

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 2nd February, 2009

PRESENT

Mrs M V Dabbs (Chairman), Mr R G Buncombe (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Aldridge, Mr A E Hunt , Mr B Tibbles, Mr D C B Webb, and Mr K G Webb (Councillors), County Councillor Rae Leighton, Mrs V J Hunt (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – There were none.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** were **approved** and signed as a true record by the Chairman
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - There were none
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a. **Chestnut fencing by harbour wall** – Councillor Buncombe reported that Waveney District Council had informed him that they could think of no alternative for the chestnut fencing and therefore would continue to replace it when required.
 - b. **Revised Constitution of the Trust** – The Trust would be discussing the Council's letter and points brought up at the meeting held with Councillors Dabbs and Buncombe at their next Trust meeting.
 - c. **Parish Plan** – A further public meeting was being planned for Saturday 7th February.
 - d. **Repair of track outside Parish Lantern** – This was in hand.

5. **PLANNING**

a. **Planning Decisions**

The Stables, The Street – Application No's: C08/2019 and C08/2020

Suffolk Coastal District Council had approved the addition of an extension to the existing store and a further extension to provide two lockable stores at the above property, subject to the work being carried out in accordance with the submitted plans and conditions set out by the authority.

b. **Planning Course – SALC**

Councillor Aldridge agreed to attend a training course on 10th February, organised by SALC, which would help councillors understand the National Planning Portal and district online plan.

6. ACCOUNTS

a. Receipts

i. *Allotment rents - £205.00

b. Payments

i. Mrs V J Hunt – **reimbursement vouchers (VAT £115.48
ii. Mrs A Aldridge – reimbursement post purchase (VAT £4.06) £31.14
iii. Anglian Region Web Design – computer problems £15.00

It was **unanimously supported** that the above accounts should be paid and the receipt was acknowledged.

*Allotments - All allotments were now taken. It was **agreed** that the cost of renting the allotments should remain the same for the year 2009 -2010. The Clerk pointed out that despite reminding Blois Estates, she still had not been invoiced for the Bird in Hand field for two years. Philip Kett was thanked by the Council for collecting the rents and organising the allotments.

**Reimbursement vouchers - See December minutes item 6c.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Local Development Framework - Suffolk Coastal had written to say that there were two "Drop-in sessions" available to Councillors to discuss the documents. These would take place on 6th February at Aldeburgh Library and Wednesday 11th February at the Council Chambers, Woodbridge.
- b. Connect Conservation Fund – The Clerk agreed to check whether there would be time for the Council to put forward a proposal.

8. CLERK'S RETIREMENT

The Clerk, Mrs Vivien Hunt, had decided to retire after carrying out twelve years of service to the Council. She had discussed this with the Chairman and they had agreed that it would be beneficial to the Council if she could remain until after the AGM in May and therefore terminate her contract on 31st May, 2009. The Clerk would contact SALC to see if there were any rules and regulations when advertising for a new Clerk.

9. VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Councillor Aldridge and the Clerk had produced a letter to send to secondary schools informing the Head Teacher about the amount of damage being caused to the sea defences during all night parties, mainly held at the end of the school term by students. Councillor D Webb stated that when he had discussed this with teachers and ex teachers they had considered such a letter might attract even more activity of this nature in Walberswick. The Chairman stated that we were in a no win situation.

It was **agreed** to consider writing the letter but without particular reference to Walberswick.

Councillor Buncombe asked if the Visitor Management Group had taken any further steps to resolve the issues raised last summer. The Clerk agreed to contact the Highways Department to see when the yellow lines were to be repainted as these had faded badly. It was agreed to remove the "Refuse" sign from the Village hall as these appeared to attract a lot of extra rubbish being placed there. Councillor Aldridge agreed to arrange a meeting with the Visitor Management Group to discuss other issues.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND THE POLICE

Councillor Leighton reported that the County Council's increase for this year's Council Tax would be 2.45%. They had managed such a low increase largely due to the restructuring of the Council.

He stated that there had been nothing forthcoming from the Boundary Commission but information should be released on 13th February. He also informed the Council that there would be a by-election in May for the replacement of District Councillor Kevin Keable, who had now moved from the County.

11. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. Fencing play area of sports field – The Clerk and Councillor Aldridge had staked out the area to be fenced off for the play area. Councillor K Webb agreed to calculate the amount of fencing required.
- b. Climbing Frame – Councillor Aldridge asked if it was possible to raise enough money to purchase a climbing frame for the play area on the sports field. County Councillor Rae Leighton stated that it might be possible to obtain £400-500 from the Locality Grant. Councillor Buncombe thought the Crabbing Championship would be able to help. The Clerk agreed to obtain quotes from Playquip Leisure and approach Suffolk Coastal DC to see if there was any money available for Walberswick in their Play Scheme Fund.
- c. Water on Robinson Marsh – Councillor K Webb reported that there was much more water on Robinson Marshes than usual. It was **agreed** to write to the Eastern Area Manager of the Environment Agency to ask them to see if there was a fault with the Charity Sluice.
- d. Timber washed up on the beach - Approximately 50 tons of timber had been washed up on Walberswick beach as a result of a recent ship wreck. Many people had been on the beach salvaging some of the timber but it was reported that two people had been seen driving vehicles across the sea defences in order to collect larger quantities. Posts had been pulled out by one offender in order to do this. It was agreed to write to both parties expressing the Council's disappointment that they had not considered the fragility of the sand dunes and also requesting that they make good the damage they had caused. Councillor Buncombe stated that anybody collecting timber must report it to the Receiver of Wreck under the Merchant Shipping Act of 1995.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd March 2009

Meeting closed at 9pm

Signed.....

Date.....