

Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wortham & Burgate Parish Council held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Jane Wright (Clerk), Councillor Warboys, Councillor Fleming and 2 members of public.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence - No apologies received

2. To approve the minutes of previous Parish Council Meetings -

2.1 Playing Fields Committee

2.2 Planning Committee

2.3 July Annual Parish Council meeting

It 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 - 9.2 Personal & prejudicial, Councillor Grocott - 9.6 Mutual neighbour

4. To consider dispensations from members in any item to be discussed - Nonea

5. To adjourn the meeting for public participation -

5.1 To receive residents questions and comment - see items 11 & 12

5.2 To receive reports from District and County Councillors - see appendix 1 & 2

Councillor Fleming was asked about the problem of speeding vehicles on the Mellis Road and the possibility of repositioning the 30mph sign further along the road. Councillor Fleming advised that this is quite difficult to achieve and that a speed survey would need to be carried out. Clerk to contact the Highways Speed and Safety Team. The layby along the A143 has not yet been cleared, but Councillor Bradley will get in contact once the field behind has been harvested in order to obtain access.

Various questions on the subject of Planning were raised. Councillor Warboys suggested that the Village Design Statement should be updated and that implementing a Neighbourhood Plan would assist with adding any weight to Planning issues in the future.

6. To reconvene the meeting - 7.43pm

7. To receive the Chairman's Report - Councillor Cole paid tribute to former Councillor Terry Quinn who sadly passed away on 27th August. Terry had been the driving force behind many projects including the Village Survey and Wortham Walkers. He was also the founder of the Community Action Programme, organiser of the welcome pack to new residents and Teasmade. Terry always put a lot of effort into his council work and he will be sadly missed.

8. To receive the Clerk's report and outstanding actions from last meeting - The VAT refund has now been received. The Clerk contacted the Internal Auditor to enquire if there is any guidance on the number of times the same Internal Auditor may be used. There is no requirement to limit the number of years a local council can retain its Internal Auditor, as long as the performance of its Internal Auditor is assessed annually.

2020PC/4.....APPROVED.....

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9. To consider, agree and/or note new planning applications -

9.1 To receive an update on full planning application DC/20/02315 Willowdale, Low Road, Wortham, IP22 1SQ- Use of former railway carriage as holiday let - GRANTED

9.2 To receive an update on DC/20/03168 | Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a Building for Agricultural or Forestry use. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) -Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of steel framed building with pre-stressed concrete panels to store farm yard manure. The Rookery Bury Road Wortham Diss Suffolk IP22 1RB - REJECTED

9.3 To receive an update on DC/20/03175 Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/19/02698 Condition 5 (Archaeological Evaluation) - Land On The East Side Of Church Road Wortham Suffolk - GRANTED

9.4 To receive an update on DC/20/03218 Application for Non Material Amendment to DC/19/05422 - Addition of 3 (no) Velux roof lights, one to the existing single storey roof and two to be installed in the new roof to the extension, one to the front and one to the rear elevation. There are already Velux rooflights in the main roof, two to the front elevation and three to the rear elevation. The size and colour of the proposed new rooflights is similar to existing - The Flint Barn Church Road Wortham Diss Suffolk IP22 1PT - GRANTED

9.5 To receive an update on DC/20/02977 - An application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Larger home extension. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A Erection of single storey rear extension (following removal of existing conservatory - Woodstock Long Green Wortham Diss Suffolk IP22 1PU - PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

9.6 To consider, discuss and agree on comments regarding new 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 - NO COMMENT

10. To consider, discuss and agree to new heaters for the Sports Pavilion - The prices and specifications for 3 different heaters were sourced and it was unanimously agreed that a Silentnight 2500w Mica Heater should be purchased.

11. To consider and discuss the Track outside of Wortham Village Hall - The general state of the track has been a subject of long discussions. It was unanimously agreed that remedial work is required to the track. Quotes to be sourced for a delivery of planings.

2020PC/5.....APPROVED.....

