

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF

WORLDHAM PARISH

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2019 AT 7.30pm

AT THE EAST WORLDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present

Cllr Aldridge (Chairman), Cllr Terry Blake, Cllr Will Brock, Cllr Tessa Gaffney, Cllr Mary Trigwell-Jones, Dcllr David Ashcroft, Mr Robin Twining (Clerk) and 13 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Aldridge welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee, Cllr Bill Fife, Carolyn Wilson-Webb, Mary Blake and Helen Ellison.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2018 and any matters arising from the minutes

Minutes of the Worldham Parish Council held on 18th April 2018 were agreed and signed. Proposed by Cllr Blake and seconded by Cllr Brock AIF
There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. County Councillor's Report – (read out by Cllr Blake on Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee's behalf)

I am very sorry I cannot be with you this evening owing to a clash of Annual Parish Meetings. I send you all best wishes for a good meeting. I particularly regret not being present to send my thanks and appreciation to Mary, Tessa and Robin. It has been a fantastic privilege to work with them on behalf of the village for many years and they have been devoted servants of Worldham. It is fair to say the Parish would not be the thriving community it is today without them.

This time last year I talked briefly about finance. As we now know County Council Tax is up 3% for the municipal year, EHDC's share is unchanged but the police share has gone up by 13%, making 20% over the last 2 years and we are promised 130 more front line police!

As we know, 2019/20 marks the end of Hampshire's Revenue Support Grant from central government – it was some £400 million in 2010. So apart from odd specific grants engendered to do the government's bidding or help where we are most severely stretched like adult and children's social care and roads, of course, Hampshire is becoming mostly self-financing.

Approximately 5% of our total tax is raised and spent locally compared to 50% in the USA, Canada and France. So we send 95% of taxes up to London and get virtually nothing back except from the annual £1 billion Schools Budget which we administer and manage on behalf of central government. No wonder, with Central Government in a state of total sclerosis on all matters apart from, or should I say, including Brexit, the demand for massively increased devolution for Hampshire becomes stronger by the day.

Our GDP is greater than Wales, which is now collecting all central and local taxes from this April onwards, like Scotland. Also, interestingly, IHT collected from the GU postcode is now greater than Wales and Northern Ireland combined!

As it is, our schools are some of the best in England, with 92% of school children getting first choice placements despite numbers going up by around 8% per annum. Meanwhile we have the second lowest council tax in England. Our mantra at County is originality, technical advance, efficiency and pragmatism and I think without being complacent, we continue in that vein despite immense financial pressures.

Also we are substantial investors in infrastructure such as new roads, broadband and new and expanded schools in particular. We are also now taking responsibility for certain substantial house building projects such as Manydown in Basingstoke. Our capital projects programme currently stands at over £800 million.

WORLDHAM MATTERS - It's been quite a busy year as far as my inter-relationship with the village is concerned.

The main area of engagement has been broadband, making sure enforcement has been properly organised by the SDNPA at the concrete crushing site in Green Street, sorting out highways issues to do with the AMA application and generally helping with road surface problems.

I look forward to continuing my close engagement with the Parish in the years ahead.

6. District Councillor's Report – Dcillr David Ashcroft

I would like to congratulate and thank Cllr Gaffney and Cllr Trigwell-Jones and Mr Twining, the Clerk, for their service to Worldham. I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the community to all the Councillor's for all that they do, as they are volunteers and do it free of charge. Worldham Parish Council is an exemplar on how to manage Council's finances. As District Councillor I have provided grants for heaters to the village hall, to the pantomime and to the traffic mitigation measures.

The EHDC Local Plan has been out for consultation and currently the officers are looking at and reviewing all the comments made, before being submitted for review later this year. EHDC have not increased the Council tax for the forthcoming year. There will be a change in the refuse collection service at the end of the year which will result in cost savings. EHDC are taking a new direction as far as finances are concerned, and are looking at different sources of income. EHDC can borrow at 2.5% and so are investing in property which provides an income of 6%.

There have been boundary changes. This ward is now linked up with Bentley, Binsted and Farringdon.

7. Chairman's Report – Cllr Aldridge

I would like to start by offering our thanks and gratitude to all of those members of our community who have generously contributed throughout the year in the many working groups whose reports will follow.

