

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 1st February 2010

PRESENT

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

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - None
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** for the 4th and 18th January 2010 were **approved** and were signed as a true record by the Chairman
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - Cllr R Buncombe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 and informed the other councillors that he would withdraw.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. The flagpole was being replaced the following day – Cllr D Webb informed the meeting that he had the plaque to Mr and Mrs Goodwin and once the pole and been erected he would arrange for it to be replaced.
 - b. The Clerk had been in touch with SCC regarding the path from Old Vicarage Cottage to the Ferry. They had agreed to add it to the winter schedule which meant it would be cut back in the next couple of weeks. They stated that in their opinion the slabs were not dangerous and the path did not need cutting back in the summer. It was agreed that the council would monitor this closely.
 - c. Cllrs Dabbs and Aldridge had applied to the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths for another connect grant for more Maram grass on the dunes. They also stated that it was hoped a bit more could be done to keep the rabbits out of it.
5. **PLANNING**
 - a. **Planning Notifications Received:** - None had been received
 - b. **Planning Applications Received:**
 - a. **Greyroof, Millfield Lane, C09/1946** Erection of two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension - no objections.
 - c. **Tree Works:**
 - a. **Long Roof, Leveretts Lane, C09/00167/TCA** Mr Martin Minter from SCDC had met with a couple of the Councillors and concerned residents on the site and explained why the revised scheme had been approved and which trees were to be cleared. They agreed that it may be possible to save one more but this couldn't be done until the actual cutting down/back began. At this point the Chairman closed the meeting to take the views from the relevant residents. They stated that they were happy with the revised scheme and thanked the Parish Council for following the matter up. The Chairman then re-convened the meeting.
 - b. **The Anchor Hotel, The Street C09/00161/TCA:** This application for repollarding 5 lime trees had been approved.

- d. **Ongoing Planning Issues:**
- a. A letter received from Mr B Morton, passed to the council from the Commons Land Charity regarding the land at Rosemary Cottage and possible affordable/retirement housing in the village was distributed to all Councillors. It was agreed that due to the length and content of this letter councillors would take it away to read and it would be discussed further at the next meeting.
 - b. Cllr D Webb distributed to the Councillors a housing survey he had undertaken. It made alarming reading with approximately 55% of houses in the village being second homes. (*See Appendix A*) It was agreed to send this to SCDC to compare with the information they have on file. The Chairman thanked Councillor D Webb for his time and for carrying out the survey.
 - c. The Clerk read out an email from Mr P Ridley, Head of Planning Services regarding a meeting with the Parish Council. It was agreed that this would be followed up.

6. ACCOUNTS

- a. **Receipts**
 - i. Cash sale of original Xmas Tree - £20
 - ii. SCC Recycling Credits – £5.59
- b. **Payments**
 - i. Mr A E Hunt – Chairman’s Allowance - £50
 - ii. Suffolk Accident Rescue Service – Section 106 - £25
 - iii. Southwold Press – Village News Flyer - £25
 - iv. Miss M Verneti – Salary Dec & Jan - £715.96
 - v. Miss M Verneti – Expenses Dec & Jan - £30.66

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Response to letter regarding the MPS – this was a long letter with a lot of content and was distributed to all Councillors with the agreement that it would be discussed formally at the next meeting.
- b. Email from A. Walpole re Notice Boards. Mr Walpole had emailed the Chairman suggesting that Agendas and the minutes be put up in the Shop with items of importance highlighted. After a discussion it was agreed that the current arrangements were more than satisfactory.
- c. Letter re the George Calver Charity – no one on the Council had heard of this Charity so it was agreed to put a piece in the Village News explaining it to residents.
- d. Letter from Suffolk Constabulary regarding “Delivering the Policing Pledge” in light of the other letter regarding the Mobile Police Station it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting after councillors had had time to read the documentation.
- e. Email regarding Suffolk Open Weekend Grants – it was agreed that Cllr M Dabbs would complete the application for this.

8. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES

The Clerk had received a new consultation document from WDC regarding the repairs to the North Dock Wall. It would appear that regardless of the unanimous support for Option 5b, WDC had come up with a cheaper new option. There will be a drop in session on Thursday 11th February at the Sports Pavilion in Southwold and it was hoped that as many people as possible could attend.

9. CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW

In light of various issues regarding the Conservation area and planning in the village Cllr D Webb mentioned that the questionnaire should be out about Easter time and it was important that we co-ordinated our responses, especially with the Committee creating the Village Plan.

10. THE POST OFFICE

It had become clear that people were not using the post office facility as much as they should. It was pointed out that Royal Mail were still looking for places to close and the person running the outreach service was concerned that it wasn't being utilised enough. It was agreed that a piece would be put in the village news.

11. SEA EAGLES IN SUFFOLK

Cllr M Dabbs had submitted to the council a piece from the Times regarding the re-introduction of Sea Eagles to the Suffolk Coast. It was clear that the parish council, as a coastal parish with many visitors coming for the walks, that the re-introduction of such birds who have a 100 meter exclusion zone placed around any nesting sites would be extremely detrimental to the area, and it was felt that the Parish Council should have been consulted. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Natural England and say as much and try to obtain more information.

The Meeting was suspended to receive external reports:

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

County Cllr Rae Leighton mentioned the following:

- a. The Suffolk Open weekend for the opening of the 2012 Olympic site (the Parish Council have already had notification of this)
- b. Friday 5th of February would see a big County wide de-brief as to how the bad weather had been handled. This was open for anyone interested to attend.
- c. He distributed leaflets regarding the Policing Pledge
- d. The SCC budget had been set at an increase of 2.4%, which would have been lower if it hadn't have been for the bad weather.

District Cllr Peter Austin reported that it was now formalised that the CEO and Head of Planning would serve both SCDC and WDC. It was hoped that this joint structure would help keep costs down and assist WDC.

PCSO Jamie Newton had sent his apologies and two short reports for December and January. There had been had been two reported crimes, a wallet stolen in December and the Church donation box being stolen on January 23rd. Both crimes remain undetected. He also stated that the three current priorities for the Saxmundham and Framlingham Safer Neighbourhood Team were:

1. Better engagement with youth through improved youth provision
2. Promotion of road safety
3. Tackling anti-social behaviour on Toby's walks at Blythburgh.

The meeting was re-convened.

13. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Even though it was not a question Mr John Harris, the Car Parks Manager reported that the change to the parking restrictions were underway.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1st March 2010

The Meeting was closed at 8.46 pm

Signed.....

Date.....