

## **Wormington Parish Meeting Minutes**

7 pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at St Katharine Church, Wormington.

**Present:** Neil Piercy (Chairman); Simon Browning (Clerk); 38 Residents

Apologies: C&H P, DC, KR and LS

**Previous Meeting:** The previous minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were approved and signed. Matters Arising: - Solar Farm Extension; National Gas; Hedges around Open Space; Housing Survey (Chairman to follow up); Telephone Kiosk and Village Hall Way Forward are all items on the agenda for further discussion.

**Solar Farm Extension:** TBC approved planning permission for the substation, subject to numerous conditions. Just after the July meeting the Clerk received a 7 page letter of conditions before work can commence on the project. The application is valid until June 2028. The Clerk will monitor any future activity.

**National Gas:** They wish to engage with the village by holding an exhibition and opportunity to ask questions regarding the Compressor upgrade project. This will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 3.30-6.30pm in the Church. Clerk will follow up with National Gas on scope of the exhibition and ask that their representatives are able to discuss and address issues.

**Devolution White Paper Update:** The Chairman & Clerk attended a meeting in September regarding the progress of the work by Tewkesbury Borough Council. They are working on three possible scenarios – i) Gloucestershire as a whole; ii) Gloucestershire split East/West; and iii) Gloucestershire teaming up with either Bristol or Worcestershire/Herefordshire. The timetable is that final proposals are due by 28 November 2025. January – May 2026 Consultation period (not sure who is being consulted) July 2026 Decision announcement; 6 May 2027 Elections to new unitaries and 1 April 2028 new authorities are operational. There is a possibility that Parish Councils may be given additional powers but as yet there are no details.

**Finance Update:** The Clerk reported that we had £12,001 in the bank. A quote of £1,400 for post and rails fence (including slip rails) was agreed at the meeting and grants will be sought for additional hedging and trees to screen any future marquee.

**Appropriation Update:** The Clerk gave an update on the proposal to appropriate the land adjacent to St Katharine's Church WR12 7NL from an 'Open Space' under the Open Spaces Act 1906 to a 'pleasure ground' under the Public Health Act 1875. This will enable the proposed semi-permanent marquee to be constructed on such land. Public notices had been placed in the Evesham Journal paper at the cost of £1026.86 during the summer. There were no objections received. It was resolved to proceed with the appropriation and to apply for consent from the Secretary of State. It was further resolved that the application for consent be prepared by our solicitors (HCR Law). A quote of £1,680 (inc vat) was received and the Meeting agreed to this spend and for HCR Law to prepare and submit the application to the Secretary of State on our behalf.

**Telephone Kiosk Update:** BT have come back to ask if we wish to continue to adopt the Kiosk – The Meeting agreed to adopt the Kiosk. The Clerk gave examples of how other Councils have used their Kiosk – toy library; mini greenhouse; food bank; telebug hotel; local history/information board; coffee shop with small coffee dispenser; book library (it was previously agreed to keep the book library in the Church) and mini bar. Action – Clerk to contact BT team to confirm adoption of the Kiosk. It was agreed that a decision on the use would be taken at a future meeting.

**Update on Proposed Way Forward for Village Hall/Facility:** The Chairman gave an update on the progress of the project to deliver a semi-permanent marquee for the village. It would be a year-round facility which we could afford (£45k plus) compared to a brick structure of circa £500k (plus the cost of maintaining this kind of structure) and we would need planning permission. We have already approached Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Department (including the Conservation Officer) and subject to the usual surveys and other factors did not see any potential obstacles for Planning Approval. They did recommend that the marquee should be at the bottom end i.e. furthest away from the Church. This is in line with the position TBC Planning approved for the original village hall application (which was approved but has now lapsed). The Marquee is for the village (families / friends) and is not expected to be rented out to third parties. The tarpaulin would be coloured and not white and will include lighting and heating. Trees and hedging on the Church side to hide and provide some sound protection.

Prior to the meeting the subcommittee issued a paper containing three options –

1. Wooden frame with canvas sides similar to East Glos Tennis Club. It would need several contractors as Attwools do not provide the flooring or heat and light. There would be gaps by the posts where the canvas is connected.
2. Safari style with steel frame, overhanging roof, windows, condensation layer in the roof, lockable doors and veranda. A log Burner could be used inside. Wooden floor and the sides can be either canvas or more solid. Bond Fabrications would be responsible for whole assembly (using their sub-contractors as necessary).
3. Steel frame with thicker walls and condensation layer in the roof. Lockable door and gable ends would be windows as well as side windows.

All three options can have the same dimensions. Guarantees were discussed and it was confirmed at least 20 years for the framework but recommended to reconfirm that period for the canvas elements in options 2 and 3.

After a little discussion it was agreed that the first option (wooden frame with canvas sides) would no longer be considered.

Timescales – subject to permission from the Secretary of State, aiming for next summer subject to Planning Permission and funding.

Options 2 & 3 were put to the vote and 34 voted for Option 2 (safari style) and 4 voted for Option 3 (conventional style). The meeting therefore formally agreed to work towards establishing a safari style option as the semi-permanent facility on the land adjacent to the church.

It was agreed to find out the cost to upgrade Option 2 walls from canvas to solid and report back at the next meeting. Residents closest to the site would be particularly involved in the final colour choices. Now the safari style option has been agreed the next level of detail will be developed and the village further updated.

The Chairman thanked those on the subcommittee particularly MR, MW & NS.

#### **AOB:**

The Clerk advised that Electoral Roll Canvassers could be calling on those residents who are not on the Electoral Roll. They will provide identification and just need to ask a few questions.

Concern was raised over a heavy crane being driven through the village to the Gas Pumping Station and on a separate issue of articulated lorries driving at speed on the local roads.

Next Meeting: TBA 7pm St Katharine Church. Meeting closed at 8.10pm.