And, as ever, special thanks also go to all those whose initiative and hard work goes into sustaining village life and communications through our Women's Institute, the Worldham Community Group, the Kings World, the Worldham facebook page, our village website, the Worldham Choir, the PCC groups that represent our three wonderful churches, and last, but not least, our pub, The Three Horseshoes.

I would also like to thank our County and District councillors for their continuing moral and financial support and generosity over the year.

Last year we reported our unprecedented success in securing grants for village projects, and so this year has been about implementation. You will have seen that the defibrillator is in place and operational, the repaired steps leading up to the hall have made the journey just that little bit easier, and the replacement heaters have helped to take the chill off during the winter. Those benefits were all rather sadly offset, however, when someone decided to steal the lead flashing from the roof just prior to a particularly wet spell of weather. Fortunately we were able to make a successful insurance claim that contributed to the cost of repairs.

Largely thanks to the resolve and tenacity of the working group led by Councillors Mary Trigwell-Jones and Tessa Gaffney, the Parish Council was able to update our Parish Plan and submit it to both East Hampshire District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority last Autumn. It has been disappointing to learn that changes in planning legislation

mean that Parish Plans may not necessarily be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents in the future, but planning elements of Parish Plans will, nevertheless, continue to be taken into account in the consideration of planning applications or drafting of development plan policy.

The feedback from last year's Parish Plan questionnaire inevitably still had your concerns about traffic as one of the major issues and so we can report that our proposed programme of traffic mitigation measures has been agreed and the finances are in place. Progress has been slower than we had hoped, unlike the traffic, but you may well have already encountered a greeting from our newly-installed Speed Reduction Limit sign, and new 'bolder' speed limit signs should be in place by May.

Towards the end of April last year representatives of Hampshire Fibre Broadband attended a public meeting to present the details of their planned roll-out programme, with various upgrading plans for East and West Worldham, Hartley Mauditt and Wyck incorporated into the last round of funding for implementation at the end of this year. Due to the geographical spread of the households within the parish and our distance from the nearest cabinet in Wilsom Road, it was clear that they needed to devise and implement a number of initiatives to provide the much-needed upgrade. And, although it may be wishful thinking, engineers from Avonline Networks, a Bristol-based infrastructure provider who act for Openreach, have been spotted along Wyck Lane in recent months.

In terms of planning policies EHDC have carried out consultations in respect of their updated draft Local Plan, and SDNPA are shortly to adopt their Local Plan, which will effectively replace all other planning policies in those parts of the parish that fall into the National Park. Despite our representations, the National Park authority has decided not to designate a Settlement Policy Boundary to any parts of the Parish, which means that countryside planning policies will now apply throughout our area.

Although the number of planning applications that we've considered this year was only 20, it nevertheless represents a high proportion by head of population and has involved some particularly challenging cases, with a seemingly increasing pattern of commercial activities outweighing simple residential applications. These have been disparate in nature, from a single application to construct a gas fuelled electricity generation plant on agricultural land just off Cakers Lane, which was withdrawn just before it was refused, to multiple applications for the same use of a piece of land opposite Foxes on Green Street. The one which has caused most consternation is, without doubt, the major application at Oaklands Farm, not least for the fact that the content of the submitted information fell woefully short of expectations on so many levels, and that the land owner made no attempt to consult with the communities of Worldham, Oakhanger and Kingsley. Although withdrawn at the eleventh hour in the face of a recommendation for refusal, the case officer's report to committee makes it almost inevitable that an amended application could receive support.

This is also election year for District and Parish councils and that 2nd of May date is impending. The Returning Officer has already notified the Parish Council that there will be not be a contested election this time because, understandably, after many years of sterling service to our community, two of our longest serving Councillors, Mary and Tessa, have decided to retire from the Parish Council.

It has to be said that despite their invaluable service and contributions, we all know that their Parish Council roles play only a part in what has made them both enduring stalwarts of our community.

Tessa has served as a Councillor for 13 years and was Chair for two of those: not only has she been instrumental in the creation of our Parish Plan but has also led the village hall sub committee and overseen all of the updating works to the hall to date. Mary's tenure is nothing short of remarkable and may even be unprecedented – 36 years in total - an original term of 24 years with a short break, resuming in 2007 for the last 12 years. When she first became a councillor forty years ago Mary was the first woman to sit on the Parish Council, and, during her tenure, she has taken the Chair for four separate terms, also playing a key role in both

formulating the Parish Appraisal and recently updating our Parish Plan. She also introduced and ensures that all new residents are received with a welcome pack.

