

Worldham Annual Parish Assembly

Minutes of Meeting

held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 7.00pm

East Worldham Village Hall

Present: Cllr W Brock (Chair)
Cllr B Bagnell
Cllr C Sole
Cllr R Twining
Cllr S Butler
Cllr T Godbert

Also present: 11 members of the public
District Councillor David Ashcroft
Phinna Brealey, Alton Climate Action Network
Pamela Hibbins, Parish Clerk

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 Welcome and Introduction

Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr W Brock welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies of absence –

Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee
Kate Denyer
Jill and Kish Sharma
Terry and May Blake
Mike Walker

3 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 19th May 2021.
There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Proposed: Cllr C Sole, Seconded: Cllr B Bagnell

Action: Clerk

4 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee sent his apologies and the following report was read out by the Chair of Worldham Parish Council Cllr W Brock.

I am sorry I can't be with you this evening. I very much value the partnerships between the parish councils and East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and Hampshire County Council (HCC) which have sustained us during the last two years where we have kept the show on the road. Any semblance of business as usual would not have been possible without the thousands of volunteers and public service workers. Finances at County Council continue to be tight with continuing reductions in central government grants. Council Tax is up by 3% this year but Hampshire has one of the lowest council taxes of all English counties.

Our schools are some of the best with over 90% of our children getting their preferred choice of school. We have 500 foster carers and 10 childrens' homes. 1000 residents reach 85 each year and social care takes 70% of our council tax so our roads suffer! We now have over 1000 Ukrainian families coming to Hampshire, many are already here, and the County Council is playing a useful role in settling them in and helping to look after and nurture their children.

More locally in Worldham we have had continuing problems this past year with diverted traffic running up Hartley Mauditt Lane. We have, however, established that with planned closures of the B3004 this should not be allowed to happen and I can now help to enforce that. The problem continues however with emergency closures where appropriate diversion signs can not be put in

Initial

place in time and sat navs then do their worst! I have worked, as the elected member of the Local Highways Authority, to counter-act inappropriate and unsafe development on the B3004 south of East Worldham.

I was also pleased to play a part in getting the giant incinerator application outside Alton rejected although an appeal is still possible.

I have also worked with your Chairman to develop relationships with the AMA and to foster farming and biodiversity partnerships in the area.

5 District Councillor's Report

District Councillor David Ashcroft was in attendance and asked to say a few words. Cllr Ashcroft thanked the councillors and the clerk of Worldham Parish Council for all their hard work over the year.

District Councillor David Ashcroft that East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and Havant Borough Council have agreed and are in the process of separating so they can each focus on their own different strategic priorities. East Hampshire's emphasis will be on planning, enforcement and affordable housing. Gill Kneller will continue as the Chief Executive for EHDC and stronger links are being made with the South Downs National Park Authority in particular in terms of planning and enforcement.

The District Plan is still being drafted and will come out in Autumn 2022. East Hampshire District Council have increased the council tax for the coming in and were on budget for the previous financial year.

Cllr David Ashcroft confirmed the Councillor Community Grant Scheme for 2022 -2023 is now open for application. The scheme is a budget of £4,500 which is allocated to each District Councillor to support voluntary and not for profit organisations within, or that benefit, their ward.

Refuse continues to be delivered by Norse South East and HCC and EHDC are aware there have been some issues recently which are currently being resolved.

A member of the public asked for late night and weekend tip bookings to be considered and Cllr Ashcroft highlighted the recent consultation to reduce fees for DIY materials that is currently taking place. It was also raised that replacement bins were slow to be replaced.

A member of the public echoed Cllr Mark Kemp-Gees concerns of diversions along single track lanes being used and requested if used that these be made into a one way system.

6 Chairman's Report

A warm welcome to you all, and a welcome return to the Parish Assembly at the village hall.

For the council themselves routine returned to normal almost a year ago with our monthly meetings returning to the hall in June. This was of course closely followed by the postponed VE Day/Post Lockdown Celebrations on the 12th of July at Kings John's Hill. Many thanks to everyone that supported the event and a big thank you to the committee and all the volunteers for this much needed community event. We are now looking forward to the events to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are delighted to be hosting this with the working party that gave us the VE Day/Post Lockdown celebrations! Again, thank you to the committee and all parties involved in their work so far.

