

HOE & WORTHING CIVIL PARISH MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD IN ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, WORTHING
ON TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: - Mrs Celia Daniel (Chairman) and Mrs Griselda Hubbard (Parish Clerk)

Attendees were: - Mr Adam Brown, Mrs Anna Cooper, Mr Richard Crisp, Mr Danny Danson, Ms Tracey Green, Mr Graham Lewis and Mrs Johanna Lewis, Mr Richard Malt and Mrs Susan Malt

1. Welcome and Introductions

Celia Daniel, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Mr Clive Hough, Mrs Wendy Hough, Mr Ivan Mayes, Ms Katie Mayes, Mrs Pamela Mayes, Mrs Christine Danson, Mr Mick Dunn, Mrs Penny Dunn, Mrs Miranda Smith, Mrs Jocelyn Brown, Mr James Keith, Mrs Margaret Barrett, Mr Peter Fishwick, Mr Carl Watling, Mrs Glenys Watling, Mr John Tuckwell and Mrs Jenny Tuckwell.

3. Minutes of the last Parish Meeting 30.05.2024 to be considered, agreed, and signed off

One word amended (page 2/Q4 – changed *few* to read *many*) in the minutes of May. After the alteration, those present agreed Mrs Daniel should sign the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of 30.05.2024

Robertson Barracks to be covered under item 7 below. Other matters will be covered under AOB

5. Parish Finance

Half yearly review - As at the 30th September 2024 the Parish Meeting accounts balance was £4,055.51. Other expenses due relate to Parish Meeting accounts £22.81 costs and minutes of meeting costs estimated at £170.00. Mrs Daniel reported, normally there would be two donations made to our parish churches, both receiving £325.00 each. However, concerns were raised that future funds may be required should the Parish lodge a legal challenge against Breckland District Council pertaining to the development of Robertson Barracks, this will not be known until later in the year. Any such donation to the churches will therefore be kept under review for 2024/2025.

Budget Setting for 2025/2026 – no change

A brief mention that Council Tax charges 2024/2025 of the 114 parishes across Breckland, Hoe and Worthing together with 16 other parishes, has the lowest rate, we would hope this remains for 2025/2026.

To meet our financial obligations, Mrs Daniel proposed:

- a) Approve Parish Clerk payments against pending invoices
 - b) Donations to both Parish Churches be held back for 2024/2025 pending a legal challenge
 - c) Precept remains the same at £1,800.00, no adjustments to 2025/2026
- Proposal seconded by Mr G Lewis and unanimously carried.

6. Village Hall Finance & Report

The Village Hall income for the half year was £1,482.28 and expenditure was £416.59, leaving a balance of £4,251.24. Mrs Malt queried that 1) income appeared low and 2) Kung Fu hall hire income was not listed. Mrs Hubbard and Mr Lewis confirmed that all income and expenditure recorded is accurately drawn directly from Lloyd's bank statements. **Post meeting note: Following further checks, it has been established monies due for Kung Fu were paid in error into a different bank account. Kung Fu income totalling £550.00 has since been received (25th October 2024) and matter closed.**

Mrs Malt reported that the Village Hall requires some maintenance and shows signs of becoming derelict. A list of work required has been presented to the PCC for their attention. Currently, there is no Management Team in place. A discussion followed regarding the PCC needing a separate bank account for the Village Hall. Mrs Malt believes the task of sorting out a separate account rests with Mr James Keith and Rev. Rachel Dines. Mrs Daniel will contact The Rev. Rachael Dines and The Rev. Canon Paul Cubit to progress this further.

7. Planning applications as notified via Breckland District Council to be discussed at Parish Meeting to either approve or receive objections. Listed below are current Breckland District Council status, together with updates from the Parish Planning Committee.

Breckland Local Plan including Robertson Barracks - In light of the plan being paused due to the review of the National Planning Policy Framework and to receive any progress report, Mrs Daniel wrote to the MOD Communications Team who replied, "The team will keep you updated and let you know how the masterplan activity will be progressed." It appeared a meeting between Swanton Morley Parish Council and the MOD is scheduled for November. Once more information is obtained Mrs Daniel would hope to attend. Subject to how this development progresses, a campaign could be launched sometime next year voicing the concerns and objections from across several parishes. **Post meeting note: Mrs Daniel wrote to DC Roger Atterwill who advised a meeting has been arranged but in regard to addressing poor standards to some housing of existing service families. Not related to future Barracks plan.**

Mrs Daniel advised that Breckland Council recently carried out an "Open Space Assessment" for smaller villages to identify what is currently available. Noting the Airfield (owned by MOD but within our Parish boundary) was not included, this has now been reported and rectified.

