WORMINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2023 IN WORMINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

In the Chair:	**Cllr. Bentley**
Present:	**Cllrs. Baker, Boyce, Byrne, Cook, Fenn & Patmore**
Clerk:	**Mrs Cook**
Also Present	**Eleven members of the public**

23/194	**WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.00pm.
23/195	**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** Cllr Boyce declared a non-pecuniary interest on planning application 232281 due to being a neighbouring property.
23/196	**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST** A member of the public spoke about planning application 232281- Land to the North of 3 Bowdens Lane and raised the following points: • The criteria needed to change from Agricultural Buildings to Class B8 Storage. • What Class B8 storage could entail. • The process bypassing the need to consult with the AONB & Essex Highways. • Access to and from the site by unsuitable vehicles. • Flooding to the area. • Concern for the wildlife in the area. • Possible noise issues for local residents. A member of the public raised concern regarding the increased parking on the pavement on Church Road and therefore the risk to pedestrians having to step out into the road. The Clerk confirmed she would discuss this issue with Cllr Barber and go back to the resident. A member of the public raised that they were disappointed with the cut along footpath 34. Cllr Bentley agreed to take a look and if necessary report this to Essex County Council. A question was raised regarding why the County Council always carried out their cutting schedule following the alphabet and why this couldn't be flexible. This would be raised with Essex County Council. It was raised that the Parish Council were looking for volunteers in order to join the Parish Path Partnerships in order to keep the footpaths in Wormingford clear all the year round. Interested volunteers should contact the Parish Clerk. A member of the public raised concern over the Football Club using the Rec Trust ground all day on Saturday and Sunday and on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and therefore the increase in noise. They asked if they could see the lease agreement between the Rec Trust and the Football Club. Cllr Bentley confirmed that this needed to be taken up with the Rec Trust directly. Cllr Byrne confirmed as Chair of the Rec Trust he would raise this with the Trustees. A member of the public raised a noise issue with one of the Gliders and had concern over an individual flight event. The member of the public confirmed that it was 4 or 5 weeks ago but did not remember the day of the week it occurred. Cllr Bentley would raise it with the Gliding Club and report back to the resident.
23/197	**WARD & COUNTY COUNCILLORS TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS IF PRESENT OR BY EMAILED REPORT** No report had been received.
23/198 *23120*	**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2023 held in the Village Hall were a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.**

23/199

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1) **PLANNING APPLICATION: 232094. THE BUNGALOW, GARNONS CHASE, WORMINGFORD, CO6 3AR.** THE DEMOLITION OF TWO OUTBUILDINGS AND REPLACEMENT WITH A NEW OUTBUILDING.

23121 **RESOLVED that Wormingford Parish Council have no comment to make on application 232094 – The Bungalow.**

2) **PLANNING APPLICATION: 232281. LAND TO THE NORTH OF 3 BOWDENS LANE, WORMINGFORD.** APPLICATION TO DETERMINE IF PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED FOR A PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS TO CLASS B8 STORAGE.

23122 **RESOLVED that Wormingford Parish Council object to prior approval application 232281 and send the following comments:**

Further to the nine letters of objection published on the planning portal plus comments raised by concerned residents in the public participation section of the meeting, this issue was discussed by councillors who were in full agreement with all the objections that have been raised. In fact the Council felt it would be hard to identify a less suitable area within the village for a commercial storage unit for the following reasons:

1. **There is no recent history of the building being used for agricultural storage.**
2. **Bowdens Lane is a single track, unsealed cul-de-sac used mainly by walkers, dog owners and horse riders.**
3. **Access to Bowdens Lane is via a narrow steep road from the village or over the historic Wormingford Bridge which has a single width and max. loading of 7.5 tonnes. Wormingford Bridge is fed from a designated quiet Lane on the Suffolk side. The turnout from Bowdens Lane is potentially dangerous.**
4. **Concern raised regarding the increase to traffic to this site by large unsuitable vehicles**
5. **The area is subject to flooding and Bowdens Lane and its surrounding fields flood most years**
6. **Due to the flooding there is an inherent risk of pollution in a sensitive wildlife area.**
7. **Such a development would be totally incompatible with its location within the Dedham Vale AONB.**

Wormingford finds itself in the sights of commercial/industrial developers once again. We request that the points raised by residents and the Parish Council are taken into account and this application to bypass the normal checks and balances of the planning process is rejected.

23/200

UPDATE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

1) **PLANNING APPLICATION: 231890. WORMINGFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD, WORMINGFORD, COLCHESTER, CO6 3AZ.** CONDITIONAL APPROVAL.

2) **PLANNING APPLICATION: 231965. FAIRFIELDS FARM, FORDHAM ROAD, WORMINGFORD, COLCHESTER, CO6 3AQ**. CONDITIONAL APPROVAL.

3) **PLANNING APPLICATION: 231812. PAUL FLATMAN LTD, PACKARDS LANE, WORMINGFORD, COLCHESTER, CO6 3AH.** NO DECISION.

4) **PLANNING APPLICATION: 231636. LONGS FARM, LONGS FARM HOUSE, MAIN ROAD, WORMINGFORD, CO6 3AN. CONDITIONAL APPROVAL.**

5) **ENFORCEMENT APPEAL:** APP/Z1585/C/23/3324623. LAND AT FAIRFIELDS FARM, FORDHAM ROAD, WORMINGFORD, CO6 3AQ. NO DECISION.

6) **PLANNING APPLICATION: 231185.** LAND ADJACENT, COCKRELLS COTTAGES, LITTLE HORKESLEY ROAD, WORMINGFORD, CO6 3AP. NO DECISION.

7) **PLANNING APPLICATION: 222491. RESERVOIR, FAIRFIELDS FARM, FORDHAM ROAD, WORMINGFORD, CO63AQ.** NO DECISION.

