

# Hoe & Worthing Civil Parish



## Minutes of Parish Meeting

<b>Date: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022</b>	<b>Day: Thursday</b>	<b>Time: 7pm – 9pm</b>	<b>Venue: St Margaret's Church Worthing</b>
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1	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Celia Daniel (Chairman &amp; Minute taking) Adam Brown, Graham Lewis, Johanna Lewis, Sharon Colk, Richard Crisp, Danny Danson, Mick Dunn, Tracey Green, Clive Hough, Wendy Hough, Alan Hughes, Janet Hughes, Sally Mullins, Michael Mullins, Emily Palmer, Harriet Palmer, Bill Borrett, Richard Malt, Susan Malt, Jennifer Tuckwell, John Tuckwell, Carl Watling, Glenys Watling, Jane Whitcher, Trevor Wood</p> <p><b>Also in attendance:</b> District Cllr Mr Roger Atterwill</p> <p><b>Apologies for absence received:</b> Penny Dunn, David Knight, James Keith, Beverley Kidd, Margaret Barrett, Phil Barrett, Krystyna Stroulger, Philip Stroulger</p>
	<p><b>CHAIRMAN INTRODUCTION / WELCOME:</b></p> <p>Since the last letter to you all on the 9<sup>th</sup> August with the draft agenda and various attachments, unfortunately no one has come forward to help take parish minutes. Celia asked at the start of this meeting if anyone was prepared to help. No one came forward therefore Celia continued as chair and also took notes during the evening.</p> <p>Celia mentioned that to help us work through the agenda items as efficiently as possible and perhaps if we can, aim to close this meeting by 9pm, she proposed to slightly re-order this agenda. One pressing item in particular listed, item 4, due to the nature of this where we all in May unanimously voted for a review, this becomes first BEFORE item 2 &amp; 3. All other items we shall then cover as listed. If by 9pm we have not completed our business, I shall ask you whether you wish to continue or defer any items and carry those forward to the next meeting which I propose will be Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 7pm in Hoe Village Hall.</p> <p>Bill Borrett again intervened and said the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 chaired by District Councillor Roger Atterwill (DC) was unlawful. He was permitted to convene a parish meeting but not chair the meeting. The minutes of that meeting should be removed from our website.</p> <p>Trevor Wood said he considered the May meeting unlawful.</p> <p>Celia Daniel updated the meeting stating that she had consulted with officers at the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) who agreed with her that under difficult circumstances, the April parish meeting when no one came forward for the Chair position, parishioners attending had no other option but to accept the offer from DC to convene and chair the next meeting which was in May. The DC had no voting rights. Furthermore, we all ratified the May minutes - p3/pt 4/para 2 in July.</p> <p>Celia then referred to NALC legal topic note LTN 6 – “Meetings of Parish Meetings” &amp; Legal Topic Note LTN 31 “The Powers of a Parish Meeting in a Parish without a Separate Parish Council.” And offered if anyone wished to receive a copy, to request/email her.</p>



