

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 March, 2009

PRESENT

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

1. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE** was received from Councillor K Webb
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** were **approved** and signed as a true record by the Chairman
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - Councillor Hunt declared an interest in item 5b.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a. Revised constitution of Trust - Although personal communication had been received by the Chairman of the Parish Council from the Chairman of the Trust, the Parish Council had not yet received any official response to their concerns regarding the reduction of Nominative Trustees from 4 to 3.
 - b. Repair of track outside Parish Lantern – The Proprietor of the Parish Lantern had agreed to give a donation to the repairs required to the track outside the shop. Councillor K Webb had agreed to carry out the repairs once conditions were suitable.
 - c. Visitor Management – Suffolk Coasts and Heaths had agreed to send a letter to all secondary schools in the area, making Head Teachers aware of the problems caused by students having all night parties on the beach at the end of their exams/school term etc.
 - d. Water on Robinson's Marsh – The Environment Agency had checked the Charity Sluice and reported that it was working normally. They considered the amount of water on the marsh was caused by the very wet and snowy winter.

5. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications

- i. **HIDDEN HUT, The Green - Erection of two-storey dwelling (existing dwelling to be demolished, revised scheme)**

Although the Parish Council still had some concerns, their disapproval of certain details of the original application had been addressed and therefore they offered **no objections** to this revised scheme.

- ii. **SALTINGS, Seven Acres Lane – Erection of side extension, creation of first floor verandah and other external alterations**

Councillor A Hunt had declared an interest, left the room, and took no part in the discussions. The remaining Councillors considered that these alterations would improve the building and therefore **supported** the application.

b. Planning Decisions

Planning permission had been granted by SCDC for the erection of a single storey extension and demolition of existing outbuilding to **Mafeking, The Green** and to the erection of a replacement dwelling (revised scheme) at **Innisfree, Leveretts Lane**, subject to both being carried out in accordance with their submitted plans and conditions imposed by the authority.

It was agreed to write to the owner of **Mafeking Cottage** to remind them that builders were not permitted to park on the green at any time.

6. ACCOUNTS

a. Receipts

i. Norfolk County Services Ltd – Recycling (Anchor) £23.52

b. Payments

i. M Aldridge – Travelling to Planning Portal course - £34.80
ii. M Dabbs – Travelling – Quality Council course £27.20
iii. M Dabbs – Chairman’s allowance £50.00
iv. SALC – Above courses (VAT £5.25) £40.25

c. Donations

i. Walberswick PCC - To assist cost of grass cutting in churchyard £150.00

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Boundary Committee** – The Boundary Committee for England had delayed the date to make their recommendations to the secretary of State to 15th July, 2009. The Parish council would, therefore, be expected to respond to their further proposals in the near future.
- b. **Village of the Year competition - 2009** – it was **unanimously agreed** not to enter this competition.
- c. **Post office** – The Clerk produced a number of letters which had been sent (and received) by the Parish Council to Post Office Ltd. and John Gummer MP over the last few months. It was felt by Councillors that these letters had been helpful in procuring the proposed new system which is to be installed in the near future. This should ensure that Walberswick Post Office can issue a service to their customers without any further problems. The Clerk was thanked for all her work on this matter.

- d. **Shoreline Management Plan** – Workshops for the first review of the Shoreline Management Plan would be held on at Southwold Pier on Thursday, 2nd April at 2pm. Councillor D Webb agreed to attend on behalf of the Council.
- e. **Review of names of roads in Walberswick** - Suffolk Coastal were reviewing road names, ensuring all roads and properties were correctly addressed across the County. It was noted that Nightingale Close had not been added to Walberswick. This would be pointed out to the property information team
- f. **Revised bus services operating in Walberswick** – Revised times of the bus service from Walberswick to Beccles had been received: The bus leaves Walberswick Harbour at 9.25am and arrives in Beccles at 10.25; leaves Beccles Old Market Bus Stand at 1.00pm and arrives back in Walberswick at 2.00pm. This allows people to have 2 ½ hours shopping time in Beccles. It was agreed to place this item in the Village news and the timetable on the notice board.

8. ADOPTION OF THE NEW MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME (FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEME 2009)

It was proposed by Councillor Buncombe seconded by Councillor Hunt and **unanimously supported** that the new scheme be adopted by Walberswick Parish Council.

9. PLAY EQUIPMENT

Grants of £700 from the locality grant and £1,000 from the Crabbing Association had been pledged for a climbing frame for the new play area on the sports field. The Common Lands Charity Trust had also pledged its support. The Chairman was concerned that there might be complaints from the east end of the village that there should be more play equipment on the village green. Councillors were in sympathy with this concern but it was agreed to proceed with the climbing frame for the sports field, however, more research was required into acquiring the right equipment. Councillor Aldridge and the Clerk agreed to proceed with this.

10. PARISH PLAN

The Clerk had prepared a report from the public meeting held on Saturday 7th February – see appendix 'a'. The Chairman reported that fourteen volunteers had come forward to help produce the plan. The group had applied for grants but preparing the plan would not commence until grants were in place. The Common Lands Charity Trust had also agreed to support this project.

11. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES

A successful public meeting had also taken place on 7th February to discuss the current position of the sea and river defences. See appendix 'b'. Matters arising from the meeting would be discussed at Group's next meeting on Thursday 5th March.

Councillor D Webb reported that Southwold Town Council was forming a Trust to take over the operation of the harbour and caravan site.

12. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AGENDA

It was agreed to advertise the meeting in the Village News. Groups, not already included would be invited to give a brief report of their yearly activities. However, they should contact the Clerk beforehand.

13. REPORTS FROM RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS AND THE CLERK

- a. **SALC meeting re Planning Portal** – Councillor Aldridge gave a report from the meeting. See appendix 'c'
- b. **Quality Councils** – The chairman, Councillor Dabbs, gave a report from the meeting. See appendix'd'. It was agreed that most of the criteria was already being achieved by the Council. However the requirement to have a web site, produce an annual report for the Village News and hold surgeries, six times a year, could be implemented immediately.
- c. **Report from the recent meeting of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity** – Councillor D Webb gave a report. See appendix 'e'

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

County Councillor Leighton reported that that the Environment Agency's National Review Group had considered the proposed Blyth Strategy and had now asked for further clarification on nine points. He stated that he considered that we should be encouraged that the National Review Group had raised a number of matters that are relevant to the Blyth Strategy Group. Mark Johnson (EA) and his team were currently putting together the required information for the next submission to the National Review Group. Councillor Leighton stated that he was trying to secure a place for a local observer to attend when the next submission is heard.

County Councillor Leighton also reported that there was a new Transport Scheme which had £200,000 designated for small measures to improve roads and transport. Each Councillor had been given £12,000 for their area.

15. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. **Beach clean** – This would be held on Sunday, 26th April
- b. **Stocks Green** – The Councillors had no objections to Councillor Hunt erecting small notices on Stocks Green appealing to lorry drivers not to traverse the green.
- c. **Parish Clerk interviews** – These would take place in early April. The Chairman and two other Councillors would take the interviews.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th April, 2009

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....