

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held in the Village Hall at 7 pm,
Monday 13 May 2013

Present: The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Michael Gower (who presided at the meeting), Councillors Peter Austin and David Webb, approximately 35 electors including Jane Gomm (Clerk to the Parish Council)

1. Apologies for absence: Brian Tibbles, Janet and Tony Kohn, Pat Atherton, Judy and Brian Morton, Erica Donnellan, Philip Kett and Julia Sowerbutts

2. Minutes: of the meeting held on Thursday 19 April 2012 were available and were taken as read. On the proposal of Jayne Tibbles and seconded by David Webb they were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Report from the Police

PCSO Jamie Newson's report set out the crimes in the village in the last 12 months and he suggested that people should not allow opportunist thieves the opportunity (see appendix 1).

4. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman reported on the resignation of Councillors last year and appointment by Suffolk Coastal District Council of appointed Councillors. He talked of the Freedom of Information Requests that were still in the pipeline, of the Clerk having been away from work due to sickness, the village sign, village shop and post office. He gave an update on the situation concerning Sizewell C - how it would be important for local jobs and that it was a great opportunity for young people with children.

5. Report and presentation of the accounts of Walberswick Common Lands Charity

The Chairman of the Charity, James Darkins explained the Charity was subsidising the rent being charged to the Post Office for use of the Village Hall Annex. He discussed the reopening of the Heritage Hut which had been stalled by the difficulties of the Parish Council. Wally's Bridge had been transferred from the Environment Agency was about to be formally renamed as Wally's Bridge. He thanked all those who had generously contributed to make this possible.

James Darkins talked of the Jubilee weekend as a fine example of what Walberswick could do when everyone pulls together.

He said that in the year ahead the Charity was looking at the restoration of the Sports Pavilion.

Two new Trustees had been welcomed this year, Michelle Webb and Rita Woodcraft. James Darkins finished by thanking all the Trustees and Tony Kohn, Kay Ungless, Barbara Priestman, Paul Denny and Jayne Tibbles for their work. (see appendix 2)

6. Report from Suffolk County Councillor

County Councillor Michael Gower thanked former Councillor Rae Leighton for his work over the years.

7. Report from Suffolk Coastal District Councillor

Suffolk Coastal District Councillor, Michael Gower explained that for the District Council in the last year finance had been dominant. Savings had been achieved by sharing services with Waveney District Council and reducing the head count.

The key issued for the Planning service was the Local Development Framework and the difficulties in marrying it with the National Planning Policy Framework. The District Council does not have a five year land supply for housing which makes it vulnerable to speculative development. Sizewell was important. In terms of the boundary review the District Council wished to reduce the number of Councillors after consultation.

8. Reports from village organisations

The following organisations gave reports:

Village Hall Management Committee report was given by Jenny Cardwell (see appendix 3).

Parochial Church Council report given was by Julia Josephs (see appendix 4).

Parish Plan Steering Committee report was given by Alvin Hunt (see appendix 5).

The Pantomime and Sanderlings Group report was given by Peter Austin. All is going well. Sanderlings is putting on a reading of Under Milk Wood in the Church. Due to a lack of director there would not be a pantomime until January 2014.

The Village News was reported on by Ben Cardwell. There would be a full report in the May edition of the Village News (see appendix 6).

The Village Fete would be held on 24 August reported Ben Cardwell (see appendix 6).

The Walberswick Women's Institute report was given by Sue Pearson (see appendix 7).

The Sole Bay Health Steering Group report was given by Bill Ungless (see appendix 8).

The Walberswick Website report was given by Kay Ungless (see appendix 9).

9. Yoxford Primary School

The Clerk read the report from the Chair of Governors of Yoxford Primary School (see appendix 10).

10. Public Forum

Alvin Hunt said that the interim Parish Council had been in place for approximately 7 months, he asked if there was any sign that the Council's four complainants would stop so that a democratically elected Council could be elected. The Chairman replied that it was very difficult to hand over an uncompleted task, but that if people wished to stand for election we could have an election.

Pru Ford-Crush said that she was very grateful for what the previous Parish Council had done in the past.

Clive Brynley-Jones said there seemed to be no apparent end to the freedom of information requests. He had no interest in village politics, but he wanted to live quietly in a village that could run itself. He said the people who were making these freedom of information requests should think about their impact on the future of the village.

Sue Pearson asked if the Parish Council had applied for a defibulator from the Co-Op. David Webb replied that the Co-Op was intending to provide about 100 in East Anglia including one in Walberswick. The intention was to site it at the Co-Op shop. We should hear within about a month, if and when it would be supplied. Once in situ, if one phoned 999, an ambulance would be called, but if it couldn't arrive in time the caller would be given the defibulator code. Sue Pearson said that the first responders would be able to give a demonstration of its use in the village hall.

Vivien Hunt said that last year a very dear Councillor had been lost. His work for the village was immense. She didn't want to see him forgotten.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Signed.....Chairman, Walberswick Parish Council, 2013 – 2014

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