

**Minutes of the meeting of Worlingham Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 7.00pm at Worlingham Middle School**

**PRESENT** M Culyer, in the Chair  
T Knights, Vice Chairman

T Cossey Mrs S Robbins  
Mrs M Hammond-Fox Mrs W Summerfield  
S Holman

**ALSO PRESENT** Mrs J Janney, Clerk  
M Bee, Suffolk County Council/Waveney District Council  
A Draper, Waveney District Council

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC** 7

30. **APOLOGIES** G Risebrow

31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None

32. **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011 be approved as a correct record

**Standing Orders were suspended.**

33. **REPORTS**

**Police Report**

No report on this occasion

As Councillor Bee had not arrived at this point, Councillor Draper was invited to report.

**Report from District Councillor - Councillor A Draper**

The issue regarding the Household Waste Site is still ongoing. SCC looking to take over the site. Comments were raised regarding paying to 'dump' when it was free at Lowestoft. Nothing as yet has been decided but Councillor Bee will answer some of these queries but they were still waiting on the tenders.

**Resident's questions to Chairman**

A resident asked for an update on premises which were in a poor state of repair. The Chairman advised that this was being addressed and contact had been made with the Environmental Officer at Waveney District Council.

In depth discussion ensued regarding the plight of a resident who was having problems with the unkempt state of a neighbouring property.

The Chairman, after listening to all the comments, requested that all information and any photographic evidence be placed with Councillor Draper for action.

Other points raised by the residents were:

- Pedestrian crossing issues - dangerous driving - no warning signage
- The Chairman advised that Councillor Risebrow had attended the Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting and had brought up this matter.

## **Standing Orders were then re-instated**

### 34. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND UPDATES**

#### **a) Resident's query re neighbours property**

This had been dealt with earlier in the meeting and it was suggested that Social Services should be involved.

#### **b) Werel's Loke - building update**

The work is now progressing. There is to be a site meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July and all interested parties are welcome to attend.

#### **c) Request for a Skatepark in Worlingham (E mail appended)**

The Chairman read out an e mail from Mr Oliver Waters, a resident of Worlingham who wished to propose that the Parish Council consider building a skatepark for the younger residents of Beccles. Discussion ensued on the siting, viability and funding of such a project.

RESOLVED that the Clerk respond to Mr Water's e mail to arrange a meeting between him and the Parish Council to discuss his proposal

## **COUNCILLOR MARK BEE ARRIVED AND THE STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED**

### **County Councillor Report - Mark Bee**

Councillor Bee reported that SCC were currently preparing next year's budget and trying to save £5 million but there is still a large gap to cover. £30 million is required to cover expansion/demand/inflation and saving frontline services was a priority. Savings for this are currently being made from core levels within SCC. Strategic direction is being sought by working with communities in partnership across the board where community input would create a better working relationship, and enabling local communities to have a say in how things can be run.

### **Broadband**

Councillor Bee advised that their aim is to get Broadband in Suffolk and are bidding to get Broadband UK into putting £10-20 million into this project. Currently Suffolk receive 3-4 megabytes but with this bid it could rise to 100 megabytes which would mean businesses and the community would have a much better system to use and this could impact on local businesses for the better.

### **Library update**

This situation with local libraries has been turned around and SCC are going to keep them open in Beccles and Bungay. The way forward is to develop these premises, opening them up for use by agencies, eg Tourist Information, Post Office, shops and also expand the IT facilities within the library structure. Not for profit agencies would run the basic service with volunteers carrying out the daily duties. SCC needs to save some money overall, and are trying to do that at source but still want to keep services running as best they can by outsourcing community volunteers, ie, Beccles Lido is a perfect example of what can be achieved by the community.