Back in November we finally hosted the training for the defibrillator. We had a strong response and 15 people attended for what was a very informative and well-structured event. Just a reminder that we have this invaluable piece of equipment outside the Village Hall. You actually don't need to be

trained to use the defibrillator as clear instructions are given should you ever have to use it. It assesses the heart rhythm and will only instruct you to deliver a shock if it's needed. However, in a recent national survey, three quarters of people said they wouldn't feel confident enough to act if they saw someone having a cardiac arrest. With more CPR training and greater awareness, we can change that so we are glad to have played our part in this. Please let us know if you would like training.

We welcomed two new faces to the council this year. Although technically not new to the parish as both were born here; I'm sure they will have a valuable contribution to make as their forebears have done. We are now back to a full complement. I would like to thank all the council for their contribution over the last year. Despite all the turmoil of the last few years we are all kept in order by Pam, our Clerk. Despite not living in the Parish, she puts a lot of passion and energy into our village for which we are all very grateful.

As well as the council we have a very loyal group of volunteers who help manage the village infrastructure. Our thanks to Kish, Jill and Mike for all they do in not only managing safety in relation to Covid regulations but also in working on future and proposed improvements to the village hall and for their support to all those bookings and regular users of the hall. We are delighted to see this hall being used again by the community; - for Yoga, for preparing wedding flowers, for christenings and birthday parties as well as local meetings from local groups.

Thank you to Paul Grace for keeping village hall and playground looking so neat and tidy.

We have very supportive County and District Councillors in our patch so thank you all for your support not just in funding but in issues over the year.

On the planning front we have reviewed probably more applications than on average. This was probably due to covid causing a delay in some.

The Parish Council were also successful in their applications for funding for both the free parish maps to every household in the parish, providing us all with the opportunity to explore new routes into our beautiful surrounding countryside and in our application to purchase a new marquee for future parish events which will also be available for people to hire. Many thanks to Cllr David Ashcroft for granting us this funding as part of the district councillor grant scheme.

In other news.

Worldham Parish Council continue to feed into district, council and at national level to make sure that the Worldham's and Hartley Mauditt and rural villages like ours are represented. On behalf of the parish Worldham Parish Council have supported the 20's Plenty in Hampshire campaign and wrote to Cllr Russell Oppenheimer to ask for 20mph to be made the default speed limit on streets throughout Hampshire in places where people live, work, shop, play or learn, leaving 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit; and to allocate a ring-fenced amount from public health, sustainability and transport budgets to enable 20mph to be implemented county-wide within 5 years. This is currently under-review as part of a national programme and we hope to report more once we have updates. We also sent a letter highlighting the local issues such as lower speed limits, potential staggered speed limits into the village and road markings etc to highlight narrow roads and corners in certain spots in the locality after a fatal accident. This request to stagger speed limits in these particular points have been denied and it is believed speed of the road was not a factor in the fatal accident in January but we will continue as a council to monitor this.

More success has been had with the Rural Connections Grant Consultation – formally the Village Agent which ran a consultation to discontinue this grant due to funding issues. Worldham Parish Council highlighted this valuable service that provides essential support to the older members of

the village and felt that the hours that volunteers put into this service ultimately saved the health and social care a substantial amount of money in the long term.

Hampshire County Council have now agreed, after the consultation, to continue funding the Community Information Service. We are very lucky to have our own representative Nicky Twining and we will hear more from her in her report later in this meeting.

7 Financial Statement of the Accounts for the year 2021/2022 – The Clerk
The Clerk provided a review of the end of year accounts.

	31 March 2022 £
1- Balances brought forward	38643
2 (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	12268
3 (+) Total other receipts	10931
4 (-) Staff costs	6681
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL
6 (-) All other payments	9168
7 (=) Balances carried forward	45993
8 Total value of cash and short term investments	45993
9 Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	379783
10 - Total borrowings	NIL

The Parish Clerk presented the financial overview above and further explanation below. Worldham Parish Council started the year with a balance of £38,643. In terms of income received, the precept for the year 2021/2022 was £12,268. 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 came to £10,931. Approximately £4,000 of this is from the Worldham Community Benefit Fund that the Parish Council entered into an agreement with 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 the free footpath maps for every household that we were

able to secure funding for during lockdown, a new marquee that will be showcased at the Jubilee event and will be available for hire. The village hall generates some income from bookings of the hall. This year the council also received donations from local businesses for the Jubilee event.

