

WALBERSWICK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
14th SEPTEMBER 2021
VILLAGE HALL, WALBERSWICK

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. Andrew Lewis (Chair of the Parish Council) and Mr. Mark Knight (Clerk to Walberswick Parish Council) and 31 electors of the Parish.

1 Chairman's welcome.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. It was stated that all reports had previously been submitted and are available alongside these notes and the agenda for this meeting on the Parish Council website in full.

2 Apologies for absence.

It was reported that County Councillor Richard Smith and the representative from the RNLI would not be present as hoped.

3 To consider the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2021

The Chair confirmed that the minutes were a true representation of the meeting and also gave a brief verbal report on the logistics of holding this meeting virtually.

4 Report from Walberswick Parish Council

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

5 Report from the County Councillor

Cllr. Smith was not in attendance

6 Report from District Councillor

This report is not available on the website, however Cllr. Beavan reported on his membership of the planning committee and a constitutional amendment he is sponsoring to allow more oversight and comment on planning applications. He also spoke briefly about the impact on affordable housing on the upcoming Neighbourhood Plan. He is also on the Emergency Planning Group and is representing the Woodland Trust for a carbon capture scheme to help combat climate change.

7 Sizewell

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

8 Amateur Theatrical Society

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

At this point it was decided to cover point 20 in the agenda concerning the Village Hall as the speaker was covering both.

20 Village Hall

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

9 Scroll Historians

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

10 Planning Advisory Group

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

11 History Group

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

12 Prescription Collection Service

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

13 Walberswick Common Lands Charity

This report is not available on the website. However, Mr. James Darkins reported on a proposed change to the constitution of the organisation. The process of becoming a Corporate Trustee was explained and a full report on the activities of the Charity and how they are governed, such as administration, environmental stewardship, maintenance, was given.

It was noted that the assets and liabilities of the Charity were held in trust and governed ultimately by the Charities Commission.

However, the current definition of Trustee as defined by the constitution does not mean that the Charity is a legal person and is not able to enter into contracts, employ staff which becoming a Corporate Trustee would allow.

It was stressed that the structure of the Charity would not change but by becoming a Corporate Trustee and will not impact on the responsibility or accountability of the appointed Trustees. But that there would be changes to who appoints trustees and the terms of these appointments as well as how these trustees would be appointed.

The focus would also remain on the relief of need in the village specifically to the residents of Walberswick and a more general need to those visiting the village.

Details of the good done by the grant awarding process was also noted.

It was finally noted that there was currently one vacancy on the board of Trustees which would hopefully be filled soon.

14 Blyth Estuary Partnership

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

15 Horticultural Committee

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

16 Neighbourhood Development Plan

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

17 RNLI Fundraising Committee

A representative was not in attendance, however, this report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

18 St. Andrew's Church

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

19 Village Fete

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

The Chair took the opportunity at this stage to pause for questions from the electors present. There were none at this stage

21 Village News

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

22 Walberswick Car Parks Ltd

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

23 Women's Institute

There were no representatives from the group in attendance, however a full report is available on the Parish Council website

24 Walberswick Village Website

This report is available in full on the Parish Council website.

25 Any other matters arising from the floor

Mr. James Darkin wanted to specifically thank the staff from Walberswick Car Parks

Ltd for all their hard work over the past year.

Questions were also asked about the availability of the Heritage Hut for renting, which was confirmed and that a booking facility is available on the website, the purpose must be for the good of Walberswick however.

Questions were also asked about the condition of the footpaths in the marshes over the past year and who might be responsible for these. It was confirmed that Suffolk County Council were responsible for the footpaths, but there was a very good reporting tool on the Suffolk County Council website which was very effective. It was further agreed that the Parish Council could also put a link to this tool on the Parish Council website.

The frequency and effectiveness of the bi-annual footpath grass cut for the village - it was agreed that more people needed to make their views clear to the County Council about the best time of the year for this to be conducted.

Special thanks were also recorded to Sheila Parry for all her hard work over the past year with the Village News.

It was finally noted that any further questions should be forwarded to the Chair of the Council via the Parish Clerk who would be happy to reply to any questions residents may have.

The meeting then closed at 8.50pm.

Signed by the Chair.....

Dated.....