4	<p>To receive an update on a possible <b>Community &amp; Local Governance Review</b>:</p> <p>Since reporting back to the Parish with the information obtained from Breckland District Council, we have had a chance to consider the options and also read through on our website, the Guidance on Community Governance Review.</p> <p>This meeting discussed at length and some comments/questions were:</p> <p>Are the 4 options realistic? Would the structure of a Parish Council be beneficial? Could Breckland impose their authority and how? Would a Parish Council operate better? How would parish affairs be resolved? Having a joined Parish Meeting has not resolved past issues! In April &amp; May 2022 nobody within the parish stepped forward to take up the Chairman position, therefore what are the chances of a Chairman coming forward for a Parish Council? Concerns raised about increased costs and risks. Not being listened to. Community and cohesion has diminished over recent years. Some interactions quite fractious! Need a way forward. Various protocols required. The need to do things better and properly. Hoe &amp; Worthing are special villages. Covid has taught us to help and get to know each other better. Socialise. Encouraged to see Worthing Parishioners in number attend this evening when not previously. Need to come to meetings and be more engaged. Need to talk about what affects them!</p> <p>John Tuckwell mentioned that all 4 options to vote on was not necessary. He considered it clear from previous discussions, did the Parish want to keep or lose its freedom and identity, and become a parish council? No</p> <p>The 4 options are and with a show of hands in the room, the results are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Form a Parish Council – not carried</li> <li>ii) Individual village to join neighbouring parish/parish council – No vote taken</li> <li>iii) Separate the villages and become their own individual parish meeting – not carried</li> <li>iv) Remain as a Parish meeting (no change) – carried 14 for/ 10 against</li> </ul> <p>Some Parishioners were concerned that the voting process incorporating 4 options was not fully understood by everyone and in particular, the actual count was not recorded. Graham stressed that the Parish needed to vote on either staying as current or to split the villages and each become independent parish meetings. From the count that took place it appeared 14 votes to 10 concluded that the villages remain together and not split.</p> <p>John mentioned that as a group, can we not just agree, we were all there and so know what took place. All agreed to bring closure to the past and move on for the benefit of the community.</p> <p>Trevor suggested that with the current Parish naming, having a Civil Parish and an Ecclesiastical Parish leads to confusion. Mike proposed if changing the name of the Civil Parish would help for example, incorporating the word Community in the title name. Seconded by Alan, all in favour. It was agreed to discuss this at a later date.</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes from the previous Parish Meeting</b> held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to be considered, agreed and signed as correct.</p> <p>Before we cross the “I’s and dot the “t’s” I first want to say that the minutes of our meetings, we / I do NOT expect the minutes to be verbatim, word for word, they are only notes of the meeting and only record discussions and decisions.</p> <p>John Tuckwell proposed, rather than delay this meeting any further and due to differing opinions it was agreed to consider these minutes at the next Parish Meeting and move onto the next item.</p>
3	<p><b>Matters arising from 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 minutes:</b></p> <p><b>Local government not-for-profit Insurance covering Officials &amp; Trustees</b></p> <p>Parish Insurance has been purchased from BHIB Councils Insurance, one year policy for £463.15 total. This was the most competitive obtained. Celia initially considered WRS Insurance who quoted at first £354 total but then increased to £568.89 after some adjustments, this was ruled out. Therefore the saving between the renewal cover from Gallagher charging £618.89 and our new insurance cover, we have saved £155.74. I would like to thank Jane and Harry for their help in this arrangement.</p>
5	<p><b>Drainage &amp; Flooding across the Parish – update:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Worthing - Celia</b> (for those that had a misprint with two appendices, appendix 2, copies here if required)</p> <p>At this time, there is not a great deal to report. We are still waiting to receive the hydraulic testing reports from EA and arrange meetings to review and plan the next stage. The report may become</p>



