

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 17th August, 2009

PRESENT

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 (Councillors), Miss M Verneti (Clerk). District Cllr Mr P Austin.

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE - and Mr K G Webb

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman declared a prejudicial interest in Item 3 a

3. PLANNING

Planning Applications Received

a. LAND NORTH OF ALEXANDRA COTTAGE, The Street

Having declared an interest in this item the Chairman handed the chair to the Vice Chairman and left the meeting.

Having looked at the amendment sent directly to the Chairman the remaining Councillors saw nothing that altered their original objection.

What was of more concern to the Councillors was that it was apparent that the timings of the planning process were totally flawed. The Clerk had had to ring the Planning Office to find out if formal notification of the amendment would be forthcoming so that the Council could discuss it at an open meeting, to be told that the Case officer was on holiday until the 11th August. On August 10th notification was sent to the Council that the application would be put before the Planning Committee on Wednesday 20th August, which did not give the council sufficient time to publish a formal agenda or have more than 24 hours after the meeting in which to respond to the amendments.

Cllr Austin stated that on the Planning Website the Planning Officer had already recommended Approval of the scheme which seemed ridiculous as there had been no time for anyone to make objections to the amendment.

It was also raised by a member of the public that one of the letters of objection raised some very important points about the planning process, for example whether or not it was ethical to have the same case officer discussing the application with the developer/architect, and then being solely responsible for making a decision. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Planning Department, asking for a response that the letter had been received, objecting to the proposal and raising all the points discussed with the Planners.

b. WALBER HOUSE, Leveretts Lane, C09/1113

The Parish had no objections to this application.

c. BLYTH REACH, Palmers Lane, C09/1040

The Parish had no objections to this application

Other Planning Matters

a. ANCHORLEA, The Street,

The Parish Council expressed surprise at the letter received from the Planning Department stating permission for alterations not required. The Clerk was asked to write back to the Planners and ask for clarification as the property was clearly in the Conservation Area. It was also suggested that the Clerk ask the Suffolk Preservation Society for their views.

Tree works

- a. Mr R Best had called the Clerk to ask for permission to remove 10/12 Leylandi from the back of The Mercers Hall. He stated he had spoken to Ann Westover the Landscapes officer at SC, and she had given him a verbal “ok” but said he had to ask the Parish Council. The Councillors refused this request, and deferred it to the next meeting so they could have a chance to go and view the trees and the impact it would have.

4. ACCOUNTS

a. Receipts

- i. Suffolk County Council Outdoor Play Space Grant - remaining 50% payable on installation - £450

b. Payments

- i. Replacement cheque for Cllr M Dabbs – Expenses - £31.20
ii. Cllr M Aldridge – Expenses SALC meeting - £12.00
iii. Marie Curie Nurses – Donation - £25.00
iv. Playquip Leisure – Equipment - £5,750.00
v. Parish Plan Steering Group – Mr W Ungless refund for Training costs - £150.00
vi. Parish Plan Steering Group – Suffolk Acre – Insurance - £139.00

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

9. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a. Mr L Bard asked why the new green light down at the Harbour was disproportionately brighter than the red one. The Clerk was asked to contact the Harbour Master to find out if indeed there was any reason.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The Chairman reported that finally the yellow lines had been renewed in the village.
- b. Proliferation of Signs: A letter had been received from Mrs J Reisz regarding the high level of Environment Agency signs in the village. The Clerk was asked to write to the EA and raise the subject with them. It was also mentioned that another resident, Mr R Scott had in fact counted the signs and the Clerk was asked to contact him to obtain this information.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 7th September, 2009
Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed.....

Date.....