

# Worldham Annual Parish Assembly

## Draft Minutes of Meeting

held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 7.00pm

East Worldham Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr R Twining (Chair)  
Cllr W Brock  
Cllr S Butler  
Cllr T Godbert

**Also present:** 26 members of the public  
County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee  
District Councillor David Ashcroft  
Inspector Darren Murphy, Hampshire & IOW Constabulary  
Pamela Hibbins, Parish Clerk

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Welcome and Introduction

Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr R Twining welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Apologies of absence –

Cllr B Bagnell  
Cllr C Sole  
Kate Denyer  
District Councillor Phillip Davies

### Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.  
There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**Proposed: Cllr R Twining, Seconded: Cllr W Brock**

**Action: Clerk**

### County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee attended and gave the following report.

As with all County Councils across the country, finance has been increasingly tight. If you strip out the education budget Hampshire County Council have £1.3 billion a year to do everything. Social Care services have grown exponentially since I was elected first in 2005 and now account for over £900 million a year, £650 million on adults and over £250 million on children's services as we see an increased number of children in care. This is a rise that is way above inflation and represents a very significant demographical change.

That leaves, £400 million for all our other services so we are having to move to further retrenchment in those other services because, under the present circumstances, our disadvantaged, support needy elderly adults and children, currently 2300 of them, are the key statutory priority. Even so there are diminished reserves with £20 million more for Highways a year bringing the annual repair and maintenance spend to over £200 million a year spread over the road network of over 5000 miles. So resources are tight.

On Worldham matters the key issues over the past year have been: the SSEN works, Jalsa Salana and the relationship with EHDC. We have also responded to the Local Plan and implications for Worldham, its traffic volumes and its environment. It's been a pleasure to support the Worldham environment improvement group led by Morwenna and her marvellous supporters. Above all, the Parish Council team, including the Chairman and Clerk, have been superlative.

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### **District Councillor's Report**

District Councillor David Ashcroft was in attendance and gave the following report.

East Hampshire District Plan Consultation was conducted and approximately 2,500 comments were received. To note that East Hampshire District Council, like all councils are duty bound by Central Government to create a housing plan for 2021 to 2040. Work on the plan will continue if we enter purdah but only with low key announcements.. The plan is due to be finalised by the middle of 2025. To note that any new development will be a phased process and it was noted that after getting permission developers don't always start the building straight away, which then puts pressure on finding more suitable sites.

Once suggested allocations have been confirmed there will be another consultation and this will then go to the planning inspectorate for approval with a decision likely early 2025.

District Councillor is aware that there are continuing issues with NORSE reference bin collection in the area. It was also highlighted that the easiest way to report a missed bin is to report this online.

East Hampshire District Council currently have grants available. Most notably the Councillor Community Grant Scheme and the Supporting Communities Fund. The Councillor Community Grant Scheme is a budget of £3,500 allocated to each District Councillor to support local voluntary and not for profit organisations within, or that benefit, their ward.

The East Hants District Council 'Supporting Communities' Fund can support either Revenue Grants (usually running costs, i.e. salary or running a regular service) or Capital Grants (one-off payment, usually towards the purchasing of equipment, building works or other one-off payments).

The EHDC budget was agreed at the Full Council meeting on Thursday 29 February, which includes investments in the waste collection service and welfare and calls for a £5 a year increase in the EHDC share of Council Tax at Band D. In the face of national and global uncertainty, the council have put aside over £2 million into reserves as a precaution against future financial turbulence and have said that their finances are stable.

District Councillor David Ashcroft thanked the councillors and clerk of Worldham Parish Council for all their help, input and support.

### **Chairman's Report**

A warm welcome to you all, to our Annual Parish Assembly at the village hall.

Councillor Robin Twining was elected Chair of the Parish Council in May 2023 and its been a tumultuous year, more than I have ever seen since being involved in the PC for the last 18 years, with a lot of issues and much fireworks.

### **Planning Applications**

The PC has been very busy working on your behalf. In terms of planning applications we have had a busy year, most notably as follows:-

- A TPO with over 50 comments received
- 29 containers at Oaklands Farm
- Alterations to listed buildings
- Small extensions
- External to Parish such as Farnborough Airport

**We have also had a number of consultations including our own.**

- Parish Priority Statement (83 responses) – setting out the parish vision for next 15 years.

- EHDC Local Plan – Neatham Down strategic site for potentially 1200 houses
- Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation – sand silica extraction at Kingsley
- Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation - £132 million savings to be found.