On behalf of everyone I would like to offer our most sincere thanks to both of them. We cannot possibly hope to replace their wisdom and experience, but the four remaining councillors will undoubtedly use our best endeavours, although we really would like to achieve a more equitable gender balance for the future. I should say at this point that after ten years' service and three years as Chair, Councillor Blake had also indicated that he too was considering standing down, but, given the scale of change that that would inevitably bring, he has very kindly offered to stay on for another year, or until we get a rush of willing candidates !!

On that note I would also like to offer thanks to my fellow 'remainers' for so generously giving their time and being prepared to continue in the role.

The other 'seismic shift' in our constitution during last year was our Clerk's announcement that he too wished to stand down after 13 years in the role. As you all know, Robin and Nicky are much-valued residents of East Worldham who, amidst busy lives, play an integral part in our community. Worldham Parish Council has benefited enormously from Robin's comprehensive knowledge of parish council governance procedures, at all times providing reliable, pragmatic advice and guidance to councillors in their actions and decision making. He has served 15 councillors in that time, providing new councillors like me with tremendous support and assurance in carrying out their duties. He has always been meticulous in carrying out his own tasks and in his attention to detail, ensuring correct protocols are observed, reliable records maintained, and proper management of the council's finances.

Ours is a relatively small parish with largely fixed expenditure and rather limited opportunities to generate income, and so we rely on our Clerk to be highly creative in raising funds for the inevitable repairs and replacement items that could otherwise leave us with an operating deficit. Robin has raised a total of £45,000 in external funding to enable many of the improvement projects that have been carried out in recent years – renovation of the playground; setting up the Worldham website; the Speedwatch programme; the defibrillator; and all of the many traffic mitigation measures that can ameliorate the affects of our roads.

And so, on behalf of all of the councillors, I would like to thank Robin for his commitment and unstinting service: he may no longer be our Clerk in the future, but we sincerely trust this will not be the end to his involvement with the Parish Council.

In an age where many Parish Councils struggle to recruit and retain a seemingly dwindling resource of willing and able Clerks, we seem to have been blessed by good fortune with the candidate who has put herself forward for the role. Jane Ives has kindly agreed to accept the role, with a handover period starting in June.

Jane lives in Liphook where she was a Parish Councillor for six years, two of which she served as Chair of the Council, so she has the benefit of understanding the roles from both sides. Jane has undertaken the Clerk's role for two other local Councils for almost two years, both of which are also located in the South Downs National Park. This role will make up her working week with clear cross-benefits in terms of shared information across the board.

Last, but not least, finding a fitting tribute to properly honour Mary, Tessa and Robin's achievements has been truly challenging, but I'd like to take this opportunity to announce that, as part of a celebration of 125 years since the first Parish meeting took place in East Worldham in December 1894, we will be commissioning a Roll of Honour board as a suitable way of commemorating their contributions. It will form a legacy project that can record all those councillors and clerks that have played their part, many of whom have represented those farmsteads that were the foundation of the modern civil parish of Worldham. We are in no doubt that it will take time - much historical research is involved and we would like to see it produced by local craftsmen – so the intention is to arrange an event later in the year to both celebrate its unveiling and to properly honour our outgoing colleagues.

8. Financial Statement of the Accounts for the year 2018/19 – The Clerk

I have pleasure in presenting the financial report for 2018-19, which will be my last.

At last year's Parish Assembly, excluding the balance from the Worldham Community Benefit Fund ie the money from the solar farm and from grants, I reported that our end of year balances for 2017-18 stood at £13,841 compared to the previous year's balances of £13,031. However I am pleased to report that we actually finished with a balance of £13,974 an operating surplus of £133 rather than my projected deficit, mainly because some of the repairs to the village hall were covered by our insurance policy.

The income that the Parish Council receives is made up of 3 elements – the precept, the amount you the Parishioners pay in Council tax payable to the Parish Council, hiring out the village hall and any grants that the Parish Council applies for. Last year the precept accounted for 89% of our income, excluding any grants.

