

East Worlington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 26th September 2024, 7.30pm at East Worlington Parish Hall.

Cllrs Present: Andy Bell (Chair) Barnabas Hurst-Bannister & Nigel Pankhurst.

Also: Alice Turner (Clerk) - Virtually, 7 members of the public were in attendance.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

1.9.24: Welcome (Chair)

The Chair opened the meeting and informed the meeting that an audio recording is being taken to assist in the preparation of the minutes, the recording will be deleted once the Minutes are drafted.

2.9.24 Apologies for absence: (Chair)

Resolution to approve apologies (with reasons) made prior to the meeting.

The Council formally noted the resignations of Cllr Smyth & Cllr Bolt, and Cllrs expressed their thanks for that time that Cllr Smyth & Cllr Bolt had been on the Council.

Cllr Sturla sent her apologies (prior commitment)

[Cllr Bell proposed that the Council approve the apologies for absence from Cllr Sturla \(prior commitment\), seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/032\)](#)

3.9.24: Minutes of the Last Meeting (Chair).

Cllrs to consider the approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th July 2024.

Cllrs noted that Cllr Pankhurst had volunteered to join the water testing team as a parishioner.

[Cllr Hurst-Bannister proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th July 2024 be signed as a true and accurate record, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/033\)](#)

4.9.24 Co-option Vacancy (anyone wishing to stand should contact the Clerk) (Chair)

Cllrs to consider candidates who have [completed the form](#) and been confirmed as eligible to stand prior the Meeting.

No forms received, Cllrs noted that with only 4 Cllrs and a quorum of 3, meetings could be problematic.

5.9.24 Declarations of Interest. (Chair)

Cllr Hurst-Bannister declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in 13.9.24 e)

6.9.24: Public Speaking Time (max. 3minutes/person. Session time: 10 minutes).

Items raised included:

- Large pothole outside East Worlington House.
- Report of East Worlington sign in the ditch
- Query regarding Neighbourhood Watch – Clerk to add to next Agenda.
- Query regarding speed limits into the village and a request to consider moving the gateway signage and/or adding planters to give a residential feel. Cllrs to draft letter to DCC Highways regarding changing speed limit in the Village.

7.9.24: Report to & from Devon County & N.D District Cllrs (Max. 10 minutes)

*This is for reports between Cllrs rather than discussion points unless listed on Agenda. No reports received.

8.9.24: Reports to and from the Parish Road Warden relating to highways (Cllr Sturla).

To include discussion on Roads within the Parish.

Cllr Bell read a brief report on behalf of Cllr Sturla, which contained the following points:

- There are several signs in need of replacement and 3 which are planned for replacement.
- Glebe Hill has been added to the DCC Highways works programme.
- Verge plough is expected to begin in November
- Road from Aferton to Splash – request made to add to works program.
- Inspections have been carried out by Cllr Yabsley and the Neighbourhood Highways officer.

9.9.24 Current & New Business:

a) Community Survey – Update from working group (Cllr Hurst-Bannister)

Cllr Hurst-Bannister gave an overview with included the following information:

Topics discussed:

- The new government's many pronouncements about planning led us to assume that the widespread uncertainty about planning changes at any level (national, local or neighbourhood) will lead the PC to suspend its possible pursuit of a Neighbourhood Plan for at least the next two or three years
- What then is the appetite for a drop-in session?
- What then is the appetite for a survey?
- What is it that the PC can actually do? In other words, it would be counterproductive to arrive at a point at which the parish has asked the PC to pursue a particular course of action only for it to become apparent that the PC is unable to do so
- That inability could be either because the course of action is outside the legal powers of the PC or because the PC lacks the will to grasp what might be something of a nettle
- There is nothing to be gained from conducting a survey which results in confirmation of the widely held perception that the PC doesn't actually do anything (except perhaps have tortured debates about technicalities)
- The fact that there continue to be two vacancies on the PC is perhaps a symptom of the parish's lack of conviction that the PC has any teeth
- If parishioners are to engage in a survey it would be necessary for the PC to have demonstrated that it is capable of delivering practical benefits
- Aside from drains and potholes there is not a lot for the PC to point to
- Parishioners would be much more inclined to get involved in a survey once the PC has delivered some tangible results on matters in which it is already engaged e.g. keeping its website up to date; posting a brief note on the website summarising the decisions taken at each PC meeting; the water quality in our rivers; accessing funds from Batsworthy
- Parishioners would also be much more inclined to get involved in a survey once the PC has delivered some tangible results on matters in which it could be engaged e.g. leading initiatives to keep the parish footpaths and bridleways clear; researching the pros and cons of a parish minibus service; researching the pros and cons of a community energy-buying scheme
- Once the PC has delivered on some of these examples (and whilst they are only examples they are suitably pertinent ones) then it would command the respect necessary to encourage a thoughtful response to a survey
- The working group is prepared to pursue both a drop-in session and a survey but does not feel that this is practical unless and until the PC can demonstrate to parishioners that such a session and survey would take place against a background that is conducive to a practical outcome

Cllrs agreed to carry this over to the November meeting and tie in with Parish Liaison Working group which Cllr Bell has taken the lead on.