#### **A number of Community Events took place.**

- Fireworks by the lake
- Big Help out in the village hall £180 donation and 2 car loads of food for the Alton Food Bank
- Celebration of the Worldham's 17th September – discussed the PPS
- Worldham dog show

#### **Roads/Traffic Improvements**

Speedwatch Volunteers were active last year, but so far not this year due to SSEN. We have applied for and were given 3 speed cameras by EHDC and I was interviewed by BBC South regarding their use. Speeding is still a major concern in the village and we will hear more from SpeedWatch later in the meeting.

#### **Jalsa Salana**

The Jalsa Salana was held last year from the 28 – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023

In 2023

- 41,654 attendees from 118 countries
- Marquees increased by 20% and tracking increased from 8 to 11 miles
- 270,000 meals served.

A public meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

- Dates for **2024: 26-28th July**

The Worldhams and Hartley Mauditt are represented by Tess and Will on the Jalsa Salana External Liaison Panel (JS-ELG) established by the AMA. which includes membership from Whitehill Town Council, Kingsley Parish Council, Binsted Parish Council, Alton Town Council, Worldham Parish Council, EHDC (Cllr Ashcroft and Davies as relevant ward councillors along with Cllr Shah as Cabinet Member), the local police, South Downs National Park, as well as members from AMA UK. This group is for information only but any plans that are presented in this meeting, Cllrs or members of this group are welcome to share their views and they are taken on board. Worldham Parish Council continue to seek to be invited to the Safety Advisor Group (SAG) for the event and we thank Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee in continuing to support this. To note currently the AMA Transport Management Plan for the event has not been finalised but we hope to have sight to this so we can input at a local level and help the event to run smoothly for all.

#### **SSEN Works**

Starting in May 2023 and running through until September 2024, the Alton to Bordon investment project is installing 18km of cabling that will serve the needs of the area's 30,000 customers for many years to come. The parish council first heard about these works at last years' Parish Assembly. SSEN subsequently attended the June 2023 Parish Council meeting and a public meeting with residents was conducted on the 18th October 2023 as well as drop in session at the 3 Horseshoes.

Our thanks to Mark Kemp-Gee for setting up and inviting us to attend regular Teams meetings with Highways and SSEN. As a result the works programme has been feed into directly by the Parish Council, most notable by increasing signage and allowing changes in the schedule so that the B3004 is open during the school/college exam period. Thank you to SSEN for supporting these requests. Works are now underway and we are aware that this is stressful for residents and is putting increased pressure on our local lanes, impacting the surfacing of the road and the verges. As part of

the license of works SSEN will have to return the roads and verges to the previous state and we have access to the video of the road condition before the works.

### **Awards**

At the presentation evening at the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Village of the Year Awards on the 23rd September 2023 we are delighted to report that The Three Horseshoes was awarded the 'Pub as a Hub Award', our own Tess Godbert was awarded, Inspirational Councillor and the Worldhams and Hartley Mauditt were awarded runner up for the 'Best small Village' award and runner up in the 'Excellence in Community Engagement' category. Worldham Parish Council do our best to have continual engagement with our parishioners via WhatsApp groups for East Worldham and the West Worldham WhatsApp, Worldham Facebook Page, Worldham PC website, and via the King's World.

### **In other news.**

May 2023 saw the re-election of all councillors at Worldham Parish Council. Mary Trigwell Jones was awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) for her services to the community in East Worldham, Hampshire.

The Worldham Enhancement Group was formed and set about clearing and enhancing the village, notably outside the village hall and the parking area by the Church on Church Lane. We will hear more from the group shortly.

Litter picks were arranged along Cakers Lane while the road has been closed.

The Village Hall took on sole ownership for the septic tank.

### **Thanks**

On behalf of Worldham Parish Council we must recognise the invaluable support that we get at County and District level from our representatives. Thank you to Cllr Mark Kemp Gee and Cllr David Ashcroft for all their support through out the year. Thanks also to District Councillors the financial support in awarding us grants for the Coronation Celebrations and £400 for the Community Litter Pick Equipment. And to County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee for granting us £1000 for repairs to village hall roof and for his support with representation with Jalsa Salana and SSEN.

This year we continue as a full council of six, supported by the Parish Clerk. I would like to thank all the councillors, who are all unpaid volunteers and the clerk for their contribution over the last year.

