

HOE & WORTHING CIVIL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD IN ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, WORTHING

ON TUESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7pm to 9.15pm

Present:- Celia Daniel (Chairman), Sharon Colk, William Danson, Mick Dunn, Tracey Green, Clive Hough, Wendy Hough, Johanna Lewis, Ian Lothian, Stephanie Lothian, Sally Mullins, Mike Mullins, Mark Smith, Miranda Smith, Peter Fishwick, Beverley Kidd, Richard Malt, Susan Malt, Jennifer Tuckwell, John Tuckwell, Glynis Watling, Carl Watling, Jane Whitcher, Trevor Wood.

1) Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence

Miranda Smith was thanked for drafting the minutes held in October 2022. Johanna Lewis was thanked for being the minute taker for this evening's meeting. A minute taker will be needed for the 22nd February 2023 meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Penny Dunn, Graham Lewis, Roger Thorneley, Jenni Thorneley, Margaret Barrett, Philip Barrett, James Sayer, Philip Stroulger, Krystyna Stroulger.

2) Minutes of 6th July 2022 – amendments

Trevor Wood's 2 outstanding amendments are:-

Page 2, item 3 bottom of page to insert "Trevor Wood stated that at the end of the Extraordinary meeting, Roger Atterwill had decided once again the issues which would make up the agenda for the next meeting and, when challenged, he refused to include the issue of complaints, which was the original reason an Extraordinary meeting had been called by the Parish meeting.

Page 3, top of the page, 1st paragraph to be amended to read:- "Bill Borrett raised the issue of the meeting being unlawful, meaning that the decisions will need to be remade. He advised that the decisions made in the previous meeting should be considered again at this meeting, to put the issue to bed. Graham Lewis agreed these should be ratified at this meeting, in order to get around the legal issues."

And the last Parish Meeting held on 26th October 2022 to be considered, agreed and signed off.

Amendments are:-

Sue Malt email: requested that full names are inserted in the minutes i.e. not just Christian names (attendance record has full names). To be arranged.

Item 1a – Spelling of NALCO.

2nd paragraph (small deletion)

Celia Daniel reported that she had received an invitation to meet up with Bill Borrett recently to review how the Parish had become unsettled and how we might resolve this. It has been unsettling for two reasons, in the main, (1) due to nobody coming forward to take up the Chairmanship position and (2) in the absence of no Chairman, the Parish ultimately accepted the offer of help from District Councillor Roger Atterwill to convene and Chair the next meeting in May.

After 5th paragraph insert:-

Trevor Wood pointed out that ahead of the meeting at which the vote was taken for the local review, the Chairman had provided every household with a clear indication of the choices they could make, that the matter would be decided on a show of hands and anybody who could not make it to the meeting, could write to the Chairman with their views if they wished and they would be read out to the Parish. The time to challenge that process was clearly before the meeting had taken place and not afterwards.

Item 6b -Hoe

2nd sentence onwards, not correct. Trevor Wood had been in contact with the Highways Department, not Dick Malt. The Highways Department had not responded due to the political situation. (Trevor Wood to email Celia Daniel with correct information -pending).

3) Any outstanding matters arising from the meeting of 6th July 2022

Trevor Wood, along with some other parishioners, felt that a meeting in May was unlawful, and the agenda had been hijacked by Roger Atterwill. It was also the first time Trevor Wood had heard about the flooding issues in Worthing. Trevor Wood went into detail about the complaints he had made and that they have never been addressed. This caused some frustration from several parishioners as this issue has dominated the more recent meetings. Celia Daniel suggested a separate meeting so these issues could be fully debated. Trevor Wood agreed. **To be arranged.**

Peter Fisher asked that the minutes should be properly recorded by someone who understands how to prepare them. Celia Daniel will provide guidelines for those who volunteer to write the minutes.

Matters arising from the meeting of 26th October 2022 which, as agreed, closed at 9.30 p.m.

Due to time constraints, item 9 Finance was deferred therefore carried forward and re-ordered below for review and completion.

a) Finance to 31st March 2023 Parish Treasurer & Budget Setting 2023/2024

At this time in our calendar, the Parish reviews its Finance and sets a budget for the following year 2023-2024. At the last meeting in October after the Treasurer's Report, thanks were given to Jane Whitcher for providing the report, and we began to receive proposals from the Community for donations/financial help.

We initially heard:-

(1) The Village Hall enquiring about £2k that had been ring-fenced for one year only for outstanding repair work as per the minutes of 19th October 2021. The Treasurer and James Keith (previous Chairman) reported estimated balances of £4,30.00 for the Parish i.e. precept accrued and £1,990.00 Village Hall balance.