In 2018-19 the precept was increased by 3% to offset the loss of the Council Tax Support grant which is no longer being paid by the government. This year, for 2019-20, it has been increased by £1,584 a 12.7% increase. The reason for the increase is because when setting this year's precept, I was projecting a large deficit for the year of over £1,500. This is why your Councillors took the difficult decision to raise the precept to reduce the projected deficit. I was projecting a deficit due to the possibility of having to fund Parish Council elections, a small reduction in village hall income, the costs of recruiting my replacement and having a hand over period.

The precept now is £12,170 compared to in 2006 when it was £7,000. To put the precept in context for a band F dwelling, the cost of this year's precept is £89.24 compared to in 2006 of £57.26 this equates to a rise of £31.98 over 13 years, an average increase of £2.46 per a year.

You should have a copy of the Summary of Income and Expenditure of Worldham Parish Council for the year ending 31 March 2019. As usual I will not go through each item but will highlight the main features.

I apologise if the accounts look confusing but In order for parishioners to compare the normal income and expenditure from one year to another, I have in the past shown the costs and grants of any one off projects separately in the accounts to reflect this, and I have carried on this practice this year. It is also slightly difficult to compare one year directly with another, as we often receive a grant before the end of the financial year but do not approve the expenditure until the next financial year.

In total we received external grant funding of £5,060. Our District Councillor David Ashcroft gave us a grant of £615 to purchase 3 new heaters for this village hall and a grant of £700 towards our traffic mitigation scheme. Many thanks David. We also received £3,745 from the South Downs National Park, using our Section 106 Developers Contribution transport money to purchase and install a SID, a speed indicator device.

We transferred £1,880 from the solar farm fund to fund the improvement to the village hall steps, repairs to the hall roof which was not covered by the insurance claim and to purchase a dehumidifier.

Firstly looking at the income side, our total income for 2018-19, excluding project grants and money from the solar farm was £13,417 compared to £12,259 for the previous year. This is mainly due to a payment of £1,498 relating to the insurance payment for the village hall repairs, and to an increase in the income received from hiring out the East Worldham village hall. Thanks to Mike Walker for this and also for not taking any payment for looking after the village hall bookings.

The Vat that we could reclaim was also higher at £461 compared to last years £381. This is partially due to the timing as the Vat amount we reclaim covers 2 months of last years accounts.

The hall is still not covering all its costs and is being subsidised via the precept.

Turning to the expenditure side, total expenditure, excluding the one off projects for the year actually increased slightly from £11,285 in 2017/18 to £13,379. An increase of £2,094. The main reason being the repairs to the village hall costing £2,582.

One again Kate Denyer has kindly not drawn any salary for looking after the village hall. This is much appreciated.

I am pleased to say that the Parish Council has again signed up to the Lengthsman's scheme. The Parish is provided with a budget of £1,000 (equivalent to 50 hours of labour a year). This has meant that some of the maintenance work has come out of this budget rather than from the Parish Council's budget.

I must mention the funds from the Solar Farm. These funds are kept in a separate account called the Worldham Community Benefit Fund. The balance stands at £8,960. I am pleased to report that despite the change in ownership and personnel of the solar farm, which we were not informed about, we eventually tracked down who to send the request for payment and received last years payment of £4,285 in July rather than when it should be paid at the end of March. As at the years end we are negotiating with Low Carbon, the owners, the exact amount to be paid. This is expected to be roughly £4,390

The problem that your Council faces is that the majority of our costs are non discretionary and are fixed with little scope for any savings. This is why the Parish Council has to seek external funding to pay for any improvements to the infrastructure of the Parish. Over the last 14 years we have received grants of over £45,000 to pay for improvements, such as upgrading the playground, the village hall, the defibrillator and the SID. So I am pleased to say that when I look back over my time as Clerk that despite investing £45,000 in the Parish that our bank balances are nearly the same £13,974 as of now compared to £14,709 in March 2007. A reduction of only £726

It has been a privilege to serve as your Clerk for the last 13 years. Looking back over the years the role has changed considerably. The degree of accountability and reporting, what with GDPR, the Transparency code, the greater demand of Parish involvement in undertaking the role that used to be undertaken by District and County Councils, all means that the Clerk has to be more professional and qualified. One thing though that has not changed is the constant pressure on the Parish's finances.

Finally I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors past and present who I have had worked with for their support, encouragement and for making the role fun and enjoyable.