Staff costs totalled £6,681 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 £9,168 and covers the council's main expenditure. This covers:-

- 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 (it is NOW a condition for all trees for all parishes to have a management plan which includes regular surveys and maintenance tree works to ensure safety of trees and residents).
- 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 to 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 balance of £45993. Of this figure £10,000 is the earmarked Covid Small Business Grant that the parish council plan to reinvest on improvements into the village hall and £14,238.87 of funds as part of the Worldham Community Benefit Fund which is funding available for local groups to apply to but is managed by the parish council. £2,500 comes from the donations from local businesses and grants to go to the local celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

This leaves a total of £19,254.13 of expenditure and as part of the national governance parish councils need to have between 6-12 months expenditure in the account at all times to cover eventualities/emergency repairs/delayed payments from district councils etc.

8 Reports from Officials

a) Neighbourhood Watch - report by Kate Denyer, Worldham Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

The neighbourhood watch official sent her apologies and the following report was read out by Cllr R Twining, Worldham Parish Council.

We currently have 72 households listed to receive Neighbourhood Watch emails. There has been little of interest to pass on via our Hampshire and Isle of Wight Neighbourhood Watch registration since the pandemic began. We received almost no crime reports, probably because there was no access to police station reports for Watch volunteers. We still seldom get crime reports and only limited other messages of worth.

I am exploring how to use a further Neighbourhood Watch system, termed 'Neighbourhood Alert'. I have now emailed their support team as our Worldham scheme on their system is shown as awaiting approval.

It does not seem sensible to encourage more to join Neighbourhood Watch whilst we are not receiving much from either system. I am waiting for responses from both my Alton and Rural lead coordinator and from the Neighbourhood Alert support team.

b) SpeedWatch - report by Nicki Twining, Worldham SpeedWatch Co-ordinator

We resumed Speedwatch in June last year with the lifting of Covid restrictions and were active until the end of October doing 17 shifts. We started up again in April this year.

Following a meeting with fellow Speedwatch co-ordinators the importance of Speedwatch was highlighted as the only police officer operating a radar speed gun in Alton and the surrounding areas, David Sinclair, has retired. Although others are being trained in its use they will only be able to do speeding duties if time allows and there is nothing else they need to do.

Luckily we have 13 volunteers who give up their time to help make our roads safer despite being subjected to the occasional abuse from passing drivers. More volunteers are always needed and it is quite social but posts on Whats App and in the Kings World have failed to produce any.

We are supported by Maria Joliffe and Ian Middleton, Citizens in Policing Officers. Our roadside activities are supposed to be mainly educational and those caught speeding are sent letters by the police. Looking at the numbers ...168 1st letters were sent, 89 2nd letters (people who have been caught speeding a second time in any Community Speedwatch area in Hampshire) and 10 multiple offenders who get a visit from the police now that covid restrictions have lifted.

The fact that 89 letters were 2nd letters makes me wonder how educational it is. The police do take note of these figures and although the radar gun is not going to be used very often now it does inform them of where to use the camera van.

The percentage of speeders in our various locations are as follows:-

- 5% at the Bus Stop going towards Kingsley
- 4% at the Bus Stop going towards Alton
- 3% on the Hill going towards Kingsley
- 13% on the Hill going towards Alton
- Average 8%
- Average number of vehicles per hour 241

It is surprising the number of vehicles we record speeding that have false number plates and these numbers are increasing.

If you witness dangerous driving in the Village please report it directly to Hampshire Constabulary and let Speedwatch know. A record of these is kept and in the last 12 months 8 reports were made mainly of speeding and overtaking on double white lines on the Hill.

Finally, at the Speedwatch Coordinator's meeting , we were shown a new camera that takes a photo of the speeding vehicle, ensuring the accuracy of the details, number plate, make, model and colour .Other advantages are that the Speedwatch teams can be reduced to two people ,instead of the usual 3 volunteers and it can also be operated in the rain ,which our present kit can not.The disadvantages are that it's still being trialled ,it isn't educational as it doesn't show the speed ,the camera only operates at 10 meters and the cost (£4500). I think that this may be something for the future once prices reduce and any problems with the kit have been ironed out.

