

# WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

## **PRESENT**

Councillors Mr A E Hunt (Chairman), Mr D C B Webb (Vice Chairman), Mr R G Buncombe, Mr B Tibbles, Mrs M V Dabbs, Mrs A Aldridge, Mr K G Webb and, Miss M Verneti (Clerk). County Cllr Mr R Leighton and District Cllr Mr P Austin.

1. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE** - None
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** for the 7<sup>th</sup> September and the extra Planning Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> September were **approved** and were signed as a true record by the Chairman
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**  
Cllr K Webb declared an interest in Item 7
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
**From the Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009:**
  - a. The **Dune Fencing** is finally being replaced.
  - b. **Trees at rear of Mercers Hall** – The Clerk had spoken to both Roger Best and Ann Overdon SCC Landscape Officer. Ms Overdon had taken on board our concerns and suggested that the Parish Council asked Mr Best to put in formal application which would trigger a site visit from the Landscape Team. The clerk duly rang Mr Best and left a message for him, so in time the Parish Council should receive formal notification.
  - c. **Land at Rear of Alexandra Cottage:** A letter was received on the 10<sup>th</sup> September from the Planning Office stating that the application in its current form had been withdrawn.
  - d. The Clerk had spoken with Mr Oram regarding the upkeep of the Village green. He agreed to repeat the aeration of the green in November and then continue to do it twice yearly, spring and autumn.
  - e. **Ship to Ship Transfers:** The Clerk received acknowledgement from John Gummer thanking the Parish Council for their support and promising to keep them informed. Cllr M. Dabbs produced an article from the EDP 02.10.09 stating that the Government had announced that it intended to ban the practice.
  - f. **Emergency Phone** The Clerk had received confirmation from WDC that this had been repaired but in fact it still wasn't operational. The Clerk agreed to chase.
  - g. **Sight Lines at Blythburgh Water Tower Junction** Cllr M Dabbs reported that the grass and bushes had been cut back and it had made a big difference.
  - h. There had still been no response to the letter sent to the Planning Enforcement Officer regarding the works at Anchorlea and the Clerk was asked to chase.

There were no Matters arising from minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

## 5. **PLANNING**

### a. **Planning Notifications Received:**

1. **Pleach Cottage, Lodge Road (C09/0847)** The demolition of Pleach Cottage was approved.
  2. **Westwood and Pleach Cottage, Lodge Road (C09/0846)** The new dwelling at Pleach Cottage was refused.
  3. **Blyth Estuary (C09/1030)**: River wall reinstatement - Approved
- b. **Planning Applications Received:**
- a. **PART SIDE GARDEN, TROY, CHURCHFIELD (C09/1362)** Erection of detached two-storey dwelling with detached double garage. The Council could find no Planning objections to the application, but asked the Clerk to write to the planners again, stating their concern regarding the sub-division of plots to create new houses.
- c. **Consideration of Melton Parish Council’s Resolution:** The Cllrs had read the document from Melton Parish Council circulated before the meeting via Email. Cllr M Dabbs stated that whilst a lot of the report was specific to Melton there were several issues that the Parish Council also felt strongly about, namely:
- a. **E Planning:** The Parish Council agree that this is still too limited.
  - b. **Instant Validation:** The Parish Council agree this is unacceptable, the pressure put on local Councils to “have their say” within an ever decreasing timescale has already increased the number of meetings that are needed and needs revision.
  - c. **Case Handling:** The Parish Council agree that we have had similar cases where the same officer being involved with the Developer and then having the power to pass the application needs looking at. Also there would appear to be no “right of appeal” for Councils which seems unfair.
  - d. The Parish Council agree that the current system does not generate any confidence from the Public.
  - e. Cllr R Buncombe also stated that Government Strategy Policy and Local Authority LDF Policy statements were often not in agreement.

## 6. ACCOUNTS

- a. **To acknowledge the Receipts and Payments that were made at the Planning Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009**
  - i. Receipt from NA LC – Clerks Bursary for Training - £100
  - ii. Receipt from HMRC VAT reclaim April to Aug 09 - £799.15
  - iii. Payment to SLCC – Registration Fee for CiLCA training for the Clerk, Miss Verneti - £150
  - iv. Payment to Suffolk Acre - Annual Insurance Premium for the Parish Council for 09/10 - £687.08
- b. **Receipts**
  - i. SCDC – second half of Precept 2009 - £3,795.00
- c. **Payments**
  - i. Parish Plan Steering Cttee – remainder of ITV Grant - £211.00
  - ii. BDO Stoy Hayward Annual Audit Fee - £155.25
  - iii. Suffolk Acre – Annual Bonfire Insurance - £90.00

It was unanimously supported that the above accounts should be paid.

## 7. WCLCT Trustee Vacancy

During the course of the meeting it was agreed that this item be deferred until the meeting was formally closed and discussions be held *in camera*.

