste bins be placed on Great Green, Burgate, due to an increase in dog fouling along footpaths. Councillor Cole to contact the landowner to seek prior approval.
- 19. To receive and discuss items/reports from Parish Council Committees and Working Groups**
- 19.1 Playing Fields Committee - None
- 19.2 Commons Committee - The Committee had met and walked around the Commons to discuss works required. 4 groups of work have been agreed and priorities discussed. Quotes to be sought for the agreed works
- 19.3 Planning Committee - None

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19.4 Finance Representative - It was hoped that Budget Training could be accessed by the Clerk. This is in preparation for the Draft Budget 2021/2022 for presentation at the next Parish Council meeting.

19.5 Employment Committee - see item 17

19.6 New Village Hall Working Group - None

20. Accounts:

20.1 Account balances as at 11th October 2020

| | | |
|--------|------------------|----------|
| 20.1.1 | Current Account | 16438.06 |
| 20.1.2 | Reserve Account | 11506.70 |
| 20.1.3 | Projects Account | 41895.05 |

20.2 Account Payments

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------------------|--------|
| 20.2.1 | C Gooderham | Village Maintenance | 570.00 |
| 20.2.2 | M Odams | Reimbursement | 62.39 |
| 20.2.3 | SALC | Planning Webinar | 30.00 |
| 20.2.4 | CGM | October Grass Cutting | 180.00 |
| 20.2.5 | Vertas | Footpath Leaflets | 362.40 |
| 20.2.6 | Niki Hinton | October Salary | 92.63 |
| 20.2.7 | Jane Wright | September Expenses | 182.73 |
| 20.2.8 | Jane Wright | October Salary | 470.05 |
| 20.2.9 | Niki Hinton | November Salary | 92.63 |
| 20.2.10 | Jane Wright | October Expenses | 55.00 |
| 20.2.11 | Jane Wright | November Salary | 387.80 |

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20.3 Direct Debit Payments

| | | | |
|--------|-----|--------------------------|--------|
| 20.3.1 | EON | Electricity | 200.00 |
| 20.3.2 | O2 | Mobile Phone (September) | 27.11 |
| 20.3.3 | O2 | Mobile Phone (October) | 27.11 |

20.4 Account Receipts

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|--------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 20.4.1 | MSDC | Precept 2020/2021 | 8749.99 |
| 20.4.2 | UK Power Networks | Wayleaves | 238.75 |

Any additional payments requests prior to the meeting - None

It was unanimously agreed to approve all payments

21.To receive and discuss items/reports from Committees, Groups and Councillors

21.1 VHMC - Nothing to report

21.2 Rights of Way - Nothing to report

21.3 Councillors - Councillor Cole had been contacted by Openreach regarding shared poles with high voltage cables along the track outside the Village Hall. The HSE cannot have telecommunications and electric cables on the same pole. The cables will be placed underground at no cost to the Parish Council and the contract states that all work will be made good. It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Cole sign the Permission to Dig form.

22. Correspondence received - An email has been received by a Wortham resident regarding The Manor House. Unfortunately The Manor House has closed down due to the economic climate. It was suggested that the Parish Council apply to have the pub designated as an Asset of Community Value. Clerk to seek further information from the owners to their proposed intentions for the building.

23. To receive items for the next agenda - Possessory Title Insurance, Planings for Village Hall Track, Removal of Affordable housing on land to the south of Bury Road, The Manor House

24. Date, time and venue for next meeting - Tuesday 1st December 2020 to be held virtually via Zoom at 7.30pm

2020PC/12.....APPROVED.....

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**APPENDIX 1 - District Councillor's Report for Gislingham Ward
Mellis, Gislingham, Thornham, Wortham & Burgate, Wickham Skeith Parish Councils
October 2020**

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| Annual Council meeting | The annual meeting was held virtually on 24th September. Barry Humpheys was elected as Chairman and Paul Ekpenyong as Vice Chair. The Committees and Chairs were all agreed, with the Chairman using his casting vote to elect all the chairs and vice chairs from the Conservative and Independent Group, except for Overview and Scrutiny which is traditionally chaired by an opposition member and will continue to be chaired by Keith Welham, with Keith Scarff as vice chair. |
| Government consultations on planning | <i>Changes to the current planning system</i> is about changes to planning policy and regulation including how the housing numbers for each local government area are calculated (which would be upwards for Mid Suffolk). It also recommends changing the threshold of homes built (from 10 to 40) on a development before which affordable homes must be built. The Council's response to this consultation was discussed at the September Council meeting, following which the response has been amended by the Corporate Director in consultation with the portfolio holder for planning and the opposition spokesperson for planning, and has now been submitted. <i>Planning for the future</i> is a White Paper that proposes major reforms to the planning system. These include reducing the timeframe in which a Local Plans must be created to a maximum of 30 months; and dividing land into zones for development, renewal (brownfield) and protect (green belt, national parks etc) then automatically granting outline planning permissions within the development and renewal zones. Planning Committees at a district council would therefore only consider design and not the principle of development. The White Paper also considers greater digitalisation, a different system for developer levies and a fast-track system for "beautiful buildings". The consultation closes on 29 th October and the Mid Suffolk response to this will be discussed by a cross-party working group of members before being submitted. |
| Public Realm | A Joint Cabinet meeting was held in September to discuss the findings of a review of the management of the public realm service. The review occurred because Babergh's contract with an outside contractor is due to end in October 2021. Mid Suffolk Cabinet decided to continue with an in-house team and Babergh Cabinet decided to be part of the same arrangement. The Public Realm service for both districts will now be managed by the same in-house team. |
| Homelessness | Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have been awarded a grant of £100,000 to help cover the cost of temporary accommodation for homeless people over the winter. In Mid Suffolk there are few (possibly only 2) people sleeping rough but pre-Covid many others had been sofa-surfing or staying with elderly relatives. In order to protect vulnerable people, some of these people became homeless and have been accommodated in hotels. This will need to continue for some months at least. |
| Stowmarket Leisure Centre/ High School site | Officers are working together with representatives from Stowmarket High School to develop the school and leisure centre site to improve leisure facilities. Stakeholders from local sports clubs will be consulted in order to fully assess what is needed. |
| Gateway 14 | A public consultation on proposals for Gateway 14, which now includes land up to A14, was launched on Monday 14 th September and continues until 31 st October – to comment or just to see the scale of the development, go to G14yoursay.co.uk . |

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