

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th September, 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 3rd August and the extra Planning Meeting on the 17th August were **approved** and were signed as a true record by the Chairman

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman declared a prejudicial interest in Items 5 b
Cllr K Webb declared an interest in Item 5 c.1

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

From the Minutes of the 3rd August 2009:

- a. **Cycling Proficiency Day** – The Clerk reported that the day went really well with about 20/25 children of various ages attending. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and it was good to see the sports field used.
- b. **Bailey Bridge Road** – An email was received stating that as the road was not a public right of way there was no intention by the Highways Department to tarmac the road further. The Councilors agreed see what the current state of the road was as to whether or not the matter was taken further.
- c. **Response to Brian Haward from Cllrs R. Buncombe & Cllr M. Dabbs** – The letter had been sent to Mr Haward on the 24.08.09, as yet no response had been received.
- d. **Damage to the Handrails over the Wall Steps** – These have now been replaced
- e. **Local Development Core Strategy Consultation Letter** – The clerk received an email stating that this report was not due until the end of September.
- f. **First Review of Shoreline Management Plan** – Cllr D. Webb prepared a report as part of item 9.
- g. **Dune Fencing** – The Clerk had chased this and been informed that the works would take place in the middle of September. Mr Gibson from the Environment Agency apologized for the delay, stating that he had thought the Parish Council would not have wanted the works to take place during the summer months.
- h. **Sight Lines at Water Tower** – The Clerk had received an email stating that not much could be done as there had not been any significant accidents on the junction. The Councillors agreed that a careful watch needed to be kept on how quickly the surrounding vegetation grew and how often Suffolk County Council cut back the borders.
- i. **Latitude** – The Clerk had sent a letter to the organisers of the festival but as yet had received no reply.
- j. **Letter to SC Planning Department re Artist impressions** - The Clerk had sent a letter to the Head of Planning Services but as yet had received no reply.

- k. **Letter re Dredging Application** – In response to the letter we sent EMU Limited. They returned a large report and cd with information about offshore dredging. This was given to Cllr R Buncombe to peruse.
- l. **Wheelie Bins** – Cllr M Dabbs reminded the meeting that the Wheelie bin demonstration was the 8th September, and it was the last chance for members of the public to opt for the smaller bins.
- m. **Letter re Unnecessary Proliferation of Signs** – The Clerk had sent a letter to the Environment Agency regarding this but as yet had received no reply.

From the Minutes of the 17th August 2009:

- a. **Anchorlea Works** – The Clerk had written to the Planning Office on the 21st August but as yet had received no reply.
- b. **New Green Light on Harbour Wall** A member of the public had asked why the Green Light at the Harbour was so much brighter than the red one, The clerk had obtained a reply from the Harbour Master stating that the new green light was a new LED light, where as the red light was still the old solar powered type.

5. PLANNING

- a. **Tree Works:**
 - 1. **At Rear of Mercers Hall, The Street:** Some of the Councillors had been to look at the trees and were not convinced that the trees were all Leylandii – they therefore asked the Clerk to contact Mr Best and ask for a specialist report.
 - 2. **Millcroft, Millfield Road:** There was no objection to the proposed works.

b.Site Visits for Alexandra and Pleach Cottages: The Chairman had declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussions. The site visits took place on the 1st September with members of the Planning Committee visiting both sites. With regards to **Pleach Cottage** there were no other concerns and formal notification will be received after the Planning Committee meeting on the 16th September. However with **Alexandra Cottage** there was concern that a new notice regarding impact on a listed building had been posted on the site. This gave a consultation period of 21 days which did not end until after the Planning Committee meeting on the 16th September. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Planning office and gain further information.

c.Planning Applications Received:

- 1. **VALLEY FARM, Ferry Road:** New dormer window, new door at first floor on East elevation, repair and replacement of existing windows and internal alterations/reorganisation of internal walls – There were no objections to this application.
- 2. **REDMAY, Lodge Road:** Two separate applications had been received for this address, the first, the Erection of extensions and garage, had been received in time to be placed on the Agenda for this meeting, but the second, for a second dwelling had not, and when the Clerk had called the Planning Officer she had been told that there was a third application to follow. It was therefore agreed that it was impossible to discuss the application without having all the facts and the Clerk was asked to call the planning office to find out when we could expect the third application and if an extension was not possible then an extra planning meeting would have to be arranged.

