

East Worlington Parish Council.

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Draft: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 27th March 2025, 7.30pm at East Worlington Parish Hall.

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

Also: Alice Turner (Clerk – Virtually attended), County Cllr Jeremy Yabsley, District Cllr Peter Jones, 3 members of the public were in attendance.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

1.3.25: 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.

2.3.25 Apologies for absence: (Chair) N/A

3.3.25: Minutes of the Last Meeting. (Chair)

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 23 January 2025 are unavailable so will not be considered until a future meeting.

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

No candidates at this time.

5.3.25 Declarations of Interest. (Chair)

Cllr Hurst-Bannister declared a pecuniary interest in item 13.3.25 c)

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

Members of the public thanked Cllr Sturla for her work on drain clearing within the parish. Items raised included consideration of creating a What's App group for the defibrillator.

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

*This is for reports between Cllrs rather than discussion points.

County Cllr Yabsley gave a verbal report on the discussions at County Hall regarding devolution and the proposed Local government reorganization. Cllr Yabsley also indicated that this would be his last meeting as he was not standing for re-election in the County Council elections to be held 1st May. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Yabsley for all his hard work on behalf of the parish.

District Cllr Jones gave verbal report on the discussions at NDDC regarding the proposed Local government reorganization. He also reported that there are now 15 social houses on the Witheridge development that are occupied by local people and invited anyone who is interested in social housing on the site to get in contact, [this linked document provides more information](#).

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

a) Verge ploughing

Works are ongoing, Cllr Sturla is reviewing the budget and is looking for grant funding.

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b) Replacement signs

New signs should be ordered but will not be actioned until the new financial year.

c) Planned highway works.

Cllr Sturla listed several locations which are being added to the Highways works program including Glebe Hill. She advises that pot holes and blocked drains should be reported via the DCC website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

9.3.25: Planning Matters:

a) Applications received since the last meeting:

- i. [Planning application 79994](#) Hensley Farm East Worlington Crediton Devon EX17 4TG, Prior notification for erection of one agricultural building for storage of machinery & equipment.

Cllrs discussed the application and [Cllr Bell proposed that the Council support application 79994 seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried. \(RR25/03/01\)](#)

Cllrs then went on to discuss 2 further applications which were not advertised on the agenda and [Cllr Bell proposed that both applications be supported, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried \(RR25/03/02\)](#)

10.3.25 Current & New Business:

a) War Memorial works (Cllr Sturla)

The repair works have been completed. The contractor is waiting for better weather to carry out the cleaning and repainting works.

b) Parish magazine (Cllr Sturla)

Cllr Sturla reported that she had received the boxes of printed magazines and the invoice for printing works. Cllrs thanked Mr Percival for his help with the production of the magazine.

c) Batsworthy Fund grant (Chair)

Cllr Bell reported that the grant for the new bell ropes has been approved, he will complete the related paperwork and return to Batsworthy.

d) Defibrillator issues (Cllr Pankhurst)

It was reported that the MOU has been signed and the invoice paid. Cllr Pankhurst reported that he will arrange the annual training for September/October when dates become available.

e) Community Governance Review (Chair)

Cllr Bell gave a verbal update on his investigations. Cllrs discussed and the Chair invited input from the District Cllr and the public present.

f) VE Day commemoration (Cllr Hurst-Bannister)

It was reported that the History group have everything in hand with an exhibition planned from the 8th of May to the 11th of May with minimal costs to the Council.

11.3.25: Finance (Chair).

No financial reports are available.

The Clerk reported that the precept request has been submitted to NDDC, and the first instalment is due late April.

12.3.25 Cllr/Clerks Reports & items for future agendas:

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

Cllrs asked for Rusdon Orchard – Planning matters to be added to an agenda for an extra-ordinary meeting.

Cllr Sturla asked that Grass cutting be added to the May Agenda.

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13.3.25: 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 items to be discussed, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried (RR25/03/03)

The Clerk stopped the audio recording.

b) Parish Hall lease renewal (Cllr Sturla) (*Commercially sensitive*).

c) Land Transfer – Update (Chair / Vice Chair) (*Commercially sensitive*)

d) Staffing issues (Chair) (*Employment matter*).

**e) The Chair to return the meeting to public session to hear resolutions
Item d)**

Cllr Bell proposed that the Council accept the resignation from the Clerk with a final day of employment being the 27th of April 2025, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried (RR25/03/04)

Cllr Sturla proposed that Cllr Hurst-Bannister be added to the bank account with authority to load payments to the system, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried (RR25/03/05)

Cllr Bell proposed that Cllr Sturla approach Mrs Clapham to undertake the duties of the RFO and that Cllr Bell acts as the Proper Officer and maintains the website following the Clerks departure, seconded Cllr Pankhurst. All in Favour – Motion Carried (RR25/03/06)

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

The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 22 May at 7.30pm and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm. Both meetings will take place at the East Worlington Parish Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____