We have now received a bid for the Village Hall i.e. new heaters: £1,350.00 - £1,850.00 and refurbishment of outer doors: £800.00. Since the hall was officially opened in 2014 and the Hoe & Worthing Parish Room Management Document was introduced, this document and the 1922 indenture records, the intention that the "parish subscribes a sum towards the upkeep of the premises", therefore implying it does not solely cover or meet all costs relating to the hall. A request between £2,150.00 up to £2,650.00 maximum was put forward exceeding the initial £2K.

Celia Daniel, the Chairman, highlighted that donations awarded and using the precept under Section 127 guidelines is set at a limit (it is capped and increases each year), for 2022-2023 £8.82, can be spent per person on the electoral roll, totalling £1,816.92 from the Parish Accounts (split 50/50 = £908.46). Given this limit, using the precept for the Village Hall to carry out replacing heaters and outer doors, the difference should be met by the Village Hall income as per the Village Hall agreement.

(2) Celia Daniel detailed the need for £1K financial support for St. Margaret's Church. The heating needed replacing. As the October 2022 meeting had already over-run, the discussion had ceased with Beverley Kidd's proposal to carry this item forward to the next meeting for a full review of all bids.

Celia Daniel explained that St. Margaret's Church is the Community Hub for Worthing providing a public service across the Norfolk Region. Therefore she proposed to secure some financial assistance from this Parish.

The use of the Church as a Community Hub was questioned, as it is owned by the Church. Mike Mullins quoted the 1864 Act which disallowed money from the Parish being used for churches. It was suggested that there is a perfectly good hall to use in Hoe. However, Worthing parishioners expressed that they require a Community building for Worthing that meets their needs, the village and other countywide visitors.

Celia Daniel provided examples and details across a variety of events held there (see below) and she described some regular events.

Use of the Church as a Community Hub: The Building is open daily throughout the year with 98% of the time providing facilities for small and larger groups i.e. ongoing meetings, activities, socialising and protecting the well-being of our communities, tours and other public visits from across neighbouring villages and the county. The remainder of the year, sum total of 50 hours per annum (1.75%) provides 24 faith services and other life events.

The Reverend Paul Cubitt (Dereham) Chairman of St Andrew's Church and P.C.C. is therefore responsible as Chairman for the management of the Village Hall owned by the Diocese, receives reports from Sue Malt and the Management Group, who are all working towards the Village Hall becoming independent from the Church. With the Group running the Village Hall, they are trying to improve on how it is managed, moving forward. The former Hall Management Committee and this, along with the challenges caused by the Pandemic, has been difficult. However, the Hall Management Group/Events Committee will be reinstated. The Committee members explained that the money made by the Events Committee at the Village Hall was originally put in the communal pot, which they felt was unfair. For the past three years, Village Hall expenses and income have been shown separate from the Parish income and expenses records.

A bid of £1K for St. Margaret's Community Hub was proposed to cover costs for the churchyard and maintenance of equipment, portaloo etc., purchasing trestle/demountable tables and electrical repairs. This would help support the community.

For St. Margaret's the final proposal of £750.00 was proposed by Sharon Colk and seconded by Wendy Hough. The resolution of 10 for and 9 against, £750.00 agreed and carried forward to support Worthing Community Hub – St. Margaret's. Mike Mullins queried whether the Chairman had a right to vote, due to a conflict of interest, being affiliated with St. Margaret's Church. Trevor Wood stated that as it is a Parish Meeting, Celia Daniel is on the Electoral Roll, and she did have a right to vote.

The Chairman would also like to propose a fund be set up as an Emergency Community Fund of around £300.00, to be used for parishioners in difficulty, i.e. flooding equipment, emergency accommodation such as Bread & Breakfast, funeral or taxi emergency. **Deferred to next meeting.**

Given that the Parish Account estimated as at 31st March 2023 will be £4,597.69 and the Village Hall £1,683.06, how much and where do we make purchases or donations? Did the Parish want to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee/QE 11 passing i.e. James Keith – Tree, perhaps Worthing a bench est. £1,200.00. **Deferred to next meeting.**

The Parish Precept level for 2023-2024 was reviewed and the meeting unanimously agreed that the level of £1,800.00 for the year to remain, no change.

Mike Dunn requested a timed agenda as he has sat through a number of meetings and feels when time runs out the main points are never fully focused on. Susan Malt supported this.

b) The Parish: Open debate/questionnaire – Deferred to next meeting.

Continuing the debate from October and the concerns around Voting and Expression of Views etc., we considered drafting a questionnaire. Mike Mullins said the issue around whether Hoe and Worthing remain united or separate

had already been voted on and decided. It should not be resurrected. Celia Daniel was not challenged when the questionnaire was originally suggested, as there were strong feelings surrounding this issue and not everyone had been able to make it to the meeting. These concerns had also been discussed directly with Breckland Council and several suggestions had been made by them (discussed at previous meeting) on how to proceed with gathering wider views.

Susan Malt welcomed the idea of a questionnaire but the Parish needs to come together. We should be respectful of each other and banish ill-feelings.

Trevor Wood's view is that those on the Electoral Roll should properly discuss and debate the issues raised and voice opinions regarding what has gone wrong to cause the existing level of discontent and what had previously worked well.

John Tuckwell expressed concern about how a vote is taken, querying if it is just an expression of views or is a vote binding?

c) Compliments & Complaints Draft Guidelines to be finalised/Celia Daniel

How the Parish Meeting deals with complaints. Second Draft having reference NALCO and N.C.C. Complaints Handling – any comments? **Deferred to next meeting.**

d) Parish Meeting format & function Vacant positions of interest remain outstanding.
Deferred to next meeting.

- 1) **Environment**, maintenance of Sewage & Mains Water, Drainage and street cleaning, litter pick
- 2) **Secretary**, taking of minutes of meetings
- 3) **Planning Committee** – to be reviewed/reinstated (4 Worthing and 4 Hoe)

There was a general discussion about the resurrection of the Planning Committee as it had never been voted against. It was felt that despite a few abuses, it had worked well in the past. Concerns were that with the current system, if there were planning applications that fell between Parish Meetings, then there would not be enough time for the Parish to respond. It was suggested there ought to be four people from each village on the Committee and any applications can still be discussed at Parish Meetings, where possible. John Tuckwell proposed this, seconded by Trevor Wood. The vote was 18 for and 2 against, resolution carried.

4) Planning Applications as notified via Breckland District Council to be discussed at Parish Meeting to either approve or receive objections. Listed below are current B.D.C. status.

3PL/2022/1057?HOU "Springfield", Gorgate. Decision by 10th November 2022 – Pending
As of today, still awaiting a decision.

3PL/2022/0036/UC Worthing Barn – PRIOR APPROVAL for change of use, decision by 25th November 2022 – Pending.
Decision date extended to 23rd December 2022.

Six Worthing residents attending this meeting were directly affected by this planning application. Peter Fishwick, retired Architect from the Parish, spoke to the meeting about the application. His findings had been circulated to parishioners to read, prior to the meeting. He stressed that any objections need to be firmly based on planning regulations.

Several serious concerns were raised including asbestos present and not being removed professionally or with care, access to site and limited amenity space around proposed plan, quality of design, height and footprint, dimensions of build and new external walls, privacy concerns, Class Q and technical guidance, National Policy. Mike Mullins

proposed that with Peter Fishwick's expertise, concerns could be collated, and the Chairman respond to Breckland with objections to the application. This was seconded by William, Danson. Vote was unanimous.

The Parish Meeting wished to thank Peter Fishwick for his time, expertise and presenting the above concerns.

5) Public Buildings: Church Services & Events

St. Margaret's Church, Worthing – Remembrance Service 10.45 a.m. Sunday 13th November. Wine & Beer tasting/Xmas Decorations demo Event Saturday 26th November at 3.00 p.m., Carol Service Sunday 18th December at 3.00 p.m.

St., Andrew's Church, Hoe – no information received.

Village Hall Report – Susan Malt The Hall Management Group will be rebooted to take the maintenance and management of the Hall through to the establishment of the new organisation planned by the Chairman Rev'd Paul Cubitt and team pursuing a long lease with the Diocesan Board. This team will meet the Rev. Canon Cubitt in January. Hires: hirers are coming back after Covid. It is pleasing to hire out to parents of disabled children who have to get together to buy in their own training. It is also good to hire out to an organisation giving resilience to pubescent and prepubescent girls vulnerable to damaging effects of social media. The Village Hall also hired out this year to a Craft Group, Tractor Group, a Funeral Tea an Agricultural Association Meeting and The Repair Cafe.

6) Any other URGENT business – None

7) Date of next meeting

22nd February 2023

24th May 2023 – Annual General Meeting

30th August 2023 *

25th October 2023 – Finance etc.

If starred and sufficient agenda items necessary requiring urgent attention, meeting will be diaried, otherwise a newsletter only may be required to keep you advised.

8) Agenda items for next meeting

Outstanding/New Planning Applications, update

Parish Finance


The Parish, continuing discussion, questionnaire, functions etc.

Compliments and Complaints Handling, Second Draft

To receive reports from St. Margaret's

To receive reports from St. Andrew's & Hall

Signed



Date:

8th March 2023

Celia Daniel (Hoe & Worthing Chairman)