	<p>available early September. Once more information is to hand, you will be updated further. Mr Goff – landowner remains committed as ever to helping and protecting Worthing from any further floods, although his offer to raise the track on the levee has now regrettably been withdrawn. Graham Lewis explained that the proposed work on the floodplain may require a permit and approval by the EA, (whose duty and responsibility is to manage the rivers). Mr Goff withdrew his offer to raise the levee until such approval had been received. He was concerned that any premature work conducted by him, may leave himself to be held personally liable in the event of potential future flooding. Mr Goff re-emphasised his commitment to support Worthing village going forward with flood prevention plans.</p> <p><b>b) Hoe</b> – There have been concerns about preliminary proposals outlined by the Water Management Alliance, particularly those proposed opposite Archway cottages which Dick Malt has raised, but until we hear more from EA, these proposals are just that, proposals. Celia then read out an email from James Keith:</p> <p>“On flooding : I see the plan you have circulated. There is extensive works mentioned on this plan - new bund walls, alteration to existing ponds and creation of new catchment lake by the railway in Hoe. This last option in my opinion is fiddling around the edges of the issue. The %age of water in the Worthing River that comes from Hoe (via Bill Borrett pond) is very small, and these works would not have any material impact on the Worthing flood risk. The meadow destined for a new pond to catch flood water, is part of my Stewardships Scheme and is managed under natural England’s control. It is an important winter wetland for the flora and fauna of Hoe, and I don’t believe it will make any difference to the volume of water at Worthing. The feed to this new “pond” is under the existing road in a small pipe, which I have never improved - so water is already held up above this location to allow a more regulated flow through under the Railway to Borrett’s pit.”</p> <p>Celia asked it would be helpful if a parishioner from Hoe would take the lead on flood risks in Hoe Village. (At the close of this meeting, Dick Malt volunteered.)</p> <p><b>Inland Drainage Board</b> / James Keith – committee member, this is for information, but should anyone have a query, James may be of help. The Board has a total of <b>21 members</b> who collectively make the key decisions, 10 of which are elected by occupiers of agricultural land who pay Drainage Rates directly for the services they receive (the elected members), and 11 members are appointed by the constituent Councils to represent the extent of other interests in the Drainage District (the appointed members.)</p>
6	<p><b>Planning Applications as notified via Breckland District Council</b> to be discussed, approved, receive objections or withdrawn at Parish Meeting.</p> <p>3PL/2022/0803/LU Oaklands, Gorgate Road HOE Proposed single storey Extension <b>Pending</b>  <b>BDC Refused 15.08.2022</b></p> <p>3PL/2022/0494/LU Alverstone, Church Road WORTHING Garage Door Permission <b>Granted</b></p> <p>TRE/2022/0170/TPO Oaklands, Gorgate road HOE TPO Work <b>REFUSED</b></p> <p>3PL/2022/0317/F Robertsons Barracks Proposed Radome etc., <b>Withdrawn</b></p> <p><b>9pm reached, Dick Malt proposed to defer remaining items to next meeting, Mike Mullins 2<sup>nd</sup>, all agreed.</b></p>
7	<p><b>Parish Meeting format &amp; function (deferred to next meeting)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Election of officers currently vacant – Secretary and Independent Examiner</li> <li>- Parish Treasurer Jane Whitcher confirmed in post</li> </ul> <p>and named Parishioners wishing to take a lead on:</p> <p>Crime prevention, (at the close of this meeting, Carl Watling volunteered to take on this lead and Highways etc.,) Highways, maintenance / verge cutting, bus stops, street &amp; road signage &amp; traffic calming measures</p> <p>Environment, maintenance of Sewage &amp; Mains Water, Drainage and street cleaning (BDC / Lisa Oakley</p> <p>Climate Action Fund – National Lottery Community Fund)</p> <p>Public Spaces, Hoe Common &amp; Maintenance, Tree planting (BDC / Lisa Oakley UK Community Tree Planting Grants – International Tree Foundation) (At the close of this meeting, Dick Malt volunteered.)</p> <p>Website and public information</p> <p>Public Buildings (including burial grounds &amp; war memorials)</p> <p>St Margaret’s Church, Worthing – Celia Daniel, Church Warden</p> <p>St Andrew’s Church, Hoe – James Keith, Church Warden &amp; Village Hall – Hall Management Group</p>

	Sue Malt later advised the Management Group (Graham Lewis, Beverley Kidd, James Rosie Rector-Chairman of PCC and Sue Malt.)
8	<b>Compliments &amp; Complaints Draft Guidelines /Celia Daniel:</b> (TW Outstanding item) <b>(deferred to next meeting)</b>  I would like the meeting to consider 'how the parish meeting deals with complaints?'
9	<b>Parish Record of Assets:</b> Dog waste Bin & salt bin (Worthing) Both village notice boards <b>(deferred to next meeting)</b>
	<b>Any other URGENT business: None</b>
	<b>Date of next meeting: subject to receiving EA report</b> Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October, starting at 7pm in Hoe Village Hall. SM to arrange please.
	<b>Agenda items for next meeting:</b> <b>Drainage &amp; Flooding across the Parish – cont'd</b>

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:

  
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Date: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Mrs Celia Daniel - Chairman