Our thanks to continue all of the SpeedWatch Volunteers and to Nicky and John for getting the new AutoSpeedWatch cameras up and running. To all the litter pickers and members of the Worldham Enhancement Group. To Kish and Jill who look after the village hall. Lastly I would like to thank the parishinoers for your continued support to myself and the council.

### **Financial Statement of the Accounts for the year 2023/2024 – The Clerk** **The Clerk provided a review of the end of year accounts.**

	31 March 2024 £
<b>1- Balances brought forward</b>	51571

<b>2 (+) Precept or Rates and Levies</b>	16,648
<b>3 (+) Total other receipts</b>	12661
<b>4 (-) Staff costs</b>	7209
<b>5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments</b>	NIL
<b>6 (-) All other payments</b>	12837
<b>7 (=) Balances carried forward</b>	60834
<b>8 Total value of cash and short term investments</b>	60834
<b>9 Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets</b>	382,719
<b>10 - Total borrowings</b>	NIL

The Parish Clerk presented the financial overview above and further explanation below.  
Worldham Parish Council started the year with a balance of £51,571.

In terms of income received, the precept for the year 2023/2024 was increased to £16,648. This is the money that comes directly from residents as part of the council tax. It is only spent within the Worldhams and Hartley Mauditt and does not fund anything outside this area. Total other income was down from last year, mainly as the Coronation was a smaller event than the Jubilee but it was still a healthy £12,661. Approximately £5,500 of this is from the Worldham Community Benefit Fund that the Parish Council entered into an agreement with Wilsom Solar Farms and is funding available to our local community. The rest is largely made up of other revenue streams that the parish council actively pursue for the parish and these are usually grants to fund specific projects such as contributions to local celebrations such as the Coronation.

We are also very lucky to have this village hall and we receive income from the hall and equipment hire. We now have regular weekly users who run a yoga and pilates out of the village hall and we have seen the return of kids parties at the weekends. We have also actively advertised equipment such as marquee, tables/chairs, projectors and screens available to hire. We have also been proactive on looking for grants for funding in the area, as already mentioned by our Chair, these have included Community Litter Picks, contribution to the local Coronation event and a grant of £1,000 to help with repairs to the roof of the village hall.

Staff costs totalled £7,209 and covers a part time clerk who acts as the clerk, finance officer, book keeper, projector manager and governance officer. To note all councillors are volunteers and give up their time for free.

All other expenditure for the year came in at £12,837 and covers the council's main expenditure. This covers;-

Initial

- site management of the playground and the village hall, landscaping, maintenance and upkeep of these areas, including the annual inspection and any repairs to the play equipment, vegetation, grass cuttings of both areas and tree management.
- Governance. The Parish Council's bills, insurance, IT subscriptions, website costs, electricity bills etc are regularly reviewed to make sure prices are competitive.
- Grants. On top of the Worldham Community Benefit Fund (Solar Fund) we also give a donation to the local PCCs for upkeep to the churchyard maintenance. Worldham Parish Council made donations to East Worldham, West Worldham and Hartley Mauditt churchyards for the upkeep of the respective burial grounds and wanted to thank all those involved who continue to manage and look after these sites.
- All projects have been funded separately from the precept which includes defibrillators, both purchasing and annual running costs, Speed Awareness Device and events

Worldham Parish Council ended the year with a healthy balance of £60,834. A large proportion of this is non-precept monies which has restricted usage e.g the Worldham Community Benefit Fund which can only be used on projects that will benefit the communities of the Parish Council and not Parish Council running costs. £8,934 is the earmarked Covid Small Business Grant that the parish council plan to reinvest on improvements into the village hall.

### **Reports from Officials**

#### **a) Neighbourhood Watch – report produced by Kate Denyer, Worldham Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

I act on behalf of the Worldham Parish Council as the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, to keep our residents aware of aspects that might help us remain safe and secure.

In support of this, I occasionally get police incident reports for East Hampshire. Prior to the pandemic, Neighbourhood Watch volunteers were able to attend police stations regularly to pass on frequent crime reports for the Alton Rural area. These help to keep us aware of incidents affecting our area (such as theft from outbuildings and catalytic converters). I am delighted to say that I have just unexpectedly received the latest crime report.

Crime these days is increasingly associated with aspects relating to fraud in various forms as cyber crime and offering advice on remaining vigilance. In addition to my parish role for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police Neighbourhood Watch reports, I joined the Neighbourhood Alert and Action Fraud to offer regular warnings, to help keep us all safe.