C) Footpath - report by Nicki Twining, Worldham Footpath Officer

We are blessed with a large network of beautiful footpaths in our Parish including the Hangers Way and these are very well used. Most of the time the role is very enjoyable, walking the footpaths, to see the problems parishioners have reported. Sometimes the role is more challenging and this time last year the Potato field was my biggest headache being the source of numerous complaints. It is unfortunate that two of the most popular footpaths in Worldham run across that field. Cllr Butler kindly allowed people to walk around the perimeter of the field on a temporary basis last year and this year so far, no complaints have been received. A lovely clear unobstructed path has been created and it is the hope that this path will be maintained during spraying /harvesting.

I have had contact with other landowners in our Parish over the last year regarding electric fences and crops obstructing the footpaths and they are always helpful and remedy the situation quickly.If

I spot overgrown vegetation I will cut it back when I have the time and Robin will tackle fallen branches with his trusty saw. Over the last 12 months I have reported 19 problems on rights of way to HCC Countryside Access. These could be fallen trees, rotten stiles, signage needing replacement and steps needing repair. They are dealt with a varying degree of speed. Anyone can report a problem on a right of way via the Hampshire County Council website although it's not the easiest to navigate.

There have been 3 consultations about footpath diversions over the last year;- Footpath 36 from Wyck Lane to the School House, Footpath 13, Wick Hill, which joins onto a Bridleway in Selborne Parish and Footpath 27 across the site of the Jalsa Salana.

I recently met up with Louise Aparo while she was doing some signage on the Hangers Way, Louise is the Community Engagement Ranger for the Central Access Team and is a useful contact. I am happy to be contacted about footpath problems and report them or liaise with the landowner but please remember that anyone can report a problem via the HCC website's report a problem page.

9 Village Agent

The eagle eyed amongst you will have spotted that the item on the Agenda is listed as the role of the Village Agent. The name of my role has changed during the year to Community Information Volunteer. It is still under the umbrella of Age Concern Hampshire. A newish management team felt that no one knew what the term Village Agent meant and that Community Information Volunteer is clearer.

This voluntary service has been supported by Hampshire County Council's Rural Connections Grant in the past which is under threat of being withdrawn and therefore the service losing its funding. Thank you to the Parish Council for their contribution to the Consultation that was held regarding this. I am pleased to report that HCC have agreed to continue the funding till 2023. The results of the consultation will be out in the summer.

Community information volunteers are based in rural and semi-rural areas in Hampshire. There are about 26 of us. The role as before is to help people find information about help and services in their area to enable them to live safely and independently at home. The emphasis is on information giving rather than practical help. Over the Covid pandemic a lot of our help was restricted to phone calls and even now there is a strict Covid policy and this allows me to make only one house visit a week.

In addition, I travel around North Hampshire helping people fill in Attendance Allowance and Blue Badge forms. If you know anyone who wishes to use this voluntary service I can be reached on 544867

10 Worldham Community Benefit Fund

The Vice-Chair provided a report on the Worldham Community Benefit Fund.

The Worldham Community Benefit Fund is available for local groups from the Worldham's and Hartley Mauditt to apply to for funding.

As part of the solar farm at Cakers Lane, East Worldham the operators have entered into an agreement with Worldham Parish Council to make an annual Community Benefit payment of approximately £4,000 per year over 20 years payable to the Parish Council. (The payment to increase in line with the RPI Index). The Parish Council manage the Worldham Community Benefit Fund which helps to fund projects that will benefit the communities of the Parish Council. This year the fund has already helped fund some of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the drinks and refreshments for this evening. The Benefit Fund also funds the annual support for the village defibrillator.

Past projects have included traffic calming measures in the parish, repairs to steps Clay Lane, improvements to the village hall, refurbishment of the chancel steps, the pulpit steps and the sanctuary steps of St Mary the Virgin Church, East Worldham, a grant to the King's World to provide postage of the magazine during covid.

If you have a project or event that would benefit the community of the Worldham's and Hartley Mauditt you could be eligible for funding. Application forms are available on our website or by emailing the Parish Clerk and applications can be made throughout the year but please note that applications must come from a group with their own bank account. We can not award to individuals.

