

# WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019  
HELD IN THE CLUB ROOM OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs. S. Cole (Chair), R. Barrett, S. Harris, M. Smith, J. Allen, A. Bond, S. Ginn and K. O'Hara.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. A. Millar, District Cllr. Saul Penfold, County Cllr. John Timewell, Worstead Friends, The Choir, Rev'd Paul Cubitt and Worstead Pre-school.

ALSO PRESENT: 6 members of the public, including representatives of the Queen Elizabeth Village Hall (4), and Worstead Weavers (1) + 1 other.

Clerk: S. Martin.

19.01 AMP	<p><u>ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>All apologies were accepted.</p>
19.02 AMP	<p><u>All present were welcomed by Chairman Cole.</u></p> <p><u>TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2018:</u></p> <p>Cllr. J. Allen proposed to accept the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr. S. Harris, all agreed. Chairman Cole duly signed the minutes after the meeting.</p>
18.03 AMP	<p><u>REPORT OF WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL</u> written and presented by Chairman Cole.</p> <p>It has, yet again, been an interesting and in some cases, a testing year for your Parish Council with planning applications to review and various projects coming to fruition. There continues to be issues with verges being cut up by heavy vehicles and HGVs however we are pleased that through our County Councillor, Barnards Road, which was subject to a deal of frustration last year now has "Unsuitable for HGV" signs at its ends which we hope will help greatly although there will still be a need for waste disposal lorries using the road.</p> <p>January saw the introduction of a pensioners "Christmas Lunch" This was scheduled in January to help break the monotony that follows the Christmas &amp; New Year hectic period. It was attended by a good number of local residents and was found to be quite a success after all the hard work put in by our Chef Mark Thompson and Jo Gardner together with a number of others to all of whom we give grateful thanks.</p> <p>Back in March a litter pick was organised as in other years Between everyone there were a great number of bags of litter collected plus a number of fly-tipped wine bottles, empty paint pots and general waste. It was a busy few hours terminated by tea, coffee and biscuits so a big thank you to all those who took part and another thankyou to our District Councillor Saul Penfold who organised a separate pick in Meeting Hill. It seems such a shame that this needs to be done at, but grateful thanks go out to all those who gave their time to trudge the roads picking up other people's rubbish.</p> <p>We were most pleased when the benches mentioned last year were finally installed with one in Meeting Hill, two in the playing field and one in St Mary's Churchyard. You will also have noticed some of our new Parish Council notice boards particularly the one by the station entrance and the one in the village square which give great improvement. We have another, soon to be fitted in Meeting Hill to replace the old one that rotted through.</p>

# WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>It will be installed by the new bench and will give a nice focal point to the area.          The phone box in Station Road finally got its gloss coat of paint and a shelving and display unit inside for a book exchange and to display art for sale.          Grateful thanks to Shane Mallett of Arteesane, for helping to finish it off.          The other two boxes, in Briggate and Meeting Hill will also be sorted out during the coming year we hope.</p> <p>The Station itself is now much improved with lovely murals, retro posters and heritage trail boards complimenting what Andy &amp; Poly started.          Again, thanks to Shane and not forgetting the pupils of Worstead School for some of the design work.</p> <p>The old remaining Worstead Station sign on the canopy was removed as it was in very poor condition but as part of the improvement works, it is now refurbished.          The one on the opposite end had been lost, however Mark Baker at CIM Signs in Rackheath, replicated the lettering so that a new sign could be made.          Mark donated the lettering so many thanks for his kind generosity.          The signs will be reinstated at both ends as soon as The Bittern Line Partnership can arrange the works.          If you haven't gone on a train recently, do take time to go over and have a look at the lovely work done.</p> <p>You may notice that the churchyard is currently peppered with little white posts to mark where it is hoped a wildflower conservation area will be forthcoming.          It should be filled with native species of wildflowers and so attract all manner of pollinating insects as well as their predators like swallows and bats etc.</p> <p>We are also continuing albeit somewhat slowly, with the extension to the Graveyard on Vicarage Road which we hope will also have a wildflower conservation area.</p> <p>Your Parish Council remain committed to support all our local clubs and organisations, and all the while funds are available will continue to do so.</p> <p>Lastly, I would like to give my personal thanks as Chairman to all of the Councillors, the Clerk and the many volunteers in the parish for their support and hard work throughout the year.</p>
19.04 APM	<p><u>DRAFT END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 01.04.2018/ 31.03.2019:</u></p> <p>Copies were distributed before the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed to accept by Cllr. R. Barrett; seconded by Cllr. S. Harris - all agreed to accept these.</p>
19.05 APM/A	<p><u>REPORTS FROM:</u></p> <p><u>QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL</u> – written and read by Tom Hayden (Chair)</p> <p>Chairman thanked all members of the committee for their time and effort over the past year.</p> <p>Positives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Replacement of lower windows and doors.</li> <li>● Fire system upgrade (happening this week)</li> <li>● Improved communications with Parish Council and Worstead Festival - hope to develop further this year.</li> <li>● Pre-school have taken over the changing rooms - freeing up lavatories so that we can use/rent out the bar independently</li> </ul>

# WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

- Significant back office progress with improving documentation - from health and safety to booking protocols - thanks to Bruce.
- New website created and up and running - thanks to Shane.
- Old tables disposed of
- Bar screenings of films (new screen and projector) have been successful.

## Negatives:

- Water ingress due to rotten cladding has resulted in a small amount of damage to the hall floor, but should be repairable
- Cladding and upper windows (work due to commence August 2019) will likely leave us with very little in the bank account, especially given unexpected cost of replacing the cooker and having to remove the still.
- The heaters in the main hall are unserviceable as parts are no longer available and thus must be replaced by the winter which will require us to seek funding.

It is likely that we will face big issues with gas appliances in the imminent future which will be a drain on our bottom line.

Bruce has noticed that our EPC says we are on a different type of gas to that which we actually use, this is something that needs to be resolved.

On a whole it has been a good year, but a lot of expensive things to still complete. Once finished hopefully we will be able to reap the benefits, once improvements have been made, hopefully it will be a more pleasant proposition for the community to use.

Steve asked whether we were going to be continuing with Saul as a bid writer - Tom has spoken to a number of other bid writers who have not responded. Tracey has left a message with Saul to get in touch with regards to him perhaps finding out what people want to see in the village. She will chase this.

Community Action Norfolk have responded to Tracey's request for assistance and they can come to a meeting, though it will have to be during the day. They report that the NNDC Big Society Fund is primarily for projects that improve social isolation rather than the fabric of the building.

Another option could be looking into getting company sponsorship - Jewson's, CT Bakers, Travis Perkins etc. There are definitely funds out there, but time is an issue, we need to decide on our priorities.

We have recently had our AGM and there are changes to the committee:

Rod Charman is now Chairman  
Bruce Patterson - Vice Chairman  
Tom Hayden – Treasurer  
Rebecca Hayden - Secretary

APM/B

WORSTEAD WEAVERS: presented by Pat Baker

The new workshop at Dilham (next to the village hall) has been fully renovated, thanks to The Bog Society Grant, including heating and water. We run various crafty workshops throughout the year and will be running the "Woolly Weekend" this year.

We currently have around 65 members but are always open to new members. We run sessions on Tuesdays 2-9pm and Saturdays 1-4pm. We feel we are a community centre as well.

A local author is hoping to write a fictional book related to the local history of weaving.

# WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

APM/C	<p><u>WITHERGATE RIFLE &amp; PISTOL CLUB</u>: written and presented by Simon Cole</p> <p>I know that most of you will be aware of the “gun club” on Withergate Road. What you may not know is that it has been in existence for more than 60 years. Several members in 2018 won medals in various disciplines for target shooting. Also last year, four out of the five members of the Norfolk County Team came from Withergate and were successful in beating several other counties to first place in division 3 of the National Lightweight Sports Rifle competition. Sadly, the membership has dropped slightly due to members passing away and others not having the time or inclination to continue. The club is fully enclosed from the weather and as a reminder, is open to anyone to join, just come along and try it out. Meetings are held on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings about 7:30pm and the club owns rifles that can be borrowed on the evening. We have had a problem in recent months with cars of “youngsters” parking up in the area at the front and litter consisting of pizza boxes etc and empty drinks containers being thrown out of the windows together with pierced nitrous oxide gas canisters. We have installed CCTV to cover the car parking which hopefully will deter this, and the Police have also been made aware because of the cannisters.</p>
APM/D	<p><u>ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH</u>: written by Rev’d Paul Cubitt</p> <p>It has been an encouraging year at St Mary’s. Regular worship has returned with services twice a month. Thanks to some very dedicated people the church is now cleaned and polished regularly. The pews and other wooden furnishings now have a well-cared for feeling. That and fresh flowers all speak of renewed care of this very special place. There were six weddings and a blessing at St Mary’s, a significant increase on previous years. The church looked stunning for the Festival with many visitors saying how much better everything was looking. The home team did a marvellous job on refreshments and the flowers were superb. The Festival Service, in the form of a Songs of Praise, made a welcome return to the weekend.</p> <p>We were delighted that Gwen York has taken on the role of Churchwarden and Janet Tomlin that of Treasurer. We are very thankful for the thorough work done on the accounts by Roy Tuff which has enabled Janet to start from a solid base.</p> <p>Other highlights of the year were the Harvest Festival and Supper, the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, the concerts by the Choir Worstead and the visits of the village school. Ahead of Easter the whole school took part in the ‘Easter Experience’ in the church.</p> <p>At the time of writing a sound system is being installed (with loop covering the pews on the south side) thanks to a generous donation. The Diocese has given permission for the pews to be adapted to improve sight lines subject to comment from the Georgian Group (who visited last week) and Heritage England. A group from the church are researching kitchen/toilet provision as well.</p> <p>The church Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place at 7pm in the Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd April. The meeting will consist of 3 meetings: 1 The election of Churchwardens, 2 the annual meeting of the church electoral roll (which will see other church officers elected) and 3 a meeting of the Worstead Church Fabric Trust. All are welcome.</p>
APM/E	<p><u>WORSTEAD FRIENDS</u>: written by Cynthia Clare.</p> <p>Initially formed from Women’s Institute member, Worstead Friends continues in the like manner of the institute in following local interests and encouraging friendships. The group meet monthly on the second Wednesday. An AGM formed by the Chair, Secretary</p>

# WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

and 2 other members discuss and decide on the meeting topics for the following year. The meeting is supported by the non-voting Treasurer. Membership is open to all ages but does tend to mainly comprise retired persons. Latterly, male membership has been encouraged too!  
Current membership numbers 30 but fluctuates between 23 and 35.  
The chosen topics range from Historical (and sometimes hysterical) talks, Music, an annual outing, a Christmas lunch and a Garden Party.

Nearly all meetings also comprise a raffle with prizes donated by attendees and cakes and drinks, also provided by members. Additionally, an annual subscription of £12 is made and used to pay for visiting speakers' expenses and to subsidise the annual outing coach transport.

Last years outing was a visit to the Suffolk Punch Trust and this year we're off to Bury St Edmunds.

Worstead Friends is very thankful for the generous support received from Worstead Village Amenities Trust which ensures the ongoing availability of the Village Hall facilities to this gathering of friends.

Finally, in addition to our gatherings we also keep in touch between meetings both by word and in meeting for other pursuits and activities. A really healthy outlook with a unique 'knitted network' with the community.

