

# Minutes of the Worstead Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 7.00pm in

The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Worstead

John Bacon opened the meeting welcoming all and explained this is not a PC meeting but a meeting of the Parish.

## **23.01APM: To note attendance and apologies of absence**

Present at the meeting - Cllrs. J. Bacon, R. Barrett, S. Cole, A. Bond, A. Abel, K. O'Hara and Clerk (S. Martin). District/County Councillor Saul Penfold, Jane Bond (Festival), Claire Gwilliam and Karen Norfolk (Worstead Pre-school), Diana Wilde, Rowland and Rowena Talbot (parishioners).

Apologies were received from Rev. David Warner; Michael Pomroy and Sue Bloomfield (Churchwardens); Nick Read (Head teacher Worstead C Of E Primary School)

## **23.02APM: To consider approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

The minutes were AGREED as a true record and signed by Cllr. John Bacon.

## **23.03APM: Report from the Chairman of Worstead Parish Council**

This is now the first year I have been Chair of the Parish Council. This year is election year; however the PC had a full uncontested election of 9 Councillors.

Road Safety – Everyone, including the PC, is very concerned about speeds of vehicles and road safety within the Parish. Enforcing exceeding speed limits in a 20mph area is proving difficult for the Police. We do see large agricultural vehicles coming through the village during harvest and spend time working with the local farmers, contractors and Highways to make this as best possible for all.

The PC submitted a bid for 50% funding for a new trod path along Honing Road. The bid was successful, and funding was also contributed from County Cllr. Saul Penfold for this valuable project.

The PC does not have any control over the village hall and recently the ownership and responsibility of the car park has been confirmed under the village hall charity ownership.

The PC has been spending a lot of time negotiating the lease at the recycling centre, which is ongoing.

## **23.04APM District and County Councillors reports**

Dear Friends, it is a great privilege to represent and serve the parish of Worstead as both its North Norfolk District Councillor (NNDC), which I have done since February 2018 and also as its Norfolk County Councillor (NCC), which I have done since May 2021. During the past year I have represented Worstead Parish residents at Full Council meetings held at both County and at District level and have voted on a range of important issues affecting Norfolk as a whole including budget setting for both authorities, the proposed County Deal, the 'Rights of Rivers' and the District's Net Carbon Zero strategy. As well as my constituency work for both authorities, I sit on a number of committees: At Norfolk County Council I am a member of the Council's Audit Committee, of its Employment Committee and of the Joint Museums Committee. At North Norfolk District Council I continue to Chair NNDC's 'Sustainable Communities Grants Fund Panel' – which this year provided £6,000 of funding to Worstead Parish Council to make improvements to the car park at the Village Hall. I am

also Vice-Chairman of NNDC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as Vice-Chairman of its Governance, Risk and Audit Committee. I have attended monthly Worstead Parish Council meetings and have reported back on developments, debates and policy discussed and decided at both County and District level. I have also been busy with a range of local casework on behalf of Worstead residents across both Councils including planning, housing, road safety issues, better broadband coverage and environmental improvements. I will continue to support our residents and the wider community to the best of my ability. I have also supported highway improvement schemes in Worstead through my County Council Local Member Budget, schemes that are aimed at reducing traffic speeds and making roads safer for all users. For example, I allocated £1,500 from my Local Member Budget towards the new trod path on Honing Road as part of the Parish Partnership scheme and I'm delighted that this has just been completed. I also paid for the two new 'adult and child walking' signs along Barnards Road to help make traffic alert to pedestrians using the road. Meeting Hill has also seen new signage welcoming those coming into the hamlet from the White Horse Common direction, again paid for from my Local Member Budget and I worked with the Parish Council to deliver the re-surfacing and kerbing of the Meeting Hill Road and Orpley Lane junction, as well as the wider surface dressing through Meeting Hill. If you need to contact me at all, my phone number is 07501 353962, my NCC email is [saul.penfold.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:saul.penfold.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk) and my NNDC email is [saul.penfold@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:saul.penfold@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

Cllr. Penfold left the meeting at 19:33 due to another meeting to attend.

#### **23.05APM      Police report**

No police report received.