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- 12. To consider, discuss and agree to a request from Wortham Bowls Club to ‘square off’ the Bowling Green** - This matter was previously discussed at the Playing Fields Committee meeting. Clerk to find the User Agreement/Lease and report back to the Parish Council at the next meeting.
- 13. To consider, discuss and agree on an Electricity Supplier for the Sports Pavilion, Wortham** - The Clerk circulated 3 quotes to supply electricity from October 2020 - October 2021. It was unanimously decided to accept the quote from EDF Energy. Clerk to contact EON to terminate the current contract.
- 14. To consider, discuss and agree PC Meeting dates and venues for 2021** - The list of dates/venues circulated prior to the meeting were unanimously approved.
- 15. To consider, discuss and agree on additional members for the Commons Committee** - It was unanimously agreed that Councillors Hovey and Piper are elected to the Commons Committee.
- 16. To consider, discuss and agree a contractor for works required to willow trees at the Playing Field** - The Clerk is currently awaiting 3 quotes for the work required. Once received these will be circulated to the Playing Fields Committee for their consideration.
- 17. Accounts:**

17.1 Account balances as at 2nd September 2020

17.1.1	Current Account	19162.45
17.1.2	Savings Account	11506.51
17.1.3	Projects Account	31894.46

17.2 Account Payments

17.2.1	Firesite	Fire Extinguisher service	91.20
17.2.2	CGM (231496)	Grass Cutting August	108.00
17.2.3	Safe & Sound	Moles - July	48.00
17.2.4	Niki Hinton	Salary - September	92.63
17.2.5	Jane Wright	Expenses - August	152.25
17.2.6	Jane Wright	Salary - September	421.75

2020PC/6.....APPROVED.....

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17.3 Direct Debit Payments

17.3.1	EON	Electricity	200.00
17.3.2	O2	Mobile Phone	27.11

17.4 Account Receipts

17.4.1	Openreach	Wayleaves	400.85
17.4.2	HMRC	VAT Refund	3169.05

Any additional payments requests prior to the meeting

17.2.7	121 Computer Services	Printer, inks & paper	153.44
17.2.8	CGM (232247)	Grass Cutting September	180.00

It was unanimously agreed to approve all payments

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

18.1 Playing Fields Committee - Two drain covers are being purchased, as one is damaged and one is missing. It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Odams is to hold a key for the Sports Pavilion, in order to assist with maintenance etc. The irrigation tap on the Cricket pitch has been leaking. Councillor Ling to investigate where the stop valve is to ensure that the water is turned off completely.

18.2 Commons Committee - Nothing to report

18.3 Planning Committee - Nothing to report

18.4 Finance Committee - A 6 monthly review of the accounts has taken place and everything is correct and in order. It was unanimously agreed that £10,000 be transferred from the current account to the projects account.

18.5 Employment Committee - The Clerk has had her 6 month probationary review and the committee were very satisfied with her contribution. It was unanimously agreed to raise the payscale from SCP7 to SCP10 with effect from June 2020. Clerk to enquire if any courses are available on Strategic Planning.

2020PC/7.....APPROVED.....

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18.6 New Village Hall Working Group - Nothing to report

Councillors:

Sports Pavilion - Councillor Odams suggested that the Pavilion should be assessed to see if it is viable to maybe reorganise the space inside, as it is a huge asset to the village, but woefully underused.

Burgate - Councillor Cole advised Parish Councillors that the long running problem of disposal of waste etc. at a property in Burgate is currently being dealt with by the Environment Agency and we are awaiting their report.

DC/19/01020 Modification of planning obligation relating to 2480/16 - (Erection of 12 new dwellings, with parking and/or garages; upgraded highways access) (to remove option of 4no. affordable dwellings) | Land Lying On The South Side Of Bury Road Wortham Suffolk This application has now been approved, but no justification for the grounds of approval have been given. Clerk to contact the Planning Department to enquire if we have the right to appeal, as there was a legal obligation to provide 4 affordable dwellings. There has been no justification for the grounds given to approve nor any offer of compromise.

19. To receive items for the next agenda - Bowls Club, Speeding on the Mellis Road, Track outside Village Hall, DC/19/01020 Modification of planning application relating to Land Laying on the South Side of Bury Road - to remove 4 no affordable dwellings.