6. ACCOUNTS

- a. **Receipts**
There were no recorded receipts
- b. **Payments**
 - i. Viking Direct – Office Requisites - £146.20

ii. Miss M Verneti – Clerks Salary - £1,073.93

iii. Miss M Verneti – Clerks Expenses for period June to August 2009 - £26.88

It was proposed by Cllr B Tibbles and seconded by Cllr D Webb, and unanimously supported that the above accounts should be paid.

7. EXTENSION TO CAR PARK OPERATIONS

As there had been no formal complaints regarding the request from Walberswick Car Parks Limited to extend the Car Park operations to the 1st April the Parish Council agreed to start the formal process.

It was agreed that if any member of the public has any issues please let the Parish Council know, in writing, before the end of October so that these issues can be discussed at the November Parish Council meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Letter from R. Scott re excessive signage** – With the agreement of Mr Scott this had been passed onto the Environment Agency for their comment – as yet no response has been received.
- b. **Sizewell Parish Liaison Group** – Cllr Leighton explained the background to the group which was started in Middleton to ensure that when and if Sizewell C & D get the go ahead that the wishes of the local councils are considered. It was agreed that at present there was no need to send a specific Council representative as Cllr Leighton attends the meeting but the Clerk was asked to write and confirm our interest in the project and ask to be kept informed.
- c. **Letter of Complaint re accident in the Car Parks** – This was not discussed as the matter was being handled by Walberswick Car Parks Limited.
- d. **Responses from Suffolk Coastal Planning Department.** This had been discussed as part of item 5b.

9. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES

- a. The Council had previously been sent a copy of the Suffolk Coastal District Council Shoreline Management Plan and Cllr D Webb had agreed to do a report for the Council. (*Appendix 1 attached*).

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

Cllr Leighton stated that there was not much to report other than the new council felt it needed to step up and do things “sharper, smarter and better”.

Cllr Austin began by informing the Parish Council that he had looked into the Retrospective Planning Application for the building at the back of Thorpeview and had discovered that the Planning Department had not actually viewed it as a retrospective application, but treated it as an amendment.

Cllr Austin also reported that he had viewed the proposed waste strategy plans in Bramfield village hall and stated that the nearest site to affect us would be at Thorington.

Jamie Newson - Police Community Support Officer was not at the meeting but did send a report for the period ending 3rd September 2009:

“Please accept this short report and my apologies for being unable to be present.

The recorded crimes for the parish of Walberswick for the period 12.07 to 03.09 are five crimes which are a Theft other, a criminal damage, another theft other and two thefts from a motor vehicle, these all stand currently undetected. Regards Jamie Newson”

The Councillors present did raise the question of whether or not the mobile police station coming to the village achieved anything and the Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Constable to question this.

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a. There was some discussion as to whether or not this item was any longer necessary as the Parish Council had, for some months had an open public session at 7.15 before the meeting for members of the public to attend and raise issues. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact SALC for clarification and report back to the other Councillors.

12. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. Councillors present discussed the state of the village green – as it had been such a dry summer it was looking very bare again. It was agreed to ask Trevor Oram to repeat the works he did back in April, and hopefully some rain would improve the state of it.
- b. **Ship to Ship Oil Transfers:** Cllrs M Dabbs and A. Aldridge brought up this subject and expressed concern about the potential of accidental spillage. Cllrs R. Buncombe and D. Webb insisted that the practice had been carried out for years, and current standards made it a safe process. Cllr Aldridge produced a news article where John Gummer had called for an end to the practice and after much discussion it was agreed 5 votes to 2 that the Clerk should write to Mr Gummer supporting banning the practice.
- c. The Clerk raised the issue of the 2009/2010 insurance policy and whether or not it was feasible to add event insurance to cover other village events. It was agreed not to increase the current policy to cover other events.
- d. Cllr M. Dabbs brought up the subject of the East of England Rural Manifesto, and the fact that responses had to be in by 30th September. One of the issues was Broadband speeds and Cllr Dabbs agreed to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.
- e. Councillors present asked the Clerk to add in the next addition of the Village news a general thank you to the residents of the village who continue to clean up after visitors and keep the litter to a minimum.
- f. After some discussion it was agreed that Cllr B Tibbles would speak to Emma Freud about a seat for her late father.
- g. The Clerk had received another complaint about the emergency phone down by the Harbour and was asked to chase up WDC as to what was happening. It was also agreed that the gorse needed spraying on the sports field as it was coming up all over. It was also agreed to ask Mr P Denny to quote for fencing in the childrens area on the field to keep out rabbits and stop dogs from fouling the area.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 5th October, 2009

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed.....

Date.....