#### **23.06APM:      Reports from local clubs and committees**

##### **Worstead Festival**

This year's festival took place on 30th & 31st of July, the last two years had been tough for so many so the trustees and I were determined to make this year's festival a good one.

Lockdown had brought many events, including ours to be cancelled. With this in mind we used the time we had to improve on the last one and get more people through the gates.

Wow what a fabulous weekend it was, it was so good to see the field full of people families having a great day out. With large numbers of visitors both days the weather was kind to us, well mostly! The money raised from the entrance fees, stalls and attractions meant we were able to replenish our funds to allow grants to be awarded which Belinda will tell you about in her financial report.

As trustees we recognised our mistakes from the previous festival and were determined to make it one to remember with bigger, better attractions and stalls, and I for one think we did with great feedback from visitors' vendors and volunteers.

Along with some favourites from before unfortunately some were unable to attend like the Barton Railway and the Starter Handle club. Like many clubs and organisations, they had suffered with elderly volunteers still shielding after covid unable to attend. The fear was still real for many.

The Worstead Festival continues to be a great family day out with so many free activities for children and adults we were able to keep the entrance fees low and children under 12 go free.

Some of the favourites from this year's festival include the return of the egg throwing competition run by Worstead's comedy double act Ed Foss and Saul Penfold they even got our new vicar David in on the act.

The dog show is always a crowd pleaser which Westover Vets organised with favourite classes that included waggiest tails and the dog looking most like its owner classes.

The sheep show was our star attraction and was a great success along with the duck racing very entertaining.

Will with his gun dogs showed all us dog owners how it should be done when he gets seven spaniels all behaving and doing exactly what he asked amazing.

Mill Hill was another success with the relocation of the music stage with a bar and burger stall very close proved to be a good choice and I believe they ran out of burgers towards the end of Sunday. Andy Miller and Ben Fenwick booked a great variety of acts for music stage which drew in the crowds and was a great success too many to mention but we all enjoyed the bubble man and the silent disco was great fun enabling the entertainment to continue later into the evening without upsetting our neighbours!

All the concessions were kept busy throughout the weekend and including the two bars run by our local brewery Wild Craft. We recognised that were some long ques at times and listened to feedback from the vendors and punters but it's a hard one to get right, we were blessed with good weather and numbers of visitors this year. We will review these concerns for this year.

Dereck Spanton and his heavy horses are always a crowd pleaser and to me part of the festival from my childhood, it was so good to see them back at the festival.

The circus skills, petting zoo and bucking bronco proved to be popular too.

Mark Thompson did a sterling job with the Lego marquee raising lots of money for the school PTA, I for one are excited with the plans he has to make this a bigger and even better displays this coming year so watch this space.

Made in Worstead Marquee continues to grow this year we had over 15 stalls with artisans from within the parish along with a couple of invited guests, Worstead's heritage of artisans continues. The art exhibition in the village hall showcased some fabulous talent again from local artists thank you Shane for organising this again.

Aylsham care trust ran the café in the village hall which offers a quieter space for refreshments and a sit down they too suffered from lack of volunteers so were unable to have any entertainment this year.

We also offered a quiet space in the bar area of the village hall for anyone who needed time out which again proved popular.

Last but not least the Church they too had a successful weekend with their teas and cakes stall along with the second handbook stall and the wonderful flower exhibition which as ever was magnificent. So, at this point I would like to thank my fellow trustees for all their help and support during the year, along with all the volunteers that helped setting the festival up those who gave up their time during the weekend and those who helped take it down on the Monday we couldn't do it without you THANK YOU

If you are interested in helping at this year's festival there are plenty of opportunities to do so. As ever any help or time you can offer is very much appreciated, please have a word with me or any of the trustees to discuss this further.

Finally, I have decided to stay on as chair for this coming year, if elected, as it's hard to leave when last years was such a success.

### **Worstead Pre-school**

We have had a lovely start to the year, meeting new families and continuing to give support to children's learning and development.

Our outside area has had a much needed make over and I thank my staff for this, as they work hard in improving the pre-school in many ways.

We have been fundraising to replace the fencing around the outside area, but this is going to be sometime before we have the relevant funds.