20. Date, time and venue for next meeting - Meeting to be held via Zoom on Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm

Meeting Close - 9.41pm

2020PC/8.....APPROVED.....

Chair, Wortham & Burgate Parish Council

APPENDIX 1 - District Councillor Report: Gislingham Ward August 2020

Mellis, Gislingham, Wickham Skeith, Thornham Magna, Thornham Parva, Wortham and Burgate

Covid-19 Staff are continuing to work from home, making use of Microsoft Teams to hold virtual meetings with colleagues, councillors and residents. Non-urgent site inspections are not taking place. Some officers are beginning to return to their normal jobs having been seconded to different duties arising from the pandemic. Online meetings are planned up to February 2021

Meetings All District Council and Committee meetings are now being held as virtual meetings using the Microsoft Teams platform. They can be viewed on YouTube. The full Council meeting on 23 July will be the Annual Council Meeting where the Chair of the Council will be elected for the year and appointments to committees and outside bodies will be confirmed.

Joint Local Plan The Joint Local Plan is promised for October 2020 when it will be available and ready to be considered at a meeting of the full Council. The next version of the Plan, when we see it, may well be very different from the consultation draft of July 2019. If, and when, Council approves the Plan, it will be subject to further consultation and an Inspector's Examination before it can be formally adopted as planning policy. However, there are two Government Papers out for consultation that may have to be taken into account.

Changes to the Current Planning System *This consultation sets out proposals for measures to improve the effectiveness of the current planning system. The 4 main proposals are:*

Ends 1st Oct 2020

- *changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need*
- *securing of First Homes through developer contributions in the short term until the transition to a new system*
- *supporting small and medium-sized builders by temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing*
- *extending the current Permission in Principle to major development*

The full document may be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system>

Changes to the method for assessing house needs will put further pressure on MS&BDC to bring forward sites for development.

Presently the baseline for Babergh is 342.5 homes. Applying the proposed factor results in $342.5 \times 2.304375 = 789$ homes.

Presently baseline for Mid Suffolk is 456.2 homes. Applying the proposed adjustment factor results in $456.2 \times 1.651875 = 754$ homes

Response to Govt. White Paper Planning Reforms *This is out to consultation, significantly it is proposed to simplify the role of local plans by focusing on identifying land under three categories— **Growth areas** suitable for substantial development, and where outline approval for development would be automatically secured for forms and types of development specified in the Plan; **Renewal areas** suitable for some development, such as gentle densification; and **Protected areas** where – as the name suggests – development is restricted.”*

Ends 29th Oct 2020

The full document can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future/planning-for-the-future>

In the forward, the Prime Minister promises a new planning system: “That gives you a greater say over what gets built in your community.”

Chris Dowsing Waste Management Officer

We're giving away 480 bags of free compost:

12 September, 9am-12pm, Needham Lake

- Attendees will be allowed up to two bags of compost per car - once it's gone, it's gone
- A one way traffic system will be in place with staff on hand to guide attendees through
- Attendees are asked not to get out of their car, if possible, to help our staff maintain social distancing

• All the compost has been supplied by Suffolk's Material Change facilities using recycled garden waste - [find out more about the facilities on the Suffolk Recycling website](#)
You can [find more information on our website](#) which includes links to the Facebook events which you're welcome to share with local residents, community groups and gardening clubs.

Gateway 14

Gateway 14, the commercial development site bought by MSDC in 2018. - a consultation on is due to launch next week. The web address is G14yoursay.co.uk and you can register for updates. There has been a reasonable amount of interest in the site from a variety of types of businesses.

Impact of COVID-19

Since March 2020

- residents relying on **benefits** have increased by **93% and 97% in Babergh and Mid Suffolk respectively** (compared to 75% locally + 84% nationally)
- those **classed as 'unemployed' by DWP** have increased across **Babergh by 140% and Mid Suffolk by 142%** (compared to 108% locally and nationally)
- **in-work UC claimants** have increased by **92% (BDC) and 95% (MSDC)** (compared to 78% locally + 87% nationally)

In **Mid Suffolk** all responding businesses that were not required to close are still trading at the end of July. While 42% of those that were required to close have since reopened, and the remaining 58% are getting ready to reopen as soon as possible.

