

WORMEGAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of Wormegay Parish Council took place on Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 7.00pm at the Wormegay Mission Room

Present: Cllr. Sneesby, Cllr. Payne, Cllr. Chopping, Cllr. McAdam, Cllr. Moriarty, Clerk Vicky Matkin and 7 Parishioners

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence

Cllr. Malby

2. To receive declarations of interest and requests for items on the Agenda

None

3. To approve minutes of last meeting 30th January 2024

Approved - copy to be signed at next meeting

4. To receive the Chairman's, Borough Councilors and Clerks Reports

- a. Borough Councilors Report

The budget is very tough, not much money coming from the government, not much positive news at all.

Councils have been using EOT'S (extensions of times) to drag out planning applications in order to give applicants the time to get all the material together and to give parishes etc. the time to be part of the consultation. Applications now must be processed within six weeks. The public will be encouraged to use the Pre application advice to prevent errors because applications will no longer be returned to be corrected they will just be turned down. There is no danger that applications will get pushed through because they will be rejected if they are incorrect.

Available online are the details of the stages of the road closures on A47 from 8pm-6am

Chased Brian Ogden about TPO he said he would get in contact with you.

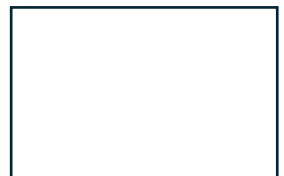
- b. Chairman's Report

Cllr. Malby sends his apologies. He's taken a new job so his attendance at the meetings is going to be very sporadic. He will still be available to complete parish Council work and he wants to remain as the vice chair. I don't have a problem with that in general terms. My concern is that councillors have to attend so many meetings a year. Cllrs discussed options for remote attendance, or different evenings but he is working away during the week so all nights are the same. He wants to stay and I want him to stay. Cllrs voted 5 agreed. Action to check guidelines for meeting attendance

Prepared 13 March 2024

Email: cierkwormeqaypc@gmail.com

Chair Signed.



Cllr. Sneesby attended a meeting led by Terry Parrish with 50 other chairs of parish councils

Blackborough End traveller sites. Sites are being reviewed by the Borough Council. Land owners were invited to submit land that they felt was available. A resident in Blackborough End had planning permission denied for houses and he has submitted these pockets of land to be considered for sites. Cllr. Morarty explained these sites had been put forward previously and were deemed inappropriate by officers.

Borough Council launching support options for parish councils including:

- parish council enquiries website and e-mail address - goes live on the 1st of March Action Clerk to find out details ● a document pack with templates and advice for malicious complaints provided end March 2024.
 - endeavouring to work more closely with NALC National Association of Local Councils to provide dedicated support to parish councils with serious government issues. ● parish council hub on Intranet pages containing all the useful information, frequently asked questions, links to parish councils etc.
 - documents produced about Freedom of Information to prevent applications from members of the public trying to get personal contact details.
- e new online forums for parish council clerks and chairs to meet and provide more training.
- Exploring the concept of Borough Council member champions for 'civic in civility in public life' to support parish councils experiencing difficulties. Well, we don't have that but nice to know it is available ● exploring the cost of employing a permanent post to support and advise parish councils. Would be a paid for service, predominantly to support with malicious complaints but need to identify if there is enough demand as already 2 companies provide similar services.

The council is looking at increasing council tax for properties that have been empty for a year. Exemptions would be things probate etc. An algorithm will be used to determine how much of the extra council tax money will go to the parish council. Some councils were getting E13,000 but we don't have any empty properties in the village that fit the criteria, which is a positive so we get nothing.

Second homes tax algorithm, primarily brought in by the central government for places like Norfolk, Devon, Cornwall, Sussex starts April 2025. There's a possibility that Norfolk County Council could raise an extra €6.5 million through taxes. Most of that money will go to the County Council, the police and crime commissioner and health and social services which need the money. The parish would need to put an application in for this tax but we don't have 2nd homes in the village just the airbnb.

Biodiversity gain - from the end of March there has to be a minimum of 10% gain on biodiversity if there is any building taking place. For example 2000 homes built on 10 acres of land the company has to plant 2500 trees on some of the acres. There has to be a biodiversity gain for the local community but it doesn't have to be trees, it could be a park. However, the companies can acquire cheaper land elsewhere; they could build the houses in Norfolk but plant the trees in Scotland although the further they go from the building site costs them more.

A couple of the other parish councils are running out of burial plots. Parishioner confirmed we had space in the cemetery and not the church yard. There is a national drive for more cremations because the country is running out of burial plots.