3PL/2022/0400/F Proposal – Erection of 1 no. dwelling Land at Home Farm, Worthing, Refusal. Further information may be found on the Breckland Planning portal.

3PN/2022/0036/UC Worthing Barn – Prior approval for change of use, decision extended to 31.01.2025. Although the Parish did not support this application, change of use was previously granted in 2020. Addressing nutrient neutrality is causing delays in planning decisions! **Post meeting note: The Parish has written again to planning seeking clarification on barn modification requirements that were submitted and approved but not following the regulations. Awaiting response.**

3PN/2024/0040/UC – Prior approval for proposed change of use from Agricultural building to dwelling (Class C3). The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q. Mulberry Lodge Nursery Land (previously Turkey farmland) at Manor Farm Lane 14.11.24 Although this application largely followed the limits to modifications of the building, the change of use was refused again before the Parish was able to submit its own formal response concerning land, highway and traffic concerns.

The views of our Committee and Parish are Breckland Council should uphold planning regulations. Final decision(s) however, rests with what does or does not meet planning regulations.

8. Worthing Flood – update

A newsletter was previously distributed to Worthing residents, however, should Hoe residents wish to receive a copy, please contact Mrs Daniel. Work on raising the track led by Environment Agency and in partnership with Mr Goff, is now complete. Mrs Daniel wish to record Worthing Village sincere thanks to Mr Goff in allowing the work to be carried out on his land. Hopefully, this positive piece of work will reduce the risk of flooding homes in the future. Residents have been encouraged to register with the Environment Agency to receive flood warning alerts by phone, text and/or email. Any homeowner may also check on the Government website for any updates and if a flood is imminent.

Property Flood Resilience Measures – Those properties affected in the December 2020 flood; flood guards will be replaced with flood doors. Other property protection work is underway, but this won't be completed until after the New Year. A final report / newsletter from the Environmental Agency is expected.

As part of Worthing flood risk management, a community water level monitor will be installed to gauge periods of heavy rainfall etc., type of monitor and location to be determined.

9. Any other business – for information

The Breckland Electoral Review was extended to the end of September and a reshaping of the Breckland wards is expected sometime after February 2025.

Norfolk Police and Crime Plan consultation, setting Police Priorities – information received from Cllr Borrett. The consultation plan is centred around the larger cities however, Cllr Borrett pointed out that it is really important that the Police and Crime Commissioner consider the needs of rural villages and not just concentrate on Norwich, Kings Lynn etc. therefore it is well worth the effort of residents please to share your comments and to help set Police priorities. **Post meeting note: To be part of the consultation and insert your comments, the link is - www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk When you get to the page click on "Have your say" and then scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Police and Crime Plan 2025/29 Consultation" which takes you to the questionnaire. (Bill added speeding in the box at the end of the questionnaire as there wasn't an option for it.)**

The Norfolk Community Foundation is dealing with the Norfolk Offshore Fund. Mr Carl Watling – Hoe Highways representative has been campaigning to obtain a SAM2 speed unit for Dereham Road, close to our boundary line. He has registered with the Foundation for this piece of equipment. Awaiting a decision.

Worthing Highways representative - Mr Mick Dunn has resigned from this voluntary position. Mrs Daniel advised that Norfolk County Council (NCC) are responsible for the majority of highway problems. Should anyone have a concern, residents are able to report direct online via their website for assistance. Resident's may also visit the Breckland Council website responsible for abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping etc.,

The Hoe Trod – the pathway was installed in 2021 and partly funded by this Parish through the Parish Partnership Scheme. The Trod creates a safe pathway along the Fakenham Road. Although there have been problems, NCC has confirmed their schedule of work. County officers should maintain this pathway between May through to September. If the pathway becomes inaccessible i.e. overgrown nettles, you are advised to report any problem or concern to NCC direct online via their website for assistance.

The Bring and Share luncheon on 8th September went well. A toast to King Charles III and his majesty's official portrait was presented to The Parish. Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves with lots of banter and excellent buffet. Six bottles of champagne remain ready for any resident or group who wish to plan for the next community event. (The official portrait of KCIII becomes part of Parish Assets.)

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 15th May 2025 at 7.00pm in Hoe Village Hall. This will be the Annual General Meeting. The following meeting will be Finance on 23rd October at 7pm in Worthing Church.

The first meeting the following year will be 14th May 2026 in Hoe Village Hall. This will be the Annual General Meeting.

11. Agenda items for next Parish Meeting/AGM

Items for the agenda and reports to be submitted to Mrs Daniel no later than 1st May 2025.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m