## **Household Waste sites**

The household waste site in Beccles is currently being looked at by Beccles Town Council who are working with outside businesses to resolve this issue. Charges may have to be made for this new facility and it may be moved to another site if the talks bear fruit with outside businesses. Currently Council's cannot charge for this service but it might be that a charge, of say £4 per car maybe imposed by any business who takes this service on. With the cost of the drive to Lowestoft to use the waste site it might be more cost affective to pay at Beccles.

Councillor Bee then asked those present if they had any questions.

Discussion then ensued with points being raised such as

- Would there be a reduction in Council tax if charges were imposed.
- A - Difficult to answer as Council tax covers other services as well. You have to balance things up against petrol costs and disposal costs. Southwold has mentioned £25 to dispose of household waste.
- Fly tipping would be rife.

The Chairman answered by saying how many times would an average person actually use the facility? Neighbours could fill a car with waste and pay the cost for one car load which would cut the cost considerably.

Councillor Bee felt that the community should try to make it work.

- South Norfolk only allow one bag to be deposited per visit.
- Money needs to come from the Government and SCC
- Library needs volunteers
- Private companies want to make profits
- Library could be a social enterprise with monies raised being re-invested and grants sourced
- Total SCC budget is 1.2 billion - need to save £50 million over two years. Problem stems from the Government reducing their grant to SCC
- Money required for the elderly
- Southern Relief Road is needed

Discussion also ensued on the role of the Chief Executive of SCC, Mrs Hill.

Members voiced their concerns regarding lack of communication with Waveney District Council over issues such as maintenance. Outstanding maintenance issues go back to 2009. Play areas were highlighted as particularly lacking in attention along with seating and refuse/dog bins. Vehicle activated signage, which was being financed by the Parish Council themselves has been plagued with issues and still hasn't been installed. The Chairman advised that the Dog Bin was being installed next week.

Members felt that Worlingham, as tax payers, did not get value for money out of Waveney District Council/Suffolk County Council.

Councillor Bee took all these issues on board, advising that S106 money was used for play areas, but there was no contingency for future maintenance, and this is where the problem lay. He advised members that he has a Locality Budget annually for use by the community of £8,000. He urged the members to use this facility for anything they needed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to write a letter outlining all issues raised this evening to Councillor Bee with a copy to Councillor Draper

**Standing Orders were then re-instated.**

**d) Outside Gym - information/display at Councillor Surgery on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011**

The Chairman invited Councillor Hammond-Fox to speak on this item. Councillor Hammond-Fox referred to an answerphone call she had received from the Clerk relating to 'two pieces of equipment'. She was unsure of this message as she felt that two pieces of equipment was not enough. (*Mr Cossey left the meeting at this point*).

Discussion ensued on the merits of this project of an outside gym in the parish of Worlingham, whether it would be used by the elderly population, although physical fitness and leisure activities for the older age group was mentioned in the Parish Plan. A form for a grant was available and was waiting to be completed. The Chairman advised that he would rather a grant was sourced than money being allocated directly from the Council coffers. He was afraid that the equipment might not be used and residents would complain that this money (£3,000 for match funding purposes set aside in the budget) had been wasted. (*Mr Cossey returned to the meeting.*) After further discussion it was

RESOLVED to invite the representative down, as previously agreed, to gain a quotation for Gym Equipment to be sited on a suitable area in Worlingham and for the Grant application to be made for the sum of £10,000 once a quotation had been given

**e) Garden Competition update**

Councillor Holman was invited to speak to the Council on this item. He advised that only 2-3 entrants had been received, probably due to the weather condition this year and that judging would be carried out on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011.

**f) Community Container - 6m x 6m**

The Chairman had received the go-ahead from Mr Croft, Head of Worlingham Primary School and advised that permission should also be sought from the Middle School. Discussion ensued on various sizes and an offer of a free 20' container from a resident of Worlingham was raised. Transport/maintenance costs would need to be assessed.

**g) Correspondence**

The Chairman read out a letter received from Suffolk County Council (appended) regarding support required for the Beccles Southern Relief Road.