8) **PLANNING APPEAL: APP/A1530/W/22/3291210. OAK FOLLY COTTAGE, COLLETTS CHASE, WORMINGFORD, COLCHESTER, CO6 3AU.** NO DECISION.

23/201

COLCHESTER SKIP HIRE LIAISON MEETING

Cllr Bentley gave an update on the history of the liaison meetings. A meeting had been held with Cllr Barber and Cllr Branagh (Fordham Parish Council Chairman) and Cllr Bentley. The merits of setting up a Local Business Forum including the Parish Councils and Cllr Barber were discussed.

23123 **RESOLVED to put together a list of local companies and write to them with the intention of setting up a Local Business Forum in collaboration with Fordham Parish Council.**

23/202 **REC TRUST**

Cllr Byrne gave a brief review covering the following:

- Plumbing project completed.
- Decorating the toilets was due to take place.
- Future extension to the pavilion in replacement of the porta cabins, to be funded by a Football Foundation Grant. To be submitted for planning by the Football Club. The application would need to be supported by the Rec Trust for planning and for grant funding.
- Xmas Fayre – 2nd December
- Security outside light is broken and will be fixed as soon as possible.
- Discussions on what outside equipment could be purchased for older children.
- The old cricket screens will be removed on the 5th November.

Cllr Cook raised the possible grant funding available for sports equipment.

Cllr Fenn asked if the Rec Trust could look into further screening/planting for the affected residents with regards to the noise from the football club to help to mitigate the problems raised. Cllr Byrne agreed to take this back to the Rec Trust Trustees.

23/203 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Cllr Baker confirmed that several items remained for discussion and decision following her paper last year.

Cllrs had mixed views on whether Councillor photos should be placed on the noticeboard and website. Cllrs felt that this was a personal decision, Cllrs discussed a mixed approach on those that were happy for this to go ahead. It was felt that a mixed approach would not look right on any platform.

23124 **RESOLVED that no Councillor photographs would appear on the website/social media or noticeboard.**

Cllr Baker wished it to be noted that she was disappointed with the decision, due to some feedback she had received from residents.

Cllrs discussed the current format of the Worm magazine and whether just producing a digital copy would be justified. It was noted that residents would be able to request a printed copy if necessary.

23125 **RESOLVED to keep to a printed copy of the Worm for all residents on a bi-monthly basis consisting of 8 pages.**

23/204 **CHURCH ROAD**

Cllrs discussed the speed of traffic on Church Road. After discussions with Cllr Barber it was unlikely that it would either meet the criteria for reducing the speed to 20mph or indeed have the support due to the Governments current view.

The Parish Council needs three more volunteers to step forward in order for a Speed Watch team to be formed and to apply for training and equipment.

23126 **RESOLVED to apply via the Local Highway Panel for further 30mph repeater signs and 30mph roundels for Church Road.**

23/205 **LOCAL HIGHWAY PANEL**

The Clerk gave the following update:

- Fordham Road junction with Packards Lane – Waiting for implementation date to improve advanced warning signs on the three approaches to junction. To also refresh all the road markings and replace white bollards on bennett island.
- Packards Lane junction with B1508 – Currently waiting on the design team for location of a salt bin.
- B1508 Sandy Hill – Waiting for funding in order to close the unofficial layby.
- Chapel Corner – Waiting for funding for design of the installation of a new bus shelter.

23/206 **FINANCIAL MATTERS 2023/24**

1) **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The eight invoices including the Standing Orders for the Clerks Salary & Pension were checked by Councillors.

Payee	Description	Chq Number	Net	VAT	Gross
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charge	DD	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00
Design Sweet	Worm Print	BACS	£99.00	£0.00	£99.00
HMRC	PAYE Month 4	BACS	£9.12	£0.00	£9.12
Employee	Expenses	BACS	£37.58	£0.00	£37.58
SLCC	Membership	BACS	£62.57	£0.00	£62.57
Royal British Legion	S137 Grant	BACS	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
Employee	October Salary	SO	£348.15	£0.00	£348.15
Essex Pension Fund	October Pension	SO	£111.50	£0.00	£111.50

23127

RESOLVED that after further consideration eight payments detailed on the schedule be authorised for payment.

2) MONTHLY BUDGET INFORMATION

The Clerk had circulated the budget information prior to the meeting. No questions were raised.

23/207 **VILLAGE EVENTS – COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE**

The following events were raised so that Councillors could put it in their diaries:
Food Market at the Crown – 24th November
Visit by Santa – 9th December
Christmas Fayre – 2nd December

23/208 **CHAIRMAN'S SOCIAL MEDIA NOTES**

Cllr Bentley confirmed that an article would be written for the next Worm Magazine and this would also be put on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

23/209 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors.

23/210 **CHAIRMAN & CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk confirmed that three further volunteers were needed in order to go forward with the Speed Watch initiative.

The Clerk confirmed that further volunteers were needed to start up the Parish Path Partnership. Cllr Byrne confirmed that Essex County Council would fund training, insurance and provide equipment for the volunteers. The work carried out could be as basic as walking the footpaths, installing way markers to bigger jobs such as clearing footpaths, mending bridges etc.

A resident was thanked for assisting with the maintenance of footpath 34.

The Clerk confirmed that she had been in contact with the Stanway School and had supplied Cllr Barber with a list of issues with the bus service. He would be talking to the bus provider and Essex County Council to highlight these issues.

23/211 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

RCCE Survey results

Cllr Bentley thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.03pm.

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 9th November 2023 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

Signed:.....

Chairman of the Parish Council Date: 9th November 2023

MRS HELEN COOK
CLERK TO WORMINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL, E-MAIL: wormingford@outlook.com