The pre-school has held an open day to encourage more children to the setting, numbers are low this term and we would obviously like to increase them to ensure the pre-school runs at a healthy gain.

This term we will be helping our leavers to be school ready and working with local schools to provide good transitions for the children and their families.

All of the staff at the pre-school continue to work hard attending courses, reviewing policies, risk assessments and being at the top of their professional role.

### **St Mary's Church**

During the year we have tightened up security within the church, the lock has been changed on the priest's door, we now keep an up to date key holders list. Smart water has been applied to the roof and to some effects in the church (thanks to a grant from the Festival for Smartwater)

Installed CCTV, due to a spate of antisocial behaviour.

Our aim is to support St Mary's by fund raising:

Daffodils are picked and sold (thanks to Worstead Estates)

Worstead Wednesday Coffee & Chat sessions, run by Gwen York, in the village hall.

Coffee mornings held in North Walsham to raise funds for the flowers for the Flower Festival held in the church over Worstead Festival weekend. (No money is taken from church funds for the Flower Festival)

Also included are: Concerts, Harvest Supper, Sponsored churches cycle ride, Made in Worstead Craft event (organised by Jane Bond) & Worstead Festival.

We also support charities, at the Remembrance service last November our collection was sent to the Royal British Legion.

A MacMillan Coffee Morning was held all money raised went to the charity.

Looking forward.

Thanks to a festival grant new bell ropes will be fitted soon.

We purchased nine fold up tables to use in our café area for events.

The cemetery extension is now ready to be consecrated (soon we hope)

(We thank the Parish Council for the contribution to cemetery maintenance).

Worstead School are back holding services in the church, the lowering of the pews has made such a difference to the school services.

Now the down side (there's always a down side)

We have a leak in the church roof at the West end of the church.

Our Quinquennial Inspection is due this year, we are hoping no major problems are found!

The church path is causing concern when it rains it gets waterlogged.

We have four weddings in the church to date this year, and hope the weather is fine. (It's not a good look muddy guests and bride & groom)

### **Withergate Rifle & Pistol Club**

Withergate Rifle and Pistol Club has been in existence for over 70 years. Members enter competition, however, there has been a downturn on shooting in recent years, and the Norfolk Association has almost disbanded, but down to the enthusiasm of some continues on. The club currently has 11 members. Membership is £85 per year and is open Thursday and Friday evenings for anyone who is interested – all are welcome. There is soon to be a website up and running for further details.

### **Worstead CE VA Primary School (report sent from Headteacher Mr Nick Read)**

I am very pleased to see the new trod/footpath going in; this will have a real positive impact on pedestrian safety as lots of our children come to school down Honing Road on foot.

Our next big project, to expand the car park on the Withergate side of school and draw parent/child traffic away from the Fairstead at drop off and pick up times, is still ongoing. We await further input from stakeholders although the Diocese of Norwich has agreed to fund the majority of the cost. Our new entranceway in the back fence which accesses the footpath along School Field behind our fenceline is working well although it needs some weatherproofing for winter foot traffic to be part of the project above.

Any community volunteers who can help with our Forest School on a Tuesday or our overhaul of the front garden on a Monday would be very welcome. They do not need to have an existing connection to the school and should contact the office, or Katie Truman-Grieve at the school on a Tuesday (who is our Forest School teacher). Training and DBS checks will be arranged.

### **Queen Elizabeth Hall**

No report received.

### **23.07APM: Questions, answers and suggestions.**

It was asked if the Church will be participating in 'Ring for the King' on the Coronation Day – unfortunately this was unable to be confirmed.

There will be a 'Picnic in the Park' on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for all to attend.

The Pre-school asked about placing of advertising signage within the Parish. Cllr. John Bacon responded that as land is not PC owned permission would need to be applied for and granted from either Highways, Church or landowners.

It was also asked about the fenced area of the Pre-school as funds are being raised to replace it – it was responded this will need to be discussed and agreed with the village hall trustees/committee.

Cllr. John Bacon thanked all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for all their efforts to the Community. In return John was thanked for the last year as Chair of the PC.

All were thanked all for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed 19:58