The Sandringham Estate was very topical due to the impact on residents of local villages when the concerts were on. Public performance licences were mentioned and we are close to Stradsett House who have a licence for entertainment. One to keep an eye on, even though it's not our borough there could be a knock on effect regarding traffic if they have an event. They have to apply for the licence a year in advance.

Wisbech Incinerator - not directly going to affect us but indirectly it could. There was a real concern with a lot of parish council chairs about the increase in traffic getting to and from the building. We have to be mindful that our parish actually goes out as far as the A134 and the A10. Also Castle Rd can be used as a cut through, particularly when Anglian Water has finished.

It was raised that there is a need to encourage younger people to join parish councils. This is something that we could try and promote within our parish. Action - explore ways to encourage people to meetings and to join the council

c. Clerks Report

i. Request to complete 'Understanding Planning' Training E48 agreed

ii. Portrait of King Charles III

To be delivered to Vicky's address by April then cllrs. will decide where to display iii.

Grass cutting - when do we want to start and need new contractor

Action - Clerk to get 3 quotes to start ASAP iv.

Noticeboards and flagpole

Quotes and previous grant received for these discussed by cllrs. All agreed to order flagpole and UK flag and 3 notice boards. Parish agreed happy to display Armed Forces flag. Action - Vicky to place orders and to get quotes for a St Georges and Armed Forces flag and to claim back VAT

v. Agree date for Annual Parish Council Meeting (May)

21st May vi. Agree date for Annual Parish Meeting (between
1 March - 1 June)

23rd April vii. Agreement to
appoint internal auditor

5. Health and Safety Topics

No actions

6. Planning topics

i. Blackborough End potential traveler sites - members of the public can object to it online by 8th March, any comments made are public

ii. TPO's - the oak tree #39 near the Mission Room. Land Registry has this belonging to Park Farm. Although the parish council has been caring for the land around the mission room the order will be served on the land and the tree owner at Park Farm.

The horse chestnut tree appears to be in the Garden of Honey Dukes Before we serve without notice a new order. Action Cllr. Payme to write to residents to inform them that a TPO was about to be served on the horse chestnut

The oak tree at Bardolph's Way is on unregistered land. We can still make a tree preservation order, but obviously we're not able to serve it on the landowner. The tree is not in perfect condition, suffering from die back of branches which is not a new problem for the tree, but it doesn't mean we can't protect it.

7. Highways

Road closure signage improved and stays up now

Action Cllr Chopping to speak to Anglian Water about repairing the road outside parishioners house that has been damaged for a long time

Dragon's Teeth - complete non starter, around E30,000 that we would have to fund. Not giving up, I will look at it again when Anglian Water is finished.

8. To consider the financial report for this meeting and approval of cheques:

a. Financial Report

The bottom line figure is E21,000, we have got to spend some of that, otherwise we're going to lose it. That's why we are ordering flag poles and notice boards as the money for these is included in the total. We've also put money aside in the reserve to help with the renovations of the mission room and there was money put by for the playing field.

Still need to look at getting a grant to support the cost of the renovations. There is a fund we can apply for but we need approved planning permission before we can progress with this.

b. Cheques for approval:

i. Clerk Training - Understanding Planning - €48 - approved ii. Clerks Wages E162.94

Inc. 4 weeks x 4 hours (29/01/2024 - 25/02/2024) approved

9. To receive feedback/queries from the Parishioners

Cllr McAdam requested for a projector and screen to be purchased to improve presentation at the meetings, all cllrs agreed this was a good idea. Action Cllr Chopping to explore costs

Cllr Payne wanted to thank some parishioners for completing a litter pick in the village. Cllr. Sneesby expressed his thanks and requested that gift vouchers were given to the parishioners and their children who helped. Action Cllr Payne to get vouchers and deliver to parishioners involved

Could Cllr. Malby provide a report on the progress of the mission room renovations if he can't attend the meetings and whether he needs us to do anything with the Diocese

Parishioner requested the cost of joining the Anglian Water Scheme after it has finished, waitin for a reply but expect the cost to be high

Issues with the amount of leaves falling into the gutters are a lot of work to clear. Could a street sweeper come through the village? Due to the deficit in the borough council's budget this will not be an option.

We bought a rose in memory of Jackie Tansley who was on our committee for many, many years, who died last year. It is planted just outside the mission room and the family are aware.

Can we look at getting a rubbish bin back in the village - Action Clerk to look into this

Plant sale 13th April

Can we invite the community policeman to the meetings? Action Clerk to send invite

Should we do something to remember the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Maybe fundraising for the British Legion. Good idea dates to be confirmed

10. To receive items for the next Agenda

None

11. To agree the date and time of the next parish council meeting

26th March