11 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group
Pauline Flude from the working party provided the following report.

Plans are going well for the two events planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend. On Thursday 2nd June 2022 night there will be a torchlight and lantern procession from The Three Horseshoes to Park Farm where the Bonfire Beacon will be lit at 21:45 along with more than 1500 beacons around the country and across the Commonwealth. Some lanterns will be provided but residents are encouraged to bring their own. The Jubilee Beacon Tart which was created in a national competition and won by Jean Stephens who was brought up in East Worldham, will be served at the event. Archie Jacques will carry the flag for the lantern procession and Alex Sword will play the trumpet at the event.

On Sunday the 5th June The Big Jubilee Lunch will be held at Park Farm East Worldham. The event promises to be full of food and fun at Park Farm East Worldham, with a delicious 2-course BBQ lunch catered by the team from The Three Horseshoes, followed by softball and fun children's activities and prizes for the best homemade crown and best miniature Palace Garden. Tickets are still available and cost £10, under 10s are free. Music will be provided by Andrew Broadly.

The working party wished to thank all those that had donated to the event;- Worldham Parish Council via the Worldham Community Benefit Fund, District Councillor David Ashcroft and District Councillor Ken Carter, Racing Technique Ltd (R&G), Worldham Golf Club Mike Garwood Ltd, Loos for Dos and to Ferris and Margaret Whidborne for their kind permission to use the field for the events.

Special thanks to the working party for all their hard work in creating this community event. Working party members are Margaret Whidborne, Pauline Flude, Nicky Twining, Alison Evans, James Goodwin, Carolyn Wilson-Webb, Cllr Tessa Godbert. And additional thanks to those who have volunteered to help with the event, in particular, Erica Dickson, Andrew Broadly, Archie Jacques who will carry the flag for the lantern procession, Roger Denny the MC, Christine Bone for organising the corgi racing and all who have volunteered to help move equipment from the village hall and set up for the events.

12 The Alton Climate Action Network-(ACAN)
Phinna Brealey, Founding Member of ACAN delivered a presentation on initiatives for local rural villages

The Alton Climate Action Network was established in 2019 by members of Energy Alton, building on the work of the Alton Climate Alliance. It brings people together to tackle the climate emergency by offering a forum for people from Alton and the surrounding villages, organising a number of network meetings every year and encouraging the development of groups on specific issues. The next meeting is on Monday 20th June at 7pm at the Alton Assembly Rooms and all are welcome.

Lobbying and campaigning is a large part of their work and they support this at local, county and national level.

ACAN is an umbrella organisation for other affiliated groups and the presentation highlighted a number of local incentives which could be replicated in rural villages and towns.

Alton Local Food Initiative - encourages and enables people in their local community to be involved in growing, sourcing and eating local, seasonal and responsibly produced food and encourages seed swaps throughout the year. <https://altonlocalfood.org.uk>

The Alton Repair Café meet at the Alton Community Centre where you will find experts who can repair electrical, mechanical goods, laptops, clothes and textiles, furniture and bikes.

The Community Cupboard and Fridge work with local supermarkets to save food waste and is separate to the Food Bank so that this is available to everyone and not just those with Food Bank vouchers.

AVLAN – Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature have volunteers who do regular testing of the river and count invertebrates to check the water quality. They also have a checklist for wildlife friendly garden and this can be found at <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/our-groups/local-action-for-nature-avlan/>

Alton Community Share provides a free library of activities, jigsaws, games and toys, powered by donations by and for the community.

Cycle Alton launched in May 2022 and focuses on encouraging cycling as the natural choice for short journeys around the town, and to and from the villages and they have installed bike repair posts around Alton. They also offer cycling confidence training. More information can be found at <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/our-groups/cycle-alton/>

Action on plastic promotes litter picks and can be easily replicated in smaller villages.

It was noted that Energy Alton focuses on ‘powering down’ which focuses on energy efficiency and practical advice on how to save energy, fuel and CO2 emissions which may also be of interest. Residents would be able to apply for a thermal imaging survey of their house to show how energy efficient their house currently is, to contact John Hubbard at ACAN for more information. They also have a ‘powering up’ group who are working on a Community Heat scheme at Theddon Grange near Beech.

13 Open Forum and Public Questions

No questions

14 The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed:

Date:

_____ Initial