

**Walberswick Car Parks Limited (WCPL) Report for
Walberswick Annual Parish Meeting – 7th May 2025**

The Walberswick Car Parks is a private company established by the Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC) to operate the two beach front car parks. 100% of the operating profit of Walberswick Car Parks is covenanted to the WCLC. The WCPL is run by a board of Directors who are all volunteers from the village (Josie Bassinette (Chair), Hannah Sutton, Debbie Tipple, Bill Willison, Rita Woodcraft and Jane Hamilton (resigned July 2024)). We have one year-round employee who is the Business Operations Manager. We also have locally hired contractors who help maintain the car parks and keep the area tidy. Thanks to everyone for their hard work!

We are pleased to report that 2024 turned out to be a very good year. Despite poor weather at the start of the year and a late start to summer weather, we saw a significant increase in the amount we were able to covenant to the WCLC - **£55,162.00**. This increase over 2023 (£40,498) was largely due to a decrease in expenditures and the efficiency of the RingGo operating system, which saw improved collection of parking fees compared to using Pay & Display machines. It also eliminated the long queuing at the machines that used to occur on busy days. Although we acknowledge that there were some visitors who found the switch to using an App to pay for parking difficult and frustrating, the vast majority of our visitors were (or became) familiar with the system as it is widespread across Suffolk and the South East.

The start of 2025 has been good with lovely weather compared to last year. More visitors and holiday let owners are also purchasing Annual Passes. Two concerns for this year are the imposition of a very large increase in business rates for the car parks and, like all of Suffolk Coastal, the potential impact of the massive build-up of Sizewell C traffic and construction on the number of visitors to the area.