

## **Worton Annual Parish Meeting held in Rose & Crown on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### 1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies received from Christopher Collins, Robert Goss, Dicky Parsons  
5 councillors and 9 Residents attended  
Cllr Tamara Reay attended

### 2. To approve the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Cllr Powell proposed - seconded Cllr Stokes

### 3. Matters Arising from the minutes

No Matters arising

### 4. Chair's Report (full report attached)

BD summarised report

- Appointment of clerk
- SIDs
- Changing of pavement – conceivable for future, not for next 12 months
- Black Dog junction – ongoing conversations
- New housing development with Newland Homes – details can be seen on WC website. Some positive design changes have been incorporated including the appearance of some houses and sewage and drainage. Construction will not begin before September. Benefits for the village are the main focus of the Parish Council, including a new playground at Sandlease.
- Continuous maintenance is a priority for the Parish Council. Residents taking care of their properties / hedges is helpful
- King Charles Copse, highlighting the excellent work done by Cllr Goodenough and Cllr Goss
- Pathway linking Worton and Marston being designated as a “Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Walkway”.

Christine Purchas – asked for an update on a proposal for the reduction of speed limit from 50 to 40 at the Eastern approach to the village. Cllr

Powell confirmed that it is still on our agenda and explained that the housing development will assist with this. Cllr Slack stated that this was one of a number of suggestions for traffic calming and that the Parish Council would confirm our priorities to the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG).

David Parker – questioned overgrown hedges / villagers looking after their own hedges and pathways and what is their legal responsibility. MP confirmed that hedges are responsibility of householder. TR commented that there is a process for Wiltshire Council to enforce hedge cutting if necessary: first step WC can send a letter and then second step WC are able to carry out the work themselves charge the resident who is responsible for the hedge.

Christine Purchas asked about pavement sweeping. Confirmed was Parish Steward's job.

#### 5. Report of the finances of the Parish Council

Jules Slack is currently our Responsible Finance Officer. Cllr Powell summarised the main facts and figures. See attached summary.

David Parker – questioned what the funding from the development would be used for. MP confirmed use for new playground.

#### 6. Worton Community Fund

- Open Gardens
- Queen's Jubilee Plaque

MP reminded villagers that there is money to be used and to put forward requests.

#### 7. Report from Cllr Tamara Reay

See attached summary.

#### 8. Reports from the following:

Alison Parker – Worton & Marston Gardening Club

- Raised £1700 for Julia's House, Village Hall Kitchen Fund and Worton & Marston Brownies. Membership is at 60 and numbers are steadily growing. Used some extra funding to plant Crab Apple tree outside the church which will be getting a plaque. Plan for next year is to host W&M Open gardens. Is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Village Show, planning an event first week of September. Also mentioned that areas of village could benefit from wild flowers, a suggestion that will be considered by the Parish Council.

#### Alun Newman – Worton & Marston Link Scheme

- Reported fewer journeys but more miles due to how NHS works
- Confirmed all drivers are local and undergo a DBS check, as required by Charities Commission
- 2022 was their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and this year they are planning a celebration on 10<sup>th</sup> July in the Rose & Crown

#### Veronica Franklin – Village Hall Trustees

- Reported a difficult year due to lack of trustees (they are supposed to have six and can bring in two members for additional support).
- Two trustees have stepped down at the AGM and no one came forward to replace them.
- VF will stay on as chair until their house is sold then they will no longer be able to run the trust. They have asked Wiltshire Charitable Trust for advice on how to move forward.
- VF highlighted urgent need for someone to come forward.
- Have kept going to provide social events for the village including the Christmas Bazaar and Annual Jumble Sale, the Nearly New Sale, Bingo Night and the Coronation Tea.
- There will be no further events going forward until new Trustees are identified.
- Also reported that kitchen fund is coming on and is at nearly £50k; support is looking positive.

#### Bob Mitchell

- Reporting on impact of SIDs on village; highlighting the high volume of traffic, that the Community Speed Watch had noticed a reduction in speed since the SIDS had been installed, but noting that there are still those who drive too fast. See summary report below:

- The data from the Eastern SID located opposite Gaisford Chase gave a total traffic count for April 2023 of 115,498 vehicles
- In March 2023 the results for our speedwatch sessions were 10 sessions, 3249 vehicles recorded of which 117 exceeded the 30mph speed limit.
- In March 2022 the results for our speedwatch sessions were 8 sessions, 2540 vehicles recorded of which 254 exceeded the 30mph speed limit.

## 9. Public Forum

Discussions continued in relation to traffic concerns on the highway, including concerns over HGVs and Agricultural Vehicles. The Parish Council would consider joint proposals with other PCs, including writing to farmers to ask them to remind contractors to drive carefully on the highways during the harvest.

## 10. Parish Plan

Currently on the plan:

- Purchasing an Auto Speedwatch device, provided that Wiltshire Police will make use of the data to prosecute offenders.
- Street lighting
- Maintenance of 30mph on roads as they are worn away
- 30 mph bin stickers for everyone
- Second crossing for village to be considered for the east end of the village