8. Reports from Councillors

a) East Worldham Village Hall - Cllr Gaffney

At almost 140 years old the village hall remains an important feature of the Parish. The latest Parish Plan showed very strong support for it. The Plan also showed that there was considerable interest in extending the range of parish activities with over 60 suggestions, many of which could be held here. The parking problem is very real bit although solutions have been made and investigated so far none has proved possible. However, many halls in the area have similar difficulties but continue to function.

Upkeep has presented several unusual demands this year. The upper steps to the hall had tilted to a dangerous angle so the old ash tree and the roots that were pushing up the steps were removed and then the steps replaced. This proved to take much longer than expected as the Electricity Board took several months to arrange cutting off the electricity to nearby houses for just a couple of hours while they removed the branches entangled in the overhead wires. The rest of the work was completed in just four days. Our thanks are due to the neighbours for allowing access and parking space and to Paul Grace for his patience and good work.

In November the lead strips between the junction of the southern extension and the main hall wall were stolen resulting in water damage to the ceilings of the storeroom and the toilets. The lead was quickly replaced using a non-lead material but it took some time to arrange for the damaged felt roof and the ceilings to be repaired.

The old dehumidifier stopped working during the winter and has been replaced by a smart new one which we hope this will be effective in defeating the dampness in the hall in future. As you know the main room of the hall is notoriously hard to heat well. Three radiators towards the back of the hall have been replaced and now we should be warm again. There is one thing to remember though; each of the three new heaters must be switched on and off individually to comply with new regulations that have come into force. This can be inconvenient but there are clear posters above each one of those three new heaters. The other radiators can all be switched off as usual by the heater switch near the rear of the door.

The hall has continued to be used for meetings, parties, receptions and entertainments. The Worldham Players rehearsed throughout January and February and presented another popular Panto, Jack and the Beanstalk. They kindly donated the proceeds to the hall.

Our thanks are due to Kate Denyer for keeping the hall clean and tidy, to Mike Walker who has taken the bookings and to Phil Harding and Nick Tupper who have always come to the rescue with many odd jobs and good advice. Special thanks are also due to the 20 volunteers who answered the notices requesting help and gave up Saturday morning to scrub, dust, clean cupboards,...the list goes on. They gave the hall the most thorough of spring cleans.

Finally, please do use the hall whenever you can and encourage to do so too. Also remember that there is cutlery, crockery, glass ware, and several marquees as well as the hall and kitchen for hire, all at a very reasonable rate.

b) Parish Plan - Cllr Mary Trigwell-Jones

We completed the draft parish plan during the year, had a few copies printed and posted it on the Worldham website where it is available for any of you to see. We have also submitted it to the parish council for its approval. We sent it to EHDC and SDNPA for their endorsement. We knew this would be a slow process as EHDC has its Community Forums (the ratifying body) under review and SDNPA is rather preoccupied with its Local Plan.

Having heard nothing for some time the Clerk contacted EHDC and SDNPA about progress regarding adoption/endorsement of the updated Worldham Parish Plan.

EHDC replied that it looking for ways of endorsing community-led plans, is seeking advice from its Legal department and would inform us as soon as they had an answer.

SDNPA said it had delayed endorsement of all community led plans until after the adoption of their Local Plan and the making of a number of Neighbourhood Plans. They said that parish plans can be endorsed by the Authority. The plan would be published for comment and then taken, with any comments, to their Policy and Resources committee for endorsement.

Under the new National Planning Policy Framework Parish Plans do not have to be formally adopted, but can be referred to when determining planning issues. Our Parish Plan in its current status is a material consideration when determining planning applications and applying for funding. It is, however, the Village Design Statement that carries more weight in planning issues and this is available to planners both in the SDNPA's development management office and in EHDC offices.

Meanwhile I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Plan group for all their hard work and perseverance over the last two years: namely Nick Tupper, Tessa Gaffney, Helen Ellison, Ruth Bates and Mark Penfold and also to John Denyer for his photographic work.

Meanwhile we watch this space!

9. Reports from Officials

a) Neighbourhood Watch - report by Kate Denyer

It has been a year of intermittent reports from the police: several of the police who had been working on producing reports have been reassigned to cover other duties and it has proven challenging to recruit volunteers to cover the necessary Neighbourhood Watch work. We do now seem to be getting more regular reporting.

