

# 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> November 2010.

## **PRESENT**

Councillors: Mr D C B Webb (Chairman), Mr A E Hunt (Vice Chairman), Mr B Tibbles, Mr K G Webb, Mrs R Woodcraft and, and Miss M Verneti (Clerk). District Cllr Mr P Austin.

1. No Apologies were received
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October were duly agreed. Cllr B Tibbles proposed, Cllr A E Hunt seconded and the Chairman signed them as a true record.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**  
There were no declarations of interest.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
  - a. With regard to measuring the pot holes, the Chairman had established that the most pressing and dangerous one's were actually in Church Lane, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Highways Department to find out who was responsible for the upkeep of Church Lane.
  - b. The Clerk was waiting for a price from Playquip Leisure to replace the missing horses head.
  - c. This year's ROSPA report was due any time. ROSPA had written explaining that after this year the price would rise to £63 per site plus an extra cost for anything over 5 pieces.
  - d. As the Clerk had received only positive responses from the residents of Adams Lane and Nightingale Close it was agreed that she should write to Suffolk County Council asking for the timers to be fitted.
  - e. The Clerk had written to the residents of Ardmay, asking for the hedge along side Stocks Lane to be cut back, which appeared to have been done, and Bell Cottage asking for the trellis foliage to be cut back.
  - f. With regard to the sewage problems at the bottom of the village Anglian Water had been in touch with the Clerk to explain that the proposed camera test couldn't be carried out because the sewer was so full of grease and fats. This had been jetted through and appeared to be running normally, and a camera test would still be carried out to ensure that nothing else was wrong. Anglian Water agreed to keep in touch with the Parish council, and the Clerk had kept Mr R Scott informed of the situation. Anglian Water also suggested a leaflet drop, reminding people what not to let go down into the sewerage system.
  - g. The Clerk had written to Mr Minta regarding the diseased beech tree at Alexandra Cottage, but the tree was still there. She was asked to chase again.
  - h. The Clerk had received a response to her letter from SCC regarding the Public Toilets which stated they were not due for refurbishment until 2013/2014. It

was agreed to write back to find out what else could be done as clearly they needed work sooner than that.

- i. With regard to the Windpump being on the Historic Buildings at Risk Register, the Clerk was asked to write to Natural England to see what their plans for the building were.
- j. With regard to the Visitor Centre – the clerk had claimed the back rent from SCC and was in correspondence with Suffolk Coasts and Heaths and the Local History Group about setting up a meeting to discuss the future of the site.
- k. Finally an apology had been received from the organisers of the cycle ride with a promise to contact us before next year's event.

## 5. PLANNING

- a. **Planning Notifications Received:**
  - 1. **Land to the side and rear of rosemary cottage and former Waveney Lodge (Kingfisher/Moonfleet), The Street, (C10/0188) – Refused**
- b. **Planning Applications Received:**

There were no new planning applications received.
- c. **Tree Works:**
  - 1. **Bennetts Copse (C10/0010/)** - Removal of 14 Self seeded sycamore trees – No objections
  - 2. **Bittern House, Millfield Road** – Removal of 3 conifer trees, one bay tree and one holly tree.
  - 3. **White Cottage, The Street** – Prune Silver Birch at front and reduce same at rear.

## 6. ACCOUNTS

- a) **Receipts**
  - a. Photocopying charges Mr J MacCarthy £3.81
- b) **Payments:**
  - a. Gift From Community Benefit Fund for Mr M J Reeder, retiring Postman £100.00
  - b. Refund of part photocopying charges Mr J MacCarthy - £1.40
  - c. Mr T Oram – aerating Village green - £50.53
  - d. Village Hall Hire Costs – Sept – Dec - £62.50
  - e. Cllr A Aldridge – Travelling expenses - £16.80
  - f. Cllr D Webb – Travelling expenses - £36.80

Cllr K Webb proposed and Cllr A Aldridge seconded that the accounts were agreed for payment and the receipts acknowledged.

- c) **Draft Budget for 2011:** The Clerk stated that even though the Parish Council had managed not to spend as much as last year, the reserves were seriously depleted and she suggested that the precept wasn't reduced for 2011. She also asked the Councillors for ideas as to repairs/spending that they may have ideas on for the next meeting. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would meet before the next meeting to go through the draft more thoroughly.

**7. SPEED MANAGEMENT DOCUMENT**

The Chairman had found a company that could provide VA Signs somewhat cheaper than Suffolk County Council, and stated that we would most likely have to ask the Walberswick Common Lands Charity for assistance. The Clerk had received two letters from residents in Adams Lane suggesting that as there were a high proportion of children there, the sign may be better placed there. The Clerk and the Chairman have written to SC Highways Department