78% of businesses currently trading say their revenues have decreased by on average 61% compared to pre-COVID.

Recovery Action Planning

Current support to businesses through grants.

Developing Business Support

- Areas of new flexible workspace and virtual business support
- New Workspace pilots
- Digital infrastructure rollout with partners and promotion of local fibre voucher scheme
- Promotion of key clusters for innovation, sector specialism and enterprise
- Skills mapping – Centre of excellence targeting transferable and specialist skills

development

- Support for growth of initiatives such as Innovation Labs
- New business support programmes
- Develop sector resilience plans which reflect emerging growth sectors but support core/traditional sectors
- New business grants launched in Autumn

Wellbeing Concerns across Suffolk

Report to follow.

Locality Awards Disabled Facilities Grant

A reminder that Locality Awards have been launched for 2020/21. If you know of a community group in need of some funding, please put them in touch with me.

In the recent Performance Reporting we raised concerns, again, that the grant available is not being spent. If you know anyone who needs any kind of adaptation to their home, from a handrail to a wet room, please ask them to get in touch. The application process is very straightforward. Please use the following link:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing-grants/disabled-facilities-grant/>

Home but not Alone

This service is gradually being phased out, only 2 or 3 phone calls are now being received, the nature of the calls means that it is best responded to by the individual service providers themselves. The number will still be monitored but staff have now returned to their normal roles. The structure is being "mothballed" and would be revived if there is a future need. It is recognised that there was a terrific response by local community groups and organisations to ensure that individual needs were met during the current emeNHSgency.

Wellbeing
NHS

<https://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/suffolk/> Suffolk NHS has a new Wellbeing Community Advisor, Nikki Betts, who is keen to make contact with groups and individuals who are interested in or have concerns about Mental Health, Wellbeing and Emotional Support. The link is to the new NHS site where families, young people, and professionals may access make a referral or get advice about wellbeing and mental health services or you can get in contact on **0345 600 2090**. To contact Nikki: Nicola.betts@nsft.nhs.uk.

Councillor: Rowland Warboys
rowland.warboys@midsuffolk.gov.uk

APPENDIX 2 - County Councillor Report



September 2020

Worham & Burgate Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980 Twitter: @jesstfleming

School Transport - The Passenger Transport team has put plans in place to ensure that all children eligible for transport can get to school. Guidance on school travel and health can be found at <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel> and www.suffolkonboard.com/covidguide. Unfortunately spare seats cannot be committed at this time, but this position will be reviewed in October once numbers are better known. If under exceptional circumstances a parent has **no means whatsoever** of getting their child to school, please contact transport.review@suffolk.gov.uk to seek immediate assistance.

Schools – To date schools have had a successful start to the term with very high attendance levels across Suffolk. This is a direct result of the high level of planning and preparation that each school, teachers and support staff have put in over the summer.

Broadband – The County Council along with BT are working hard to resolve specific connection issues in parts of Worham and to enable fibre broadband to be made available to all residents.

A140 Roundabouts – The roundabouts are progressing, a separate newsletter is available with current information and contacts. Both are anticipated to be complete by the end of February 2021.

Remembering VJ Day, 75 years ago - Saturday 15 August was the 75th anniversary of VJ Day in the UK, marking Victory in Japan at the end of the Second World War. Suffolk Archives has put together a [special online exhibition marking VJ Day](#), exploring the stories of two Suffolk men taken prisoner in the Far East, Able Seaman Harold Lock and Private Raymond Suttle, from the 4th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, as well as the way Suffolk marked the end of the Second World War.

Planning and Gov White Paper – the changes proposed to various aspects of the planning system are substantial and have wide implications across all authorities. The consultation closes on 29th October. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future> Changes to local planning and district housing delivery are also currently proposed.

County Council and Suffolk Corona Watch – Suffolk Public Health has set up its own web site available on www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch. This holds national and local data, including confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), deaths from coronavirus, care home outbreaks, and Google social mobility data.