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- b) Consideration of developing a Neighbourhood Plan – Update (Chair)**
 Cllr Bell reported that prior to the general election, North Devon Planning Department were happy to meet with East Worlington Parish Council. He has followed up post election but has had no response to date. [Cllr Bell proposed that until new planning legislation has been passed down from central government that we do not progress this matter, seconded Cllr Hurst-Bannister. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/034\)](#)
- c) Worlympics – [Update on event and expenditure](#) (Cllr Hurst-Bannister)**
 Cllr Hurst-Bannister summarised his report and Cllrs agreed that the Council would hold a copy of the documents/plans used for the next event.
[Cllr Hurst-Bannister proposed that the Council donate the surplus funds to the Worlington PCC amounting to £143.95, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/035\) Power: LGA 1972 S.137. Budget: General Reserve.](#)
[Cllr Bell proposed that reimbursement of expenses for the Worlympics totalling £373.55, some of which have been paid, be authorised, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/036\)](#)
 Clerk and Cllr Hurst-Bannister to liaise on this matter.
 Cllr Bell expressed his thanks on behalf of the Council to Cllr Hurst-Bannister and all those who had volunteered or been involved in the Worlympics event.
- d) Renewal of agreement with SWAST for the defibrillator at the Hall (Cllr Pankhurst)**
 Cllr Pankhurst reported that this is in hand.
- e) To review and approve Annual Insurance (Chair)**
[Cllr Bell proposed that the Council renew Insurance with Clear Insurance for £545.30, seconded Cllr Hurst-Bannister. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/037\)](#)
Power to spend: LGA 1972 s.111 Budget: Admin/Insurance.
- f) To Confirm Membership of H.R. Committee and appointment of lead (Chair)**
 Following the resignation of Cllr Bolt, Cllrs Bell and Hurst-Bannister are the only 2 members. [Cllr Bell proposed that Cllr Pankhurst join the HR Committee with immediate effect, seconded Cllr Hurst-Bannister. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/038\)](#)
[Cllr Bell proposed that he act as Lead member for the HR Committee, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/039\)](#)
- g) Consideration of Poppy Wreath for remembrance Sunday (Chair)**
[Cllr Bell proposed that authority to purchase be granted to the Clerk, should it be necessary following investigation by Cllr Hurst-Bannister as to what has previously happened, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/040\)](#)
- h) Discussion on Council policies (in general) (Chair/Cllr Hurst-Bannister)**
[All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/041\)](#)
- i) To discuss attendance of any Cllrs at the DALC AGM and Conference on Wednesday 2nd October 8.30am to 4pm at Exeter Racecourse (£50 +VAT/person) (Chair)**
 No Cllrs were interested in attending this event.
- j) Proxy Vote for DALC AGM 2nd October 2024. (Chair/Clerk)**
 Cllrs to discuss voting for the AGM and delegating a proxy vote to the Chair of the AGM. [The Agenda Pack is available via this link.](#)
[Cllr Bell proposed that the Council proxy their vote, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR2024/042\)](#)

10.9.24: To approve the Financial Schedule as presented at the meeting (Clerk).

The Clerk had circulated the [Financial Schedule as found in Appendix A](#) to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Cllr Bell proposed that the Council approve the Financial Schedule as presented, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. (RR2024/043)

11.9.24 Reports & items for future agendas:

Councillors are reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.

- a) Clerk: Advanced notice 80th VE anniversary – 8th May 2025
- b) Clerk: Reminder that any items for inclusion in the first Draft of the 2025-2026 Budget need to be with the Clerk by the 1st of November.
- c) Cllrs asked for War Memorial update to be on the next agenda and Householder emergency advice to be added to a future agenda.

12.9.24: Confirmation of the next meeting: (Chair) Any changes will be on the Website.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st November 2024, 7.30pm at the Parish Hall.

13.9.24: Confidential items (PART II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2).

- a) Resolution required to move the Council into Part II.
Cllr Bell proposed that the Council move to Part II due to the Confidential nature of the item to be discussed, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. (RR2024/044) The Clerk reported that the audio recording had been stopped.
- b) Parish Hall lease renewal – To consider quotes (Cllr Sturla) (*Commercially sensitive*).
- c) To consider report from H. R Committee following last year's Staff Appraisal (Chair) (*Employment information*).
- d) Cllrs to discuss date & arrangements for Staff Appraisal (Chair) (*Employment information*).
- e) Land Transfer – Update (Cllr Sturla)
- f) The Chair to return the meeting to public session to hear resolutions.
Item c) Cllr Bell proposed that the HR Committee meetings at 6pm on the 23rd of October 2024 to carry out the Annual Staff Appraisal, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. (RR2024/045)

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9pm.

Appendix A: Financial schedule.

Payments for Authorisation/(Retrospective) approval:

Payment Ref	Amount	Payee	Details	Power	Funding Source
PM25/017	£225.75	Alice Turner	Salary & OT (July 2024)	LGA 1972 S.112	Staff Costs/Salary
PM25/018	£139.70	Alice Turner	Salary (August 2024)	LGA 1972 S.112	Staff Costs/Salary
PM25/019	£545.30	Clear Insurance Management Ltd	Annual Insurance Renewal	LGA 1972 S.111	Admin/ Insurance
PM25/020	£340.00	East Worlington PCC	Grant for Grass cutting 2024-25 Financial Year	LGA 1972 S.137	Running Costs/ Grass Cutting
TOTAL	£1,250.75				

Virements for Authorisation:

Amount	FROM	TO
£212.89	Staff Costs (EMR)	Staff Cost / Salary

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Monies held as Reserves after Payments/Virements: (EMR = Earmarked Reserve)

Amount	Details
£162.86	Legal Costs (EMR)
£1,189.06	General Reserve
£1,800.00	Defibrillator (EMR)
£2,500.00	War Memorial Fund (EMR)
£1,200.00	Precept Contingency (EMR)
£4,000.00	Road Warden (EMR)
£0.00	Staff Costs (EMR)
£150.00	Assets Fund (EMR)
£11,001.92	TOTAL

Bank Situation:

Bank Total 26/09/2024	£13,591.01
Less Payments Pending	£1,651.88
Plus Receipts Received (if after Bank date)	£0.00
Less Money held as reserves	£11,001.92
Available Balance	£937.21

Signed: Cllr A. Bell Date: 23/01/2025