After the meeting had been formally closed, Cllr K Webb withdrew. The Clerk distributed copies of applications received which were discussed at length by the remaining Council. Cllr R Buncombe proposed a Resolution “That this Council appoint Mr Clive Brynley-Jones as Nominative Trustee to the Walberswick Common Lands Charity Trust with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009. Seconded by Cllr M Dabbs. The Resolution was passed by Casting vote.

The Clerk was asked to write to the two applicants and the Trust to inform them of the decision.

## 8. Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework Consultation

The Clerk distributed copies of the covering letter with the website details on and one hard copy to Councillors and it was agreed that they would come to the November meeting ready to discuss, so that a response could be formulated. The Clerk was also asked to find our response to the earlier consultation.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Copies of letters of response were read out from **Suffolk Coastal** regarding artists impressions on planning applications, **Latitude** organisers, Festival Republic regarding noise levels and traffic management for Walberswick during the Festival, and **The Environment Agency** regarding excessive signage.
- b. A Survey of Services was received from **Suffolk Coastal** and it was agreed that Cllr M Dabbs and the Clerk would complete this on behalf of the Parish Council.

## 10. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES

Cllr R Buncombe had reviewed the consultation document supplied by the Anglian Offshore Dredging Association (AODA) and made the following report:

“I reviewed the consultation document supplied by AODA with respect to their application to extend existing or create new dredging areas of the North Suffolk coastline, especially that for proposed new area 496 which is some ten times the area already being dredged at the existing site off Southwold. Area 496 is located to the west of the existing dredging ground, and is less than half the distance from the shoreline as the existing dredging site. The AODA documentation was extensive and clearly promulgated their consultants’ view that no long-term coastal beach depletion would result from the proposed operations. Both the Green Party and Marinet were, however, of a very different view – expressing deep concern and effectively stating “In Holland, the world experts on coastline protection have a ban on dredging for aggregates closer than 25km to the shore. Yet here in England, we allow dredging to take place way closer than that. If this application is granted, it will be criminally irresponsible, at a time when man-made climate change is threatening in any case to raise sea levels and is already worsening winter storms.””

Cllr Buncombe felt that he could only propose that the Parish Council continues to monitor the situation and the outcomes of the consultation process.

The Clerk was asked to write to John Gummer MP expressing our concerns.

## **11. MATTERS RAISED BY THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE.**

Cllr Leighton stated that a lot of discussion was taking place as to how to reduce public sector funding by 25/30%. It was important that everyone work together to try and work it out from County level right down to Parish level without raising the Council Tax. IT was clear that there would be a squeeze on Highways, Education and services in the next financial year.

Suffolk's major aim was to raise the level of achievement of children across Suffolk as currently they are performing below the national average. This is obviously not acceptable and the Schools Organisation Review is trying to ensure this is improved, but whilst the government has pledged 500 million for this unless the actual money is forthcoming it will be a slow process.

Cllr Austin reinforced Cllr Leighton's comments about funding being squeezed and stated we should expect our proportion of the business rates will be decreased. He talked about the possibility of some service sharing with WDC but stated it was early days.

He also stated that the wheelie bins had all been delivered and the new scheme would become operational from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Jamie Newson - Police Community Support Officer was not at the meeting but did send a report for the period ending 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009:

“Please accept this short report.

*The recorded crimes in the parish of Walberswick for the period 03.09 to 04.10 stands at only one crime which is a criminal damage under £500 at present undetected, which took place over the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> October outside the village. Regards Jamie Newson”*

The Chairman stated that Mrs A Kiff-Wood in conjunction with Neighbourhood Watch and the Police had informed local shopkeepers that there had been a spate of local shoplifting.

## **12. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

- a. Cllr K Webb stated that the flagpole had been damaged - the extent of the damage is unknown so Cllr Webb agreed to take a look below the ground level to see what kind of repair is required.
- b. **Play Equipment:** Cllr D Webb had carried out a periodic check on the equipment on the common. It was clear the gorse was a problem. He had also gone to the Green and stated that more chippings were needed and the hinges at the base of the large swings looked a little worn, also the frames needed cleaning and repainting. It was also stated that someone had been seen looking closely at the equipment and it was possible that ROSPA were doing their annual report. It was agreed to wait until the report was received.

- c. **Flood Warnings:** Cllr K Webb stated that suspecting there was going to be a high tide he had notified people to move their cars from the car park, but stated that he had received no “official” warning. Following the unexpected surge Cllr D Webb managed to get himself put onto the Flood Alert System and got Mr John Harris, the Car Parks Manager added also.
- d. It was agreed that no one would attend the LSP meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November
- e. It was agreed that no one would attend the SALC AGM on the 9<sup>th</sup> November
- f. The Clerk had received a phone call from Mrs Watson, regarding her injury in the car park, enquiring why the Parish Council had not been in touch. The Clerk read out a draft letter of response which the Councillors authorised for her to send.

**13. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the public

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009

The Meeting was closed at 8.55 pm

Signed.....

Date.....