APM/F

THE CHOIR: written by Beverley Downes

Musically it's been a great year, we've had some really good concerts and our comfortable new rehearsal venue is proving better for our needs. We have also attracted many new members. Choir Worstead is a very unusual and special choir and difficult to pigeon hole. Important decisions are always made by the choir as a whole and everyone's opinion matters. There is a strong ethos of mutual support, friendliness and sense of camaraderie at its core and members' enthusiasm remains exceptional. Despite not auditioning and welcoming anyone who wants to sing with us we continue to be very fortunate that the choir remains pretty balanced and we are fortunate to have attracted, and retained, some members who are experienced choral singers; despite this Choir Worstead remains a place where singers of any level of experience and their voices can grow, achieving things they initially thought beyond them.

Moving to Dilham for rehearsals has allowed us to consolidate financially, is an improvement in terms of facilities it affords us (heating, lighting, audibility, comfort of chairs, cleanliness of the kitchen and toilets) and is a most agreeable venue for rehearsing, concerts and parties! That said we will always be Choir Worstead and retain very strong links with the Village, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and St Mary's Church, whilst feeling very much part of the fabric of things at our new base.

The Spring Concert in May at St Mary's Worstead, was a programme of folk songs from America and the British Isles closely followed by the Stalham business forum Fringe Festival. One of the big events in our calendar is The Worstead Festival where Choir Worstead has organised a Festival within The Festival in the Church for several years now and we are most grateful to the Festival Committee who support the choir very generously with funding for capital projects. In the October concert we shared an evening with Take 4, a local band who also rehearse at Dilham Village Hall, performing here for the first time as Worstead Village Hall was unavailable. December was busy as ever, with The Advent Concert in St Mary's, carols for the North Norfolk Association for the Blind Christmas lunch, Made in Worstead in Worstead Church and Cynthia's Christmas Fayre in Worstead Village Hall. The Spring concert was early this year and we recently performed Faure Requiem and highlights from Messiah in St Marys' Worstead.

# WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

APM/G	<p>WORSTEAD PRE SCHOOL – written by Paula Self</p> <p>Pre-school continues to grow from strength to strength. This year we have 47 children on the books for Summer Term - this is a record.</p> <p>Our main objectives for this year have been to add a 'Music and Movement' group to our Monday afternoon session, to continue our 'Yoga and Mindfulness group', our 'Forest School and Multi-sport sessions' - all of which have been going exceptionally well.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we have had some bad news regarding our 'Forest School' session, we no longer can use our current area. We have been talking to Bruce Paterson and hope to approach the Parish Council with a proposal to perhaps use some of the playing field - watch this space.</p> <p>Our next big project will be to revamp our outside space, preferably with soft tarmac to replace the aging slabs - making for a safer surface for the children. We hope to work with the Parish council and Village Hall committee in order to achieve this.</p> <p>Once again, a big thank you to the Parish Council and Village Hall committee for their continued support.</p>
18.06 APM	<p>There was no <b>Police Report</b> – however the Police newsletter was available for all to read. Chairman Cole mentioned the police website where crime details can be viewed.</p> <p>Cllr. Cole reported the 'Nextdoor' website shares local information but stressed <u>not</u> to post personal information such as telephone numbers or addresses.</p> <p><b>REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:</b> Saul Penfold</p> <p>I was delighted to have been elected as North Norfolk District Councillor for the Worstead Ward at a by-election in February 2018. It is a privilege to have represented this Ward and the Parish of Worstead since then.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the past year I have attended monthly Worstead Parish Council meetings, supporting the Parish and local residents to the best of my ability and providing a 'bridge' between residents and their District Council.</li> <li>• I have represented Worstead Parish residents at Full Council meetings held at NNDC Offices in Cromer, voting on a range of important issues affecting the District including budget setting, mostly recently for the financial year 2019/20.</li> <li>• I work as a member of NNDC's Big Society Fund Grants Panel which gives grants to capital projects that enhance our local communities and as a member of the Market Towns Initiative, which provides funding to projects that are improving our four market towns – North Walsham, Stalham, Fakenham and Holt.</li> <li>• I am also part of an NNDC working group which together with partners from Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council, is looking to support schools develop their travel plans, incentivise non-car transport to schools and improve road safety around all of our schools.</li> <li>• I have also been busy with a range of local casework on behalf of Worstead residents including planning, housing, road safety issues, better broadband coverage and environmental improvements.</li> <li>• I have helped to secure better broadband provision for residents in Meeting Hill, with Worstead Cabinet 27 on the Yarmouth Road about to 'go live'.</li> <li>• I joined the 'Big Spring Clean' in Worstead and organised as well as participated in the Meeting Hill event, both in March 2019.</li> </ul>

# WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

- I am pleased to be standing again as District Councillor for Worstead Ward at the election to be held on 2nd May 2019.

I am very happy to be contacted on the mobile number or email address below.  
Tel: 07501 353962 Email: saul.penfold@north-norfolk.gov.uk

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR:** John Timewell (Cllr. West North Walsham and Erpingham Division)

Dear residents and members of the Parish Council.

Firstly, please accept my apologies for not attending this evening.

During the year at County Hall changes of governance have been proposed that will change how councillors will govern business in the future. From May the committee system of governance will be replaced again by the cabinet system. This means that opposition councillors will not have the right to vote on proposes as they would in the committee system. There are good and bad points of each system, but one must remember that the committee system was brought in to stop bad decision making such as their Incinerator debacle. Another change is that upon the resignation of the Managing Director the Leader of the council decided not to replace the position but to do that job also.

The cabinet system will see Children's services are to merge with Adults services from May as far as governance is concerned. Both are very specialist and have individual needs and management and I am concerned that care may be compromised.

As you know I represent the residents of 13 parish councils as well as half of North Walsham. One of the major issues I am fighting for is a relief road between Norwich road and Cromer Road. Once included in NNDC's Local Plan it will with the building of the new housing developments allow a safer path for HGV traffic as well as other vehicles to travel between North Norfolk and Norwich.

More locally, we are all concerned of traffic speed through our village. The Sam 2 cameras operated by the parish council do make a difference as most drivers do not intentionally speed and the flashing signs remind them of their error. There are of course those drivers who do not take any notice and are aware that a 20mph restriction is voluntary and not enforceable in law. Another problem which is common nationally in rural areas is the increasing size and speed of agricultural vehicles. Their size means that they are gradually destroying our verges. We at County have issues here as we are expected to repair the road edges to an ever increasing width. This we cannot easily do as we in some cases do not own the land in question. Highways issues are and will always be a fight to keep them safe for users, an example locally is that we have recently repaired and resurfaced the road from the Westwick turning towards Scottow.

Finally, I would like to thank your Parish Council for their hard work and their cooperation in all County Council related matters. This is our village; we are proud of it and we must strive to maintain its uniqueness and character.

# WORSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

19.07 APM	<p><u>QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS FROM THE FLOOR:</u></p> <p>A member from the QE Hall committee raised a request from the pre school regarding improvements to the patio area and their request for help from the PC and the QE Hall. The question was asked as to who is responsible for the area in question ? It was discussed that documents would be consulted to see where the responsibility lies.</p> <p>Concerns regarding the car park potholes were raised due to the continued use from pre-school users. The PC repaired the potholes last year; however, they have reappeared, but is investigating further repairs/improvements. It was discussed the PC and QE Hall working together on this project. To be placed on the PC agenda to discuss.</p> <p>A question was asked of the PC would share the office with the Festival - to be placed on the PC agenda to discuss.</p> <p>The QE Hall reported they are fully supporting the upcoming Wildfest Beer Festival. It was mentioned minimising any damage to the field and the music to finish at 10.45pm – both as agreed by the organiser.</p> <p>It was discussed a meeting between the QE Hall committee and the PC to agree field hire/village hall hire moving forward – Clerk to arrange.</p> <p>Cllr. Cole thanked all for attending.</p>
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The meeting finished at 20.30.