

## WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Dadswell, Richardson, Watson and Whiting. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote.

Also in attendance (via Zoom) was Mark Knight the Parish Clerk.

### **183/25-26 Welcome by the Chair.**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **184/25-26 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Sutton.

### **185/25-26 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.**

None.

### **186/25-26 Open Forum**

None.

### **187/25-26 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

The minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

### **188/25-26 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith**

C Cllr. Smith reported that this would be his last meeting as he would not be running again as a County Councillor for Suffolk. Cllr Smith spoke warmly about the remarkable turnaround of the Walberswick Parish Council in the last 7 years and congratulated the Council members on the work and dedication they had put in to pull the Council and the village out of the crisis that had existed for many years. The WPC in turn thanked Councillor Smith for his strong support for Walberswick throughout the years, highlighting as examples his routine attendance at WPC monthly meetings, his help in getting the Bailey Bridge repaired and his stalwart opposition to SZC and the other destructive energy projects proposed for our area. He was wished all the very best for a well-deserved long and happy retirement

### **189/25-26 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan**

D Cllr. Beavan spoke briefly about the changes to local government that were coming over the next few years. He also mentioned upcoming public consultations that would

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be held over the summer/autumn on the future of Southwold Harbour caravan site.

## **190/25-26 Planning**

### **190/25-26.1 Applications made under delegated authority**

**190/25-26.1.1 2 Church Lane, Walberswick DC/25/0059/FUL**

The Council noted the decision taken under delegated authority to **OBJECT** to the application and request an amendment to be made owing to design quality.

**190/25-26.1.2 Greyroof, Millfield Road DC/26/0742/VOC**

The Council noted the decision taken under delegated authority to **SUPPORT** the application..

### **190/25-26.2 Applications to consider**

**190/25-26.2.1 Herons, Church Road DC/25/0742/REFUSE**

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to concerns over the misrepresentation of the character and sensitivity of the site, the downplaying of the scale and visual impact of the proposal, misplaced reliance on the plot size and orientation, light pollution, the insufficiency of the ecological assessment, local housing need and failure to accept and represent local character and materials.

Applications **AP/26/0017/REFUSE** and **AP/26/0019/REFUSE** were also **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** due to the details above and mischaracterisation of the sensitivity of the site, the scale, massing and intensification of built form, residential amenity and overlooking, light pollution and the mitigating strategy ecological impacts and local policy conflicts, all in favour.

Councillor Whiting was thanked by the Council for her continued work on the large number of applications being made by Herons' owner and their agents who continued to push for the inappropriate development of the site despite previous planning refusals.

### **190/25-26.3 To consider application for the Camp Site**

It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Lewis would seek clarification on whether there might be a way in which the Camp Site could in the future be included as part of Walberswick's Article 4 definition

C Cllr. Smith and D Cllr. Beavan left the meeting at 7.16pm.

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**191/25-26 Finance Matters 2026/7****191/25-26.1 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet**

It was **AGREED** to pay all items on the sheet. Cllrs. Bassinette and Lewis were authorised to carry out the electronic payments.

**192/25-26 To consider the East Suffolk Council Call for Sites**

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** (at the appropriate time) to site 113, which had been published on the proposed map potentially designated for housing..

**193/25-26 To consider a change in policy for appointments of Trustees to the Walberswick Common Lands Charity**

It was noted that the WCLC had agreed to the changes and reasons behind them. Given both WCLC and WPC's approval, it was **AGREED** to **ADOPT** the amended policy as presented.

**194/25-26 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:****194/25-26.1 Village News**

It was **AGREED** to place items concerning the Annual Parish Meeting which will now be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at 6pm.

**194/25-26.2 NSIPS**

Cllr Bassinette briefed the Council on several items related to Lionlink, Sealink and SZC:

Lionlink staff contacted Cllr Bassinette to say that they would have to postpone the Lion Link meeting originally planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 because of the local elections being held on the same day. It was noted that at the time when the meeting was arranged, local elections had not been planned. LL staff agreed that they would agree a new date probably at the end of June/early July to come speak to the WPC. This delay would also allow them time to shift through the consultation responses received. Cllr Bassinette said that she would work with Cllr Lewis to find a new date to suggest to LL.

Cllr. Bassinette reported that the sixth deadline for Sea Link was upon them and that on behalf of the WPC, she had submitted a response. In particular, she highlighted that Suffolk County Council at deadline 5 (10 March 2026) had submitted to National Grid an alternative route to the Saxmundham Converter Station site which would greatly reduce the impacts on the surrounding communities and would not require the use of the Benhall Railway Bridge. It was frustrating that National Grid was refusing to consider this alternative route which was so much better for the community and provided more reliable access to the

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converter site then the route NG preferred. Cllr Bassinette said that this refusal demonstrated the bad faith in which NG interacted with the local community and its determination to be opaque and confrontational in its approach.

For SZC, Cllr Bassinette said that the long-awaited work on the B1387 between the Water Tower and the A12 had to be postponed again because of a shortage of contractors and difficulties coordinating all the conflicting road closures associated with SZC's development. The latest information was that the work could start in the first week of June but that she would seek clarification of this hopefully before the next Council meeting.

**195/25-26 Oral Committee Reports if relevant**

No reports were given.

**196/25-26 Clerk's Report**

There were no questions on the Clerk's monthly report.

Cllr. Lewis raised an issue concerning support for social housing for a local resident. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council was not in a position to recommend any individual or family but that they were supportive of the principle that preference for any available social housing in Walberswick should go to those with an existing connection to Walberswick. The Clerk was asked to write to the housing authority in this regard.

It was noted that a member a member of the public had asked about the possibility of wheelchair/mobility scooter access across the dunes at Walberswick. The Council discussed that this had been looked into many times but that the complicated ownership of the land, the high costs and high degree of maintenance required had made it prohibitive to address.

**197/25-26 Matters Arising.**

Nothing for meeting.

**198/25-26 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm.**

The time and date of the meeting was confirmed as above.

**The meeting closed at 8.02pm.**

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