

# Worlaby Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 at Worlaby Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Cave, Cllr Bowles, Cllr D Empson, Cllr N Empson, Cllr Newton (Chair) & Cllr Speakman.

**Also Present:** 7 residents, Cllr N Sherwood and Deb Hotson – Clerk to the Council.

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Cllr Newton stated that Worlaby Parish Council send their condolences to the Royal Family and share the sadness of the loss of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Residents are encouraged to send their condolences via the Buckingham Palace website.

**1. To note apologies**

All members present.

**2. To receive and approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.**

**Resolved** – minutes approved as a true and correct record.

**3. To receive the Chairman's Report**

2020 has been a momentous year in global history. The Covid 19 pandemic has brought unthinkable challenges to the whole world. Britain has experienced a series of complete society lockdowns and on-going government restrictions. With the success of the mass vaccination programme gaining momentum, we can now begin to feel optimistic that restrictions will be lifted.

It is worth then taking the time to reflect on how our little village and The Parish Council has coped and risen to the challenges this year has placed upon us all.

The first challenge of course was the need to move all parish business online, to enable us to operate at all. With the patient assistance of our indispensable Clerk Deb Hotson, we soon became proficient and able to hold our meetings online, via "Zoom". A concept most of us had never even heard of prior to the pandemic. Happily, many residents too have enjoyed being able to attend and participate in our meetings remotely. I do hope they will continue to do so.

Alongside our usual parish concerns, once the country went into full lockdown it became apparent that urgent support in more practical ways than usual, was required. Initially there was a very real anxiety around how to procure food/prescriptions etc. With our elderly and vulnerable residents being asked to 'shield', which left them housebound. A team of compassionate residents mobilized and formed The Kindness Team. Assistance was provided by the PC in the form of funding to provide a safe, contactless payment system for residents to use. Local businesses were enlisted, and a regular bulk ordering system was introduced to ensure that basic provisions, such as fruit, veg, meat, dairy products and baked goods were available to residents. Regular delivery services into the village were quickly established.

Thanks must go to the residents who formed The Kindness Team, the councillors and other residents and their families, as well as our Clerk Deb Hotson, who all did an outstanding job of coordinating these food deliveries and shopping runs for the benefit of our vulnerable residents.

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The wonderful community spirit that is present in Worlaby shone through throughout the year, and never more so than on VE day when residents spontaneously united in their own gardens. To create a village wide, informal, socially distanced street party, complete with bunting and suitable music. It was a joy to behold, that was appreciated by all. I would like to thank everyone who took a little extra care to look after their neighbours and provide both practical and emotional support during this difficult year. I am proud of you all.

Back to business - here are a few of the issues and projects that the PC have accomplished over the past year.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** - The neighbourhood plan has now finally been submitted. Our thanks must go to the team led by ex-Cllr Peter Jones for the extensive work and dedication that they committed to this project. Consultation will commence on 18/04

**THE GARDENING GROUP** - Our wonderful band of volunteers led by Peter Lax and Hazel Hare did a marvellous job of beautifying the village. So much so that we can proudly boast of Worlaby being **The Best Kept Small village** and **Best community planting winners for 2020**. An amazing achievement which was a welcome piece of uplifting news during this difficult year.

**THE HOLLOWES AND WOODLAND GLADE** - Sadly, the increased usage of our outdoor amenities during lockdown, brought with it an inevitable increase in footfall near to the Alms House. This created a degree of tension and anxiety for the owner, which led to new signage, claiming The Hollows to be (permissive access) being installed. These signs are strongly disputed, by the PC who believe the area to be all (Open Access). The matter is now in the hands of NLC public rights of way officer and their legal dept. Thankfully, despite this difference of opinion, the owner is still allowing the PC to manage and maintain this valuable and beautiful area, and access remains for residents, for which we are very grateful.

**VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND** - The Village Hall has of course, had to remain closed throughout much of 2020. The old committee and trustees resigned, and new residents took on the roles in their place. The new committee have used the extended closure to clean the whole building and put in place all COVID protection measures necessary. They are confident that the Hall will be ready to re-open its doors as soon as government restrictions are lifted.

