

# WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 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, Mr K G Webb and, Miss M Verneti (Clerk).  
District Cllr Mr P Austin.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - County Cllr Mr R Leighton
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010 were **approved** and were signed as a true record by the Chairman, and the Vice Chairman
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - Cllr M V Dabbs declared a personal interest in 5.b.1 and Cllr R Buncombe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5.b and informed the other councillors that he would withdraw.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
  - a. Due to a misunderstanding between Suffolk Acre and the Insurance Company it appears that the "Peril of Impact" clause only refers to buildings, therefore it is most likely that we will have to pay the £100 excess on the replacement flagpole. The Clerk was asked to get in touch with Suffolk Acre and see if they would halve the cost.
  - b. SCC had replied to the Clerk's query about the path from Old Vicarage Cottage to the Ferry. They stated it had been cut back, but that the slabs did not pose a danger. It was agreed the council would keep an eye on it. They also mentioned the path across the marsh to Leveretts Lane and asked who owned it. It was the Common Lands Charity and it was agreed to send a copy of the letter to the Trust for their response.
  - c. The Clerk had received a response from Natural England regarding the Sea Eagles, It was agreed that they would be asked to attend the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss the matter further.
  - d. It was confirmed that a letter of Congratulations would be sent from the Parish Council to the Pantomime Group.
  - e. The Clerk confirmed that she was still chasing Philip Ridley to hold the Planning meeting, but that he was proving difficult to pin down. The District Councillor was asked to help to try to speed this up as it was felt to still be important.
  - f. Cllr D Webb brought up the matter of the Post Office Out Reach Service. As Mr Jones was in attendance at the meeting the Chairman suspended the meeting so the matter could be discussed with him. Once the meeting was reconvened it was agreed that Cllrs D Webb and Cllr M Aldridge would try and find out some more information before the next meeting where the matter would be added as a formal Agenda Item for discussion.

## 5. PLANNING

### a. Planning Notifications Received:

1. **The Old Corner House (C09/1965)** – Underground bunded oil tank - Approved
2. **Lane Corner (C09/1851)** – Erection of ground and 1<sup>st</sup> floor extensions – passed
3. **Lane Corner (C09/1852)** – Demolition of chimney – Conservation Area Consent – Refused

### b. Planning Applications Received:

Cllrs M Dabbs and R Buncombe declared an interest in this item and left the room.

1. **18 Manor Close (C10/0382)** Erection of Summer House – One letter of objection had been received from a Neighbour. The council felt that this application was too tall, and the footprint was too large for a summerhouse. They were also concerned that as of today's date no formal notices had been placed at the property, nor did it appear that the neighbour at the rear of the property, who would be most affected, had been sent formal notification.
2. **Anchorlea (C10/0268)** - Erection of a single storey extension. The Clerk had received an email from SCDC Planning Department informing the Parish Council that the description on the application was incorrect. This was noted. The Parish Council had no formal objections to this application but were amazed that this did require planning application where no one could see it, whilst changing the garage into a bedroom on the street did not! It was agreed to add this to the list of queries for the Head of Planning, and the Scrutiny Committee Submission.

Cllrs M Dabbs and R Buncombe returned.

### c. Tree Works:

1. **Alexandra Cottage (C10/00016/TPO)** – The information about the tree fungus had been distributed to the councillors and many had been to look, as well as doing some independent research. It was clear that if indeed it was this fungus then the tree would have to be felled, but it was decided to seek a second opinion as a matter of some urgency. It was also agreed that if the tree did have to be felled then The Parish Council would try and ensure that a large well establish tree was put in its place.

## 6. ACCOUNTS

### a. Receipts

- i. Bank Interest all accounts Oct – Jan - £1.39

### b. Payments

- i. Bank charges – £15.95
- ii. Harisons Flagpoles – Replacement - £870.68
- iii. Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group Membership - £30

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

It was also agreed that as no invoice had been forthcoming from the Blois Estate for the Bird in the Hand Field for the last couple of years despite

constant reminders, that the Clerk would establish what was owed and send a cheque and ask for a receipted invoice.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. With regards to the letter from Brian Morton regarding Affordable Housing and the site behind Rosemary Cottage, along with the response from Alan Walpole, the Councillors unanimously agreed that they could not discuss this matter at Council until a formal application for the plot of land had been received from Suffolk coastal district Council.
- b. The letter from SCC regarding Toby's Walk's was read out asking if Parishes wanted to be involved with the site. It was agreed that the Clerk would write and thank SCC but we would not be interested, but would like to be kept up to date with what is happening there.
- c. With regard to the letter from SCC regarding the continued closure of the footpaths around Walberswick by the Environment Agency, the Clerk was asked to write and try to establish just how long they planned to close them for.
- d. An email had been received by the Clerk from a Mr Payton enquiring if the village would be interested in a mobile shop visiting. The Parish council agreed to write back and thank him for his enquiry but to inform him that the village was lucky to have a well stocked and thriving village shop.
- e. Mrs J Josephs's had sent an email to Cllr D Webb about a number of issues, mainly the traffic and parking of work vehicles around the numerous sites in the village causing mud and rubbish to be pulled onto the road. It was agreed to keep a close eye on all of this going forward.

## **8. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES**

- a. **Properties within the Sea Flood Defence Bank**  
Cllr Webb produced a letter he had drafted some time ago concerning the EA's Flood Risk Map. It was agreed that the Clerk would resend the letter.
- b. **The Alde and Ore Futures 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference**  
Cllr R Buncombe had forwarded the email regarding this conference to the Clerk for inclusion in the meeting. He stated that he would be attending and agreed to report back to the Parish Council
- c. Cllr D Webb reported that after all the bad press regarding Waveney District Council's stance on the repairs to the North Dock Wall, it looked like things were progressing and that Option 5b, which everyone had supported was looking much more likely. He stated that there would be a press release clarifying the situation on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, but that things were moving in the right direction.