The nature of crime across the whole of the UK is much more focussed on cyber crime and we are also seeing frequent warnings about fraud in various ways.

For example, phone calls purporting to be from the police or BT, or emails that appear to have come from known friends, focussed on extracting money from people. The online marketplace is a further lucrative area for fraudulent activity. Similarly, we are warned about cold callers offering to do work, for which we receive helpful advice from Trading Standards. I try to include these warnings at intervals, as a reminder to us all to remain very aware of these activities. They come in so many ways.

I also send out alerts where crimes affect our local area of Hampshire – termed ‘Alton Rural’. This year has unfortunately featured a burglary in Wyck with a large number of items stolen and Mike Garwood in our own parish has once more been subjected to a break-in and goods stolen. Within the broader Alton Rural area crimes in general tend to focus on a number of aspects, such as damage to property, theft of vehicles and from vehicles and sheds broken into and tools stolen.

Our police remain very grateful for the support they receive from Neighbourhood Watch groups and of course the public in general. Both in terms of reporting incidents and by knowing who to contact or consult in different circumstances (such as Action Fraud and Crimestoppers) and when to dial 999 or 101.

The Worldhams Neighbourhood Watch remains fairly stable in numbers (some leavers, some new people welcomed). I aim to put a new article in Kings World soon, to reach those not involved that might wish to join us. We participate helpfully within our community, such as by sharing information on stolen vehicles, lost or found dogs, concern over local offers to buy dogs and also poaching activities.

So: a patchy year in terms of receiving reports to pass on, but in itself a good reminder of why we should always remain vigilant. I thank all who participate for your support in helping to keep our community as safe as we can.

b) Speedwatch Co-ordinator - by Nicky Twining

I took over the role of Speedwatch Co-ordinator from John Denyer in April 2018 and am grateful for his excellent handover.

During 2018 we had 16 outings and spent a total of 22 and a half hours at the roadside. 5527 cars passed us and 356 were speeding. 6.44% compared to 6% last year.

The number of cars passing per hour averaged 244 in each direction down from 315 last year. This may be because we did fewer sessions during rush hour as at peak times the traffic is all in convoy and in general keeps to the speed limit.

The worst place for speeding continues to be the Hill. The proportion caught speeding in our 4 locations areas is as follows:

- Bus stop traffic towards Alton – 4.3%
- Bus stop traffic towards Kingsley – 5.8%
- Hill traffic towards Alton – 9.5%
- Hill traffic towards Kingsley – 6.5%

These figures are very similar to those of 2017. The police do take note of our recordings and the police speed van has been spotted at the village hall on several occasions.

The challenges of 2018 were unexpected. Normally Speedwatch sessions are curtailed or cancelled due to wet cold weather but last summer some sessions were shortened due to the extremely hot weather. We also had the unexpected success of the England Football Team in the World Cup and the timing of several sessions had to be altered !

It was easier to access the equipment in 2018 as it was held at an address in Four Marks. This will be more difficult for 2019 as we are now sharing it not only with Four Marks, Holybourne and Froyle but also with Alton, who seem not to have provided any financial outlay. I am hoping that the new SID can be adapted for our use.

Finally and most importantly I would like to thank all our volunteers who give up their time to help reduce speeding in Worldham. In 2018 we had 13 volunteers. A special thanks goes to Mary Trigwell Jones who retired as a volunteer this year having been a loyal supporter of the scheme since it started.

The future of the scheme is looking good with 18 volunteers this year and also the possibility of doing sessions together with Kingsley and Oakhanger.

c) Traffic Management Working Group - by Robin Twining (The Clerk)

Last year the Parish Council reported that we had finally been sent proposals regarding traffic mitigation on the B3004 through East Worldham village.

The proposals were for:

- New gateways on the B3004 at the eastern and western ends of East Worldham at a cost £5,300
- Improved 30mph signs and markings through East Worldham at a cost £4,000
- New pedestrian crossing on the B3004 in the centre of the village at a cost £5,300
- SID (Speed Indicator Device) at an estimated cost of £3,000 - £4,000

As the total estimated costs for all the proposals amounted to over £17,000 the Parish Council decided to undertake any traffic mitigation in a number of stages.