### THE VILLAGE LIBRARY

In the meantime, being mindful of the need to restrict non-essential travel, the new committee have also created a library within The Village Hall and are operating a contact-free lending scheme, for residents, so that they do not need to travel to obtain a variety of reading material.

The new committee are a separate legal entity from the P.C in order to maintain their charitable status. However, the two groups are committed to work jointly for the benefit of the residents of the village, so remain very strongly linked. In recognition that outside space has become increasingly important, for both exercise and mental well-being over this year, and is likely to remain so for quite some time. A joint working party has been established to decide upon improvements to be made to The Recreation Ground.

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**BOULES COURT** - The first improvement that this collaboration has brought about is the creation of a boules court. At the suggestion of residents, a Boules Court is being built, with the help of volunteers and a generous donation from a resident, to encourage outdoor activity and socialization. We are confident that residents of all ages will enjoy this new facility for many years to come.

**VOLUNTEER WORKFORCE** - We are very fortunate that the community spirit is such in Worlaby that the P.C can call upon residents to assist with a wide range of village jobs. A list has been drawn up, and residents willing to give of their time have assigned their names to a variety of tasks that they are willing to take on responsibility for. Tasks such as weeding the pathways and snickets, to re-furbishing the telephone kiosk have all been taken on by residents. Fly-tipping and litter seems to have become very prevalent during lockdown. We also have a team of residents who have been supplied with litter pick sticks by the P.C which they take out regularly on their daily walks to ensure the village and surrounding areas are kept clean. The PC wishes to share our appreciation, on behalf of the village to all of those who so willingly give of themselves, for the benefit of their community in this way. Should any other residents be inspired to help and would like to be put on the list please contact our clerk in the usual way.

**BENCHES – recycled and maintenance free** - Funding has been applied for to provide new benches around the village. This initiative came directly at the request of residents who have mobility issues. They found it difficult to take their daily exercise, during lockdown as they were unable to walk very far. Benches are to be placed at regular intervals throughout the village to provide more resting places. The P.C were more than happy to be able to respond to residents need in this way.

**Road Safety** - In response to road safety concerns raised by a resident, Worlaby PC have entered into a shared ownership agreement with the other low villages of a speed indicator sign. This will be placed at Low road/Top Road junction area at regular intervals to deter drivers speeding into the village.

**PIGS** - The development of a new commercial enterprise in the form of a Pig farm on land off Carr Lane, has not been without some initial problems. Mud on the roads and grass verges being damaged by the large vehicles being used caused misgivings and ill-feeling for some residents. The P.C confronted this issue by holding an Extraordinary Public Meeting (via “Zoom”) and invited the landowner to come along so that he could listen to and address people’s concerns. Upwards of 50 residents joined this meeting, and the landowner answered all questions asked, and was able to take on board the concerns of the residents. The P.C have applied for NLC to put in place a Traffic Road Order which will allow the erection of signage to prevent heavy goods vehicles travelling down The Hill and through the village in order to access the farm, this request has been added to the 2021/22 list for investigation.

**RAILWAY CROSSING** - This longstanding issue rumbles on. Network Rail have now locked the gates on the grounds of Health and Safety concerns, as seems to be the policy nationally. Access for residents has been denied. The landowner does have a key to allow his workers and farm machinery to cross, but understandably, is not able to accept legal liability for the wider public. The P.C have once again asked NLC to clarify, using the

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evidence that has already been provided, the existence of a PROW, which would remove the right of NR to deny public access.

2020 has been a year like no other, but Worlaby has, overall, come through it well. The community spirit that has been evident throughout the year, has, I believe been our greatest strength. The beauty of our outside spaces and environment has kept spirits lifted too. I thank all the Parish Councillors for their continued support and dedication to this community and to Deb Hotson our invaluable Parish Clerk, for her wisdom and efficiency, but most of all I would like to thank the residents of Worlaby whom it is our privilege to serve.

