

WORMINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2023

IN THE WORMINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

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

23/076	<p><u>WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.00pm. Cllr Byrne had sent his apologies due to family commitments.</p>
23/077	<p><u>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest were raised.</p>
23/078	<p><u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST</u></p> <p>Several members of the public raised the following issues regarding planning application 230739/230738 – The Crown Public House:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Little has changed since the last application, which was refused.❖ The roof design of the extension is not considered appropriate for a listed building.❖ Questions were raised regarding the financial justification and assumptions made in the viability statement.❖ The Crown in its existing form serves a section of Wormingford's residents well.❖ There is a potential for insufficient car parking.❖ Noise and light pollution for nearby neighbours.❖ Residents will still have to walk along the road to gain access which is dangerous particularly in the dark/winter.❖ Further support needed for the Asset to remain in the Village. <p>Cllr Bentley confirmed that Colchester City Council is the deciding Authority on planning applications. While the Parish Council can send their comments to Colchester City Council they do not have the final decision and have no power in such matters. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee only.</p> <p>A member of the public raised concern over the condition of the Fordham Road. Cllr Bentley confirmed that the Parish Council is in contact with Cllr Barber continuing to add pressure for these works to be carried out as soon as possible. It was agreed to write to the MP Bernard Jenkins to add some additional pressure.</p>
23/079	<p><u>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</u></p> <p>23049 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th March 2023 held in the Village Hall were a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.</p>
23/080	<p><u>PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</u></p> <p>PLANNING APPLICATION: 230739/230738. THE CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE, MAIN ROAD, WORMINGFORD. ALTERATIONS TO PROVIDE A NEW RECEPTION AREA, KITCHEN, DINING ROOM, IMPROVED WC FACILITIES AND PROVISION OF GUEST ACCOMMODATION IN THE GROUNDS OF THE CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE (210621/2).</p> <p>23050 RESOLVED that the following comments be sent to Colchester City Council.</p> <p>This application was discussed at the Wormingford Parish Council Meeting on 20th April 2023. Prior to discussion by Councillors during the Public Participation Section of the Agenda strong views against this application were expressed by many of residents in attendance. These can be summarised as follows:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little has changed since the last application, which was refused. • The roof design of the extension is not considered appropriate for a listed building. • Questions were raised regarding the financial justification and assumptions made in the viability statement. • The Crown in its existing form serves a section of Wormingford's residents well. • There is a potential for insufficient car parking. • Noise and light pollution for nearby neighbours. • Residents will still have to walk along the road to gain access which is dangerous particularly in the dark/winter. <p>The above points have also been reflected in individual submissions to the Colchester City Council Planning page.</p> <p>The Parish Council during their subsequent discussion agreed to request that the planning department review the financial justification; car parking requirements at times of maximum occupation and the safety issues for residents arriving on foot. It should be noted that there is no facility to park safely on the B1508 and that nearby Church Road and Robletts Way are often facing severe parking issues arising from residents, sports activities and visiting walkers.</p> <p>The Parish Council however is also mindful of the difficulties in trying to keep a public house open in a village as small as Wormingford and would emphasise the need for the applicant to work with Colchester City Council to find a viable solution even if this requires extended dining facilities, new kitchens and external accommodation.</p>
23/081	<p><u>UPDATE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) PLANNING APPLICATION: 230014. BARN EAST OF WOOD HALL, MAIN ROAD, WORMINGFORD. REFUSED. 2) PLANNING APPLICATION: 222609. 3 FORDHAM ROAD, WORMINGFORD, CO6 3AG. NO DECISION 3) PLANNING APPLICATION: 222491. RESERVOIR, FAIRFIELDS FARM, FORDHAM ROAD, WORMINGFORD, CO63AQ. NO DECISION. 4) PLANNING APPLICATION: 221319/221320: THE DELL, CHURCH ROAD, WORMINGFORD, CO6 3AZ. NO DECISION. 5) PLANNING APPLICATION: ESS/30/22/COL: FAIRFIELDS FARM, FORDHAM ROAD, WORMINGFORD, CO6 3AQ. NO DECISION. 6) PLANNING APPEAL: APP/A1530/W/22/3291210. OAK FOLLY COTTAGE, COLLETTS CHASE, WORMINGFORD, COLCHESTER, CO6 3AU. NO DECISION. 7) PLANNING APPLICATION: CC/COL/106/21. BOXTED BRIDGE, BOXTED, CO4 5TB. NO DECISION.
23/082 23051	<p><u>WORM MAGAZINE</u></p> <p>RESOLVED to note a correction to Cllr Barber's article in the April edition of the Worm regarding Wormingford Bridge. There is currently only a weight restriction on the bridge, the Parish Council is pursuing a request for a width restriction to be implemented.</p>
23/083 23052	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAY PANEL</u></p> <p>Wormingford Bridge: The Clerk confirmed that the Local Highway Panel had been contacted about having a survey on Wormingford Bridge for three months. The survey costs £225 per week so would not be able to be funded by the LHP, the Parish Council could fund this survey. Cllrs agreed that this was not feasible for the Parish Council to spend this amount of money on a traffic survey.</p> <p>RESOLVED to write to Cllr Barber asking if he could financially support a survey for three weeks.</p> <p>Packards Lane Junction: The Clerk confirmed that an update from the Local Highway Panel should be received in time for the May meeting.</p>
23/084	<p><u>WORMINGFORD FOOTPATH 34 UPDATE</u></p> <p>Cllr Boyce attended the site with a representative of the AONB. While some advice was given unfortunately they only have volunteers who help with the Stour Valley footpath.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that Essex County Council carried out a site visit on the 21st March. The issue of overgrown vegetation will be addressed in the summer cut.</p>
23/085	<p><u>SID PROJECT</u></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that a meeting took place on the 31st March with Fordham, Aldham did not attend the meeting.</p>