## **9. POLICE MATTERS:**

- a. **Response to letter re Mobile Police Station.** It was felt having read this letter that yet again the actual issues in Walberswick were not being addressed. In a final paragraph Inspector Reid suggested we make contact with Seargent Daye Goddard and it was agreed to invite her to the next meeting.

- b. **Delivering the Police Pledge Questionnaire.** The Clerk read out the list of questions and agreed to respond.
- c. **Membership of the Independent Advisory Group** County Cllr R Leighton had sent this Press Release to the Clerk. The Council discussed the possibility of approaching a local resident who they thought might be interested and suitable, but in the meantime it was agreed to put it on the notice boards to see if there was any response.

#### **10. DECISION OF THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE**

A letter had been received from the Unitary Structures Team in London regarding the decision on unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk. The Chairman asked District Cllr Peter Austin for any update and he stated that what was supposed to happen next was unclear, as no one really understood what a “county constitutional convention” was, but was pretty certain that nothing would happen before a general election, and it was hoped that it might “go away”

#### **11. SCDC – THE CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Chairman and Cllr M Dabbs had gone back through the last 5 years of planning decisions and they had produced a document. It was agreed that together with the Clerk’s list of bullet points on the newer applications and on going issues a response could be sent.

#### **12. CHANGES TO WALBERSWICK PARKING RESTRICTIONS (INCLUDING EMAIL REGARDING SIGNAGE)**

An email had been received from the Highways Department suggesting that the signage be changed in the village, this had been sent to all Councillors for their comment and Cllr R Buncombe, having been involved with the original set up of the parking restrictions had sent an excellent response. It was agreed to send this to the Highways department, and if necessary delay the start of this year’s restrictions rather than more unnecessary signage in the village.

#### **13. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIZEWELL PARISHES LIAISON GROUP (SPLG) AND WISH LIST.**

It had been agreed previously to join this organisation, and the minutes of the previous meeting along with the first draft of the “community projects” draft paper had been circulated to Councillors for their opinion and input. Cllr R Buncombe had suggested that the issue of sustainable coastal protection and its funding seemed to be missed so the Clerk was asked to contact the SPLG and suggest it was added. It was also agreed that Cllr M Dabbs would attend the next meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April and report back to the Council.

#### **14. BEACH CLEAN**

The next beach clean has been set for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00 am – the Chairman agreed to put up the notices for this.

#### **15. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting has been agreed for Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Notices will be put up and a formal Agenda sent out nearer the time. In the meantime the Clerk will send out all the invitations to local groups to submit a report and attend.

*The Meeting was suspended to receive external reports:*

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

District Cllr Peter Austin stated that the budget had been agreed and we would soon be notified of our precept amount for 2010/2011.

He also stated that he attended a briefing at Melton Hill on the 23rd Feb by Richard Mayson head of Nuclear New Build Team at EDF and representatives of National Grid. EDF hope to submit the planning application for Sizewell c next year with completion in late 2017/18. The application will be decided by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). This is different from the normal planning process in that all the required consultation will be carried out prior to submission to the IPC.

Sizewell C will have two reactors and generators and construction of the second will start 18 months after the first so the contractors will move from one to the other. An estimated 5,000 workers will be employed on the construction and an accommodation site or sites will be built. Waste will continue to be stored on site. National Grid stated that the existing twin row of pylons from Sizewell when upgraded were capable of transmitting the power without the need for more pylons.

There will no doubt be many more briefing/consultations in the months to come and he agreed to keep the Parish Council informed.

PCSO Jamie Newton had sent his apologies and a short report for January 27<sup>th</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup>. There had been a theft from a conveyance other than a motor vehicle occurred over the period from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February, there was an outboard engine taken from a boat moored at the quay. This is as yet undetected.

*The meeting was re-convened.*

## **17. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

1. Cllr M Dabbs brought up the state of the B1839, the section between the Blythburgh crossing and the A12 and the fact that there were unacceptable levels of mud on this road where the lorries had dragged it onto the road. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways and complain.
2. Cllr K Webb brought up the amount of water in Sandy Lane. The Clerk was asked to write to the WCLC and mention it.
3. Cllr K Webb also brought up the fact that the two big building projects in Leveretts Lane had meant that lorries delivery materials to both sites had made a mess of the edge of the village green. It was suggested that when both jobs were complete the Parish council should write to the owners and ask for a contribution to repairing the edging. The Clerk and Cllr Webb stated that they would monitor the situation.
4. Cllr B Tibbles brought up that a tenant in Adams Lane had contacted the WCLC to ask if they could cut down a Eucalyptus tree that was on WCLC land behind

her house. Cllr Tibbles was asked to go and take a look at the tree, but Cllr A Aldridge suggested re-pollarding rather than felling would be appropriate.

5. Cllr D Webb brought up the ongoing question of repairs to the Bus Shelter and whether or not a wood structure would be more suitable than the old brick one. As the Clerk had been unsuccessful at getting the Thatcher to attend to re-thatch the roof, Cllr K Webb stated he would try and contact him.

## **18. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Even though it was not a question Mr Nick Jones stated that Camelot were complaining that the Shop was not hitting its Lottery targets and threatened to take the machine away. To this end and to remind the public that there was a lottery terminal at the shop, Mr Jones asked permission to tie the Lottery sign to the tree outside the shop to stop it blowing away or being removed. This was granted.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (Brought Forward because of Easter)

The Meeting was closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....

Date.....