#### **4. To receive the Parish Council Accounts 2020/21**

The Parish Accounts were read out by the Clerk. These will be approved at the May Parish Council meeting and be available to view on the website in due course.

#### **5. To receive the Neighbourhood Watch Report**

A report was read out by the Clerk provided by Mrs Robinson.

Due to the Pandemic little has happened with NHW.

There have been no meetings but the Parish Clerk has kindly forwarded any relevant information via the Village web site.

I delivered a few more Community safety packs to residents and still have a couple left if you know of anyone who would like one.

After 16 years as the coordinator, I decided to retire and thank the Parish Council for their support over the years.

I have handed all the finances to the Parish Council for safe keeping, a total of £147.39.

I have enjoyed my time as coordinator and feel that we achieved quite a lot over the years.

My best wishes go to anyone who takes on the role.

Cllr Newton added that the Parish Councils thanks and some flowers had been presented to Mrs Robinson.

Clerk to readvertise the position of Co-ordinator again.

#### **6. To receive the Belayses Cook Charity Report**

A report was read out by the Clerk provided by Mrs Bowles.

Trustees:

Mrs S Webster- Co-operative Trustee

Mrs S Bowles- Nominative Trustee-. (4-year term ended 2019, to continue as a Trustee (approved by the Parish Council May 2019) and also as secretary in place of Mrs Hildyard in 2020)

Mrs K White- Co-operative Trustee

Mrs Maureen Rickwood, Chairperson

Mrs C Fletcher – (approved by the Parish Council May 2019)

Throughout the year of 2020, seven grants were made to Worlaby residents, ranging from £250 to £500. Five of these were awarded in lieu of reduction in recipients' earnings directly attributable to Covid 19 impositions. In addition, 19 Tesco's vouchers of £50 each were distributed at Christmas to families whose children were in receipt of free school meals.

A copy of audited accounts for the year ended 2020 is presented with this report.

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If anyone knows someone who could possibly benefit from the Charity the Trustees will be pleased to hear from them. Please do not hesitate to contact one of the Trustees. All requests will be treated with discretion and in the strictest confidence. All details of the recipients of the grants are known only to the Trustees and not disclosed to any other parties.

The Belayses Cook Charity is able to help those affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic, (for instance through loss of earnings) and those in medical need (with for instance transport, or related costs).

Cllr Newton added that this group have carried out their duties in a discreet and caring way. The report was accepted and the Clerk will pass on the thanks of the Parish Council.

### 7. **To receive the Worlaby Recreation Committee**

A report was read out by the Clerk which was provided by Mrs Rawlings.

A yearly report by its very nature is a time for reflection and goodness me what a truly unprecedented time it has been for everyone.

As we ease out of lockdown the Worlaby Recreational Committee can't wait to welcome everyone back.

The Committee, newly formed, bring a new perspective and experience to the table.

We have held regular virtual meetings via zoom, where we have discussed our plans to move forward, to clarify our aims, objectives, structure and proposed future activities.

The WRC has been successful in obtaining a government grant.

Establishing a new bank account has not been without its problems so we have been very appreciative of the support the Parish Council have provided. The WRC have always enjoyed a good working relationship with the Parish Council and we have every hope this will continue.

We have received many offers of help and support from the community and this is appreciated.

We are delighted with the input from the children of Worlaby Academy.

It is so nice to see how many of the villagers are taking up the opportunity to access the new community library.

The trustees have worked hard to put in place safe and secure covid measures so that we can open our doors and celebrate a truly inclusive community venue with our neighbours and friends.

It was agreed this was an uplifting and positive report.

### 8. **Open Forum for Public Participation**

A member of the public, in his opinion, stated the Parish Council should put in a formal complaint with regard to the lack of actions being undertaken on the Hollows and the issues on the open access land.

Cllr Newton stated that communications were ongoing with NLC and there is a plan to move forward.

A resident asked for confirmation that an email had been received. Clerk to check.

The same resident asked for various pieces of information. A Freedom of Information request will be submitted to the Clerk for this information.