RESOLVED that the correspondence from Suffolk County Council requesting support for the Beccles Southern Relief Road be received and that a letter of support be sent and to mention in that correspondence that it was essential for growth for the region

(COUNCILLOR T COSSEY EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING)

**35. TO RECEIVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### Discussed with recommendations made by the Planning Committee

DC/11/0657/FUL	Tobar Ltd The Old Aerodrome	Construction of a temporary Storage Unit
<b>APPROVE</b> - Rider that cladding should be painted in brown, green or khaki to blend in with surroundings, similar to B & B Skips building, this will also help break-up the outline of existing building when viewed from the west		
DC/11/0574/FUL	1 Manor Close	Construction of a replacement front porch
<b>APPROVE</b>		
DC/11/0725/TPO	The Homestead Woodland Avenue	T1 & T2 - Ash Trees - Fell - Due to fungal infection T3 - Ash Tree - Fell - Due to severe leaning T4 - Ash Tree - To be topped out and re-shaped, T5 - Ash Tree - Lop and top tree T6, T7 & T8 - Ash Trees - Fell - Due to fungal infection
<b>APPROVE</b>		
DC/11/0670/FUL	Lane at former Ellough Airfield Copland Way	Construction of an anaerobic digestion plant and associated buildings and structures
<b>APPROVE</b> - Providing there is a guarantee of no smell emissions		
DC/11/0734/FUL	22 Cherry Hill Close	Extension to existing boundary wall
<b>APPROVE</b>		

### 35. REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

#### a) SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM REPORT

The Chairman reiterated his earlier comments regarding the zebra crossing on Lowestoft Road and advised that Councillor Risebrow had attended the meeting and they were sending an officer to check this matter and report back.

#### b) SALC MEETING

Councillor Summerfield advised members that she had attended a SALC meeting and listened to a speak, Mr Webster on the issues of street lighting. Currently SCC were considering energy-saving lighting. Some areas will automatically be switched whilst other areas will be left on longer.

#### **FOUR TOWNS BUS**

Councillor Summerfield advised that the bus has a broken half shaft and will be out of action until costs have been sought for repairs

#### **LOCAL ISSUES REGARDING LARGER DEVELOPMENTS**

Information was coming through from Leiston who have requested SALC to take up a motion at their AGM regarding large developments in parish and towns to pay for presentations regarding their proposals. This new way forward for consultation was currently being undertaken by SALC.

### 36. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **a) Grants**

There were no grant applications.

#### **b) Authorisation of cheques for payment**

RESOLVED that the cheques authorised for payment be signed by three members of Worlingham Parish Council

#### **c) Audit Update**

Accounts are currently with the Internal Auditor.

### 37. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1. Outside Gym Ongoing
2. Maintenance to footpath Done
3. Woodfield Park  
Youth Club meeting next week with would-be volunteers - discussion ensued regarding way forward. Provisionally booked Sports Hall for September every Tuesday from September
4. Dog Bin - Sand Pit Lane - ongoing
5. Fete - The Chairman spoke on this item. Good day, even though weather had been unpredictable - hail, rain, wind. Good turnout, thanks to all who helped and attended. Overall profit of £850. Special thanks to Stuart and Sylvia. Next year's fete Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The Chairman spoke on the resignation of Pippa Holiday who had put so much effort into arranging the fetes over the years. Everyone was sorry to see her go.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write a thank you letter to Pippa Holiday

6. Rumour of closure of Halesworth Traffic Division - no traffic Police in the area as Norfolk & Suffolk are amalgamating their traffic units.

RESOLVED that the Clerk to write to clarify if this information is correct as the Parish Council are concerned that this might bring problems to the area in the future

7. Footpath between Park Drive and the Chase is very overgrown.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the local authority to request that this public footpath is cleared

38. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of Worlingham Parish Council is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Beccles Middle School at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed: ..... Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
Chairman