I am pleased to report that the number of residents getting my reports has increased this year and I aim to improve this further soon.

#### **b) SpeedWatch - report by Nicky Twining, Worldham SpeedWatch Co-ordinator**

Worldham Community SpeedWatch has 17 volunteers which run in Spring, Summer and Autumn. We are supported by Ian Middleton and Andy Denyer. Citizens in Policing Coordinators and monthly stats go to Inspector Darren Murphy and Inspector Rahman of the East Hampshire Neighbourhood Teams – Alton, Longmoor and Petersfield is also very supportive and started in the Autumn.

Last year we spent 66 volunteer hours at the roadside plus 30 admin hours inputting data and arranging rotas.

382 Community Speed Watch Letters have been sent. These are 316 first letters, 55 second letters and have identified 11 multiple offenders.

We were passed by 5216 cars during the hours spent monitoring traffic towards Kingsley. 418 were speeding, giving us a total of 8%. Our SID data has recorded that 30% off traffic are speeding towards Alton and 42% speeding towards Kingsley. With 1% going above 40% and 7.4% going above 40 on the hill.

As part of the EHDC Auto Speed Watch Camera initiative Worldham Parish Council were awarded three new Auto Speed Watch Cameras. These allow us to create heat maps of when speeding occurs which helps to then alert the police as to when occurrences are taking place. Chair Cllr R Twining appeared on South Today to publicise the scheme.

In terms of next steps we hope we will be able to data share with the police and help EHDC with fines similar to parking fines. We are always looking for more volunteers please contact [nicky.twining@btconnect.com](mailto:nicky.twining@btconnect.com) if you would like to help.

**c) Footpath - report by Nicki Twining, Worldham Footpath Officer**

Reports have been made to Hampshire Countryside Access on problems on footpaths and bridleways this year. Thanks to the landowners for keeping the paths accessible for those on foot and to parishioners for reporting problems in themselves. I'm delighted to say that all the problems I reported have been resolved. We have two new structures a new gate and a new bridge in Binswood.

We are aware of incidents having been reported in Binswood Woods and concerning rights of way. We are working together with all agencies involved in order to seek a resolution. For any antisocial behaviour and blocked access please report to Hampshire Constabulary Report for the attention of PC Swift no. 28990. Officers asked that all incidents of any antisocial behaviour be reported in. Direct incidents for any anti-social behaviour to be reported directly to 111 or 999 and reported officially to the police. Those who are experiencing ongoing impact and long-term impact e.g. noise/too afraid to use certain areas etc should report this to PCSO Jessica Hornsby ([Jessica.Hornsby@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:Jessica.Hornsby@hampshire.police.uk)) who is happy to meet with members of the public to discuss any concerns and advise on security measures etc. To note that individuals can also sign up to Hampshire Alerts at <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/Content/Pages/Sign-Up>

**d) Worldham Enhancement Group**

Last July, Alison Evans of The Three Horseshoes, organised a meeting for a group of volunteers to discuss, plan and implement the beautification of East Worldham, West Worldham and Hartley Mauditt, originally named the Worldham Community Beautification Committee now renamed the Worldham Enhancement Group.

The purpose of the group was to promote the development and maintenance of the landscapes of the parish, beginning with the land adjoining the B3004 throughout the village and the side streets. Extending to the other areas will come as more residents from these areas join the group.

Priorities for attention were identified:

- a) The approach to the East Worldham Village Hall, -which is the heart of the village - appears severely neglected and in of need attention.
- b) Wyck Lane/Cakers Lane Corner: Overgrown trees hiding signage, abundance of nettles, faded and damaged signage, generally untidy and unkempt.
- c) The grass area opposite the pub
- d) Overgrown grass Verges and Slopes alongside all roads and pavement.

PC Chairman, Robin Twining attended the next meeting and was very encouraging and gave helpful advice and guidance on moving forward. Hampshire County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee was very helpful and listened to our plans and visited us to confirm the boundaries of the land that HCC is responsible for regarding clearing and maintaining. It appeared that in the immediate future, there were no plans for the Council to cut the overgrown grass verges which apart from looking untidy and unkempt, were becoming a safety hazard at junction points. I informed Cllr KempGee of our plans for volunteer residents to work on the verges and overgrown banks. Understandably he advised us to proceed with extreme caution on all these actions.

