

Wormegay Parish Council - Meeting Minutes

Chair: Gwen Reddington
Clerk: Julian Snape

Telephone: 01553 810877

The meeting of Wormegay Parish Council took place on 24th Jul 2018 in Tottenhill and Wormegay Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: *Chair:* Gwen Reddington, *Councillors:* Kevan Reddington, Tom Scott, Mike Johnson, Jonathan Pearce, Peter Sneesby. *Borough Councillors* Geoffrey Hipperson and Mike Howland. *Clerk:* Julian Snape. Also present were 11 parishioners.

1. Apology for Absence

Dominic Symington

2. Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Councillor Jonathan Pearce declared an interest regarding an item under Planning.

3. Minutes of Meeting Held on 29th May 2018 to be Approved and Signed

These were duly approved unanimously and signed. No matters were reported.

4. Chairman's, Borough Councillors and Clerks Reports

Chairman: Nothing to report

Borough Councillor: Mr Mike Howland reported he had now been deselected but would be standing as an independent candidate in the next elections. He was still dedicated to the local area and would continue attending meetings. He mentioned that it may be a good idea to be aware of ex-service people from the Parish so when they eventually pass there may be a dignified attendance at their funerals..

Clerk: Nothing to report

5. Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

6. Financial Report for this Meeting and Approval of Cheques

Current balance	£13,909.02
ROSPA (Playground equipment inspection)	£79.80 CHQ# 696
Clerk Wages & expenses	£283.84 CHQ# 697
Closing balance	£13,545.38

7. Reports from Last Meeting & Parishioner Participation (Limited to 3 Minutes Each)

A parishioner was concerned about the noise made by vehicles entering and leaving the Carrot Factory especially after the specified working hours, sometimes late at night or early in the morning. The manager representing the factory, and Councillor Jonathan Pearce said they would talk to those who may be the offending parties to ensure they are more neighbourly going forward. They are regularly asking visiting vehicles to be considerate but it is not so easy to enforce. The parishioner was advised to keep a log and the Carrot Factory said he'd be the point of contact for any future logged incidents and complaints.

8. Planning

Alterations to the effluent treatment plant including erection of a new control room building and new tanks, plant and equipment at Alfred G Pearce Ltd site in Wormegay known as The Carrot Factory. Councillor Jonathan Pearce had already declared an interest in item 2 above.

Several parishioners were very concerned on the impact it may have on the village and their houses, especially as the proposed development was directly behind a number of parishioners homes. Mr and Mrs Tansley requested their names be recorded in these Minutes and gave the apologies of Mr and Mrs Dodds for not being able to attend.

The main concerns were that increased water discharge would exacerbate the already existing flooding problems affecting a number of local residents (from previous historic water course rerouting), noise of the plant operation, vehicles accessing the new plant, interference with the residents view due to increased height of the tank and the overall position of the plant.

The factory manager with the assistance of Councillor Jonathan Pearce attempted to answer questions and concerns from the parishioners.

As far as flooding was concerned they didn't feel there would be any additional issue as all the treated discharge waters are to be piped directly into the nearby river Polver for which a licence has been approved. The noise of the plant in operation may be reduced by the increased height of a shielding mud bank and the latest blower equipment meets all noise standards. Vehicles accessing the plant should be reduced by 53 per week as they will not be required for emptying waste as the old plant demanded. An offer was made to add extra screening on the mud banks to hide the tops of the tanks that will project above. Due to the shape of the factory site and existing drainage the site proposed for the plant was the only realistic location.

Borough Councillor Geoffrey Hipperson addressed the meeting to say that from the perspective of the Borough Council planning application, as the proposal met the current requirements it would probably go through despite any lodged protests.

Councillor Peter Sneesby offered to chair a meeting between parishioners and the factory to see how the issues could be addressed in a constructive manner as the main worry from the parishioners was not that the plant was a problem, just the location.

Parishioners were still concerned due to the unknowns, and how could the assurances of the Carrot Factory be guaranteed.

After the main meeting there was a discussion amongst Councillors (from which Councillor Jonathan Pearce was excluded due to potential conflict of interest). It was agreed that although the concerns of the parishioners were noted and the Parish Council will always attempt to represent their concerns, in this case as it appears all planning laws have been complied with, therefore Parish Council has no constructive objection to the application.

However it was highlighted that it would be best if the Carrot Factory could liaise closely with parishioners and the Parish Council to ensure the matter was handled as sensitively as possible.

9. Other village matters and items for future agendas

Although the removal of the old telephone box in the village cannot now be reversed, a parishioner would like to continue with the idea of installing a defibrillator in the village. It was agreed that this is a good idea and the options should be investigated further. Defibrillator could cost up to £2,000 but there may be grants available to help.

A parishioner mentioned that it may be time to have the bridge in the village re-tested by Highways to see if it was being damaged and up to requirements for the heavy vehicles crossing and many parishioners brought up the ongoing issue of speeding vehicles. Councillor Peter Sneesby mentioned that he had brought up the possibility of introducing a traffic calming 'pinch point' into the village before.

Chair Gwen Reddington suggested it may be time to hire a contractor to undertake all the items around the village that need repair or refurbishment. Other members of the council suggested existing volunteers may be sufficient to cover all the repairs and refurbishments needed without having to hire external contactors. Two parish councillors volunteered to undertake repairs and restorations where needed.

The meeting finished at 20:30hrs

10. The date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting is Tuesday 25th September 2018 at 7pm in the Tottenhill and Wormegay Village Hall.