Stage 1 is to have improved 30 mph signs and road markings through East Worldham and to have a SID. The costs will be mainly covered by grants from SDNPA and EHDC via the use of what is called Section 106 monies, and a grant from our District Councillor. The Stage 1 work was meant to have been completed by Highways in the financial year just gone. I have been informed that the work should be carried out sometime in April and May.

The SID has been purchased and if you have been observant has been on a post opposite the village hall since Saturday. This is only a temporary site whilst we wait for the work in installing better sited posts to be carried out.

I must remind Parishioners that the rules and regulations of using a SID are laid down by Hampshire Highways. A SID can only be in one place for a maximum of 2-3 weeks, and then cannot go back to that location for 8 weeks. We have to submit a plan to Highways showing when and where the SID locations will be for the next 12 months. I will be looking for volunteers to help me on taking down and putting up the SID.

One of the features of the SID that we have bought is that we have purchased a licence to analyse the data that it captures such as speed, time and traffic flow. The data can be used to identify when the peak speeding times occur. This information will be of benefit to our Speedwatch Co-ordinator and the police.

d) Footpaths - The report was read out by Cllr Trigwell-Jones on behalf of Carolyn Wilson-Webb

Very little has been reported to me over the last year, just the following few items.

14th June 2018. Complaint received about the width of footpath 36 between Wyck Lane and Clays Lane. Mr Butler, who farms this piece of land, was contacted and he agreed to deal with the problem.

26th June. Footpath 36 had been sprayed and is now very acceptable.

12th July. Once again footpath 36. This footpath is very heavily used but there is a considerable problem with dog fouling on it. I put up a notice at the Wyck Lane end of this path reminding users of the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and I have had no further reports of this problem.

28th July As the footpath representative, I sent an email regarding the proposed development of a gas fuelled capacity mechanism adjacent to Caker Stream lane which visually would be detrimental to walkers using footpaths 40, 504 and Hangers Way, footpath 70 and 31.

25th August. Received notice that footpath 27 was once again being blocked by various obstructions during the annual Jalsa Salana. Contacted Abby Sullivan, Senior Countryside Access Ranger, and asked her to write to the Ahmadiyya Association reminding them of their obligations as landowners to keep any footpath's across their land clear at all times.

Having been the footpath representative for 12 years this particular item has been a consideration for all that time and it is somewhat disappointing that every year this footpath is blocked despite reminders each time that it should remain open.

On that note I now wish to resign from this position. It has not been arduous and some items have been acted on, notably the steps on footpath 36 down the hanger, kissing gates on footpath 25 around the church and steps on footpath 32 adjacent to Clays Lane. Many more items have been reported but inevitably with serious shortage of funds and manpower there is only so much that can be achieved. Walkers should be encouraged to use common sense and simple tools such as secateurs to cut back over hanging plants or nettles and to use dog bags to collect fouling mess to keep this wonderful facility that we have user friendly for all.

In there are no volunteers for the post I understand that the Parish Council has a potential volunteer, Ben woof woof Twining, the only drawback is his limited command of English and inability to type because of his 4 paws. So he may need to call upon his owners for help.

10. Report on the role of the village agent by Nicky Twining

I am pleased to report that the Village Agent Scheme managed to secure funding from Community Grants having been in jeopardy last year. Although Village Agents are volunteers the funding is needed for training and a Village Agent Co-ordinator for Hampshire.

As a reminder of our role, Village Agents help people find the information, advice and local services they need to stay healthy and independent. From this year the Village Agent can help any age group, not just older people.

Although I am the Village Agent for the King's World I have been visiting people in their homes in other parishes to help fill in Blue Badge and Attendance Allowance Forms.

I can be contacted by phone or usually attend the Community Coffee Morning hosted by the WI on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Three Horseshoes to which everyone is welcome to join.

11. Open Forum and Public Questions

Members of the public asked a number of questions.

Question. Has the South Downs National Park changed their policy regarding signage?

Answer Yes to an extent. Bespoke signs that reflect the unique heritage of the South Downs and create a sense of arrival are being installed at 19 pilot sites at specially chosen

locations at, or near, the National Park's borders across Sussex and Hampshire. One site is at Selborne

Question. Have we heard from Hampshire Superfast Broadband when it will be available in East Worldham?

Answer We have chased Glen Peachy but have had no response. We will chase HCC again. AvonLine Networks, who work for BT Openreach, vans have been seen in Wyck Lane and there appears to be some activity in laying cable.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm