

WALBERSWICK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
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Minute of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7.15pm on Thursday 13th April 2017

Present: *Esme Richardson (in the chair), Hannah Sutton, SC Councillor Michael Gower, Lee Sutton, James Darkins, John Nichols, Tom Ashley, Matthew Whetmore, Margaret Walpole, Nigel Walpole, Philip Kett, Mark Waller, Jean Waller, Tony Kohn, Ian Fair, Bronwyn Fair, Maggie Cochrane, David Godsmark, Marian Beard, Rita Woodcraft, Frank Woodcraft, Sue English, John English, Kay Ungless, Bill Ungless, DC Councillor Raymond Catchpole, John Simpson, Sarah Lawrence, Luke Jeans, Peter Byrne, Irene Prince, Jane Hamilton, Alvin Hunt, George Atkinson, Vanessa Tucker, Shirley Humphries and Richard Scott.*

2017/01 Chairman's welcome

2017/02 Apologies for Absence. Received from Robin Buncombe, Pat Lancaster, Judy Moreton, Josie Bassinette

2017/03 The Chairman explained that the notes of the Meeting of 16th May 2016 were not Minutes as it was not properly called and therefore they would not be signed.

2017/04 Chairman's Report

2017/05 Report from the Clerk/RFO. Mary Mitson-Woods told villagers that she was grateful for the warmth of the welcome she had received and for the information and support that has been so generously given. Walberswick PC, now quorate with the co-option of Councillor Josie Bassinette, is continuing it's progress and building on the good work that Karen Forster began and progressed. The remaining 4 vacancies have now been declared and it is absolutely critical that villagers put themselves forward to fill them not. She said she could emphasise this enough. Full training will be given to all Councillors once they are in office.

The last year had a very difficult start but Karen Forster's arrival in August set the Council on the path to recovery with it's financial administration, the reinstatement of it's Financial Standing Orders and compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations. A Public Interest Report was issued by BDO, the Council's external auditor; this was the catalyst to putting controls and systems in place to return the Council to compliance. BDO issued a further Issues Arising Report for the year 2015-16 which has been dealt with via a Report that was discussed by the Council at it's meeting in March. Councillors accepted this report and resolved that it addressed the issues raised.

This properly called Annual Parish Meeting, which is a statutory requirement for every village, is further evidence of that recovery. Many of the issues in the Issues Arising Report had already been dealt with in the autumn of 2016 as BDO had chosen to readdress some of the problems that had already been raised in the Public Interest Report.