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	<p>Fordham were working on a new site to be approved and would let Wormingford know when they were ready to receive the SID on rotation.</p> <p>Cllr Bentley confirmed that data had been retrieved from the machine by Cllr Byrne and had been circulated to Councillors. In brief the data was from 17th January to 30th March showing 63.3% of vehicles were travelling at under 30mph, 6.6% were between 35 and 39 mph and 0.8% were between 40 to 49 mph.</p>																																				
23/086	<p><u>CORONATION</u></p> <p>Cllrs discussed a request from a resident arranging the Coronation picnic for the Parish Council to purchase coins or pin badges for the children of Wormingford. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council could grant money under S137 however this must be open to all residents rather than just the children.</p> <p>23053 RESOLVED that a grant under S137 of no more than £150 is made for the purchase of a commemorative item open to all Wormingford residents on a first come first served bases.</p> <p>23054 The discussion of decorating the village sign, bus stops and telephone box for the coronation were discussed.</p> <p>RESOLVED to allow the Women of Wormingford to decorate with bunting the village sign, bus stop and telephone box, providing an agreed risk assessment was received by the Parish Council.</p>																																				
23/087	<p><u>JUNE MEETING</u></p> <p>23055 RESOLVED to hold the 8th June meeting in the marque of the Crown Public House, no alcohol we be able to be consumed during the meeting.</p>																																				
23/088	<p><u>SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY</u></p> <p>23056 RESOLVED to adopt the revised Social Media Policy.</p>																																				
23/089	<p><u>PARISH COUNCIL IT STORAGE</u></p> <p>23057 RESOLVED to purchase additional email storage of £1.99 per month.</p>																																				
23/090	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS 2023/24</u></p> <p>1) FINANCIAL STATEMENT</p> <p>The five invoices including the Standing Orders for the Clerks Salary & Pension were checked by Councillors.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Chq Number</th> <th>Net</th> <th>VAT</th> <th>Gross</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unity Bank</td> <td>Bank Charge</td> <td>DD</td> <td>£18.00</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>£18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Design Sweet</td> <td>Worm Magazine</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£99.00</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>£99.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Stobart</td> <td>Internal Auditor</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£210.00</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>£210.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employee</td> <td>April Salary</td> <td>SO</td> <td>£342.75</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>£342.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essex Pension Fund</td> <td>April Pension</td> <td>SO</td> <td>£111.50</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>£111.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>23058 RESOLVED that after further consideration five payments detailed on the schedule be authorised for payment.</p> <p>2) MONTHLY BUDGET INFORMATION</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated the budget information prior to the meeting. No questions were raised.</p>	Payee	Description	Chq Number	Net	VAT	Gross	Unity Bank	Bank Charge	DD	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00	Design Sweet	Worm Magazine	BACS	£99.00	£0.00	£99.00	J Stobart	Internal Auditor	BACS	£210.00	£0.00	£210.00	Employee	April Salary	SO	£342.75	£0.00	£342.75	Essex Pension Fund	April Pension	SO	£111.50	£0.00	£111.50
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23/091	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u></p> <p>1) VAT CLAIM 2022/23</p> <p>23059 RESOLVED that the VAT Claim for 2022/23 had been claimed of £382.91.</p> <p>2) INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT</p>																																				

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	<p>The clean Internal Audit had been circulated to Councillors, no questions were raised.</p> <p>3) CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION</p> <p>23060 RESOLVED that Wormingford Parish Council meets the Financial Requirements in order to be exempt from a basic review.</p> <p>4) APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNANCE STATEMENTS FOR 2022/23 PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE AUDIT COMMISSION.</p> <p>23061 RESOLVED that the Governance Statement is completed and approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.</p> <p>5) APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL RETURN (FINAL ACCOUNTS) FOR 2022/23 PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE AUDIT COMMISSION.</p> <p>23062 RESOLVED that the Annual Return is approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.</p> <p>6) CONFIRMATION OF NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF UNAUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN.</p> <p>23063 RESOLVED that the confirmation of Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be placed on the noticeboard and website from the 5th June till the 14th July 2023.</p>
23/092	<p><u>VILLAGE EVENTS – COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE</u></p> <p>No coffee morning dates has been set by the Rec Trust. Several Councillors would be attending the next quiz night and the Coronation events in a personal capacity.</p>
23/093	<p><u>CHAIRMAN’S SOCIAL MEDIA NOTES</u></p> <p>Cllrs agreed no Social Media notes were needed this month.</p>
23/094	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</u></p> <p>All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors. It was noted that several residents had send in comments regarding the Crown Public House planning application. The Clerk confirmed that these has been circulated to all Councillors and the residents informed that all comments should be sent to Colchester City Council as they are the deciding authority.</p> <p>It was noted that an email from Cllr Laws had been received with regards to the withdrawl by Colchester City Council of the rubbish freighter.</p>
23/095	<p><u>CHAIRMAN & CLERK’S REPORT</u></p> <p>Cllr Bentley confirmed that Wormingford Parish Council election was not contested. The process of Co-option would be discussed at the May meeting by the new Council.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that she continued to chase Cllr Barber regarding the potholes on Fordham Road but no date had yet been received with regards to repairs.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the Affordable Rural Housing surveys had now been received and Cllrs volunteered to collate them for inclusion in the next delivery of the Worm.</p>
23/096	<p><u>ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>Local Highway Panel Crop spraying at night</p> <p>Cllr Bentley thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45pm.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 11th May 2023 in the Village Hall at 7pm.</p> <p>Signed:.....</p>

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	Chairman of the Parish Council	Date: 11 th May 2023
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MRS HELEN COOK

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