Session 1 saw 4 hours of skimming, trimming, clearing the area around the village hall, the grass verges on the B3004, clearing some of the reachable brushwood on the banks and the area opposite the 3 Horseshoes produced amazing results.

Session 2 : Took place on November 25th at the end of Church Lane: clearance of the leaves, scraping up the mud and compressed leaves, edge strimming and clearing the central area with the storm drain.

Pam Hibbins on behalf of the Parish Council applied for and succeeded in receiving a District Council Grant enabling the purchase of Litter Picking equipment, High-Viz Jackets, black sacks, and sack holding rings. This has resulted in two litter picking sessions taking place during the road closures.

In February from the Three Horseshoes to Worldham Golf Club and Sunday 7th April from Worldham Hill to the Parish Boundary towards Kingsley. The amazing number of bags filled with rubbish– provided full evidence of how worthwhile these sessions are along with the collection of discarded miscellaneous car parts etc.

A constitution for the group has now been approved and Andrew Brown as Chairman and Kate Denyer as Treasurer have set up a Bank Account to enable the receipt of future grant monies and donations and pay required disbursements. All monies received into the account would be used solely for the Worldham Enhancement Group.

In conclusion, an idea that was created nine months ago has developed into a project run by a passionate volunteer committee and a growing number of enthusiastic volunteers, who have a pride in the making of the beautification of East Worldham, West Worldham, Hartley Mauditt. Work. We have made a good start but have so much more to do -and would be delighted to have any further offers of volunteers to keep the work of The Worldham Enhancement Group progressing.

**Key Note Speaker – Inspector Darren Murphy, Hampshire & IOW Constabulary – East Hampshire Neighbourhood Police Teams – Alton, Longmoor & Petersfield on their work and current campaigns**

Inspector Darren Murphy was in attendance and gave the following report.

East Hampshire is a very unique area. With over 200 square miles (comparison -Portsmouth = approx. 15 square miles, approx. 235,000 population) and a population of 128,000 population approximately. There are some pockets of high deprivation that are in the national top 3% of deprivation. The A3 is a main drugs travelling route from London to Portsmouth. There are significant housing development for Alton and Bordon areas and the presences of the National Park makes is a unique area to work in.

There are now dedicated officers. The rural officer for the Worldhams and Hartely Mauditt is DNO PC Becky who is the officer responsible for Alton Rural, which is seprate to Alton Town. The Roads Policing team, based out of Whitchurch and Havant bases are covered by two teams and units are deployed based on intelligence. The Neighbourhood Enforcement team are the kind of team that will be sent to areas if spat of burglaries etc in plain clothes.

Inspector Murphy highlighted the Free Hampshire Alerts at

<https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/Content/Pages/Sign-Up> and urged people to sign up to the alerts to the areas that they are particularly interested in. Speeding fraud, known scams etc in order to get updates. The more individuals that register in that area will show to the constabulary what the local concerns are.

The current priorities are



**Petersfield-**

Shoplifting

Youth violence- young person v young person

Anti-social behaviour/criminal damage

**Alton:**

County Line drugs supply network development

Shoplifting

Rural crime engagement

**Bordon:**

Dwelling burglaries

Anti-social behaviour

Closure Order process

**General:**

Speeding

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (24 new sites have been finalised)

We know that many drug users are also shop lifters which is why records of cases are high and we are able to capture them by deploying plain clothes officers. Records for the trafficking of drugs is reported as being high due and above the upper threshold as a large cannabis farm was successfully shut down in the area. This is an emerging pattern of residential burglaries with information that suggests that the offences are being committed by the same or similar offenders. We have therefore increased patrols, adapting duties to mirror targeted timeframe

East Hampshire has biggest cohort of Community SpeedWatch. Speeding is one of the most common and unmeasured crime so please report as SpeedWatch helps us to identify when and where to set up the team to catch the regular offenders.

Inspector Murphy discussed the ongoing situation of antisocial behaviour occurring in Binswood and confirmed that the police are actively engaging with all parties concerned to reach a solution to the situation, In the meantime anyone who is on the receiving end of any social behaviour should report it to the police via 111.

**Open Forum and Public Questions**

The Chair provided an update on the current progress of the ongoing SSEN works.

A member of the public asked whether the issues he is having with his internet connection is as a result of the SSEN works. Other members of the public reported that they had no issues.

**The meeting closed at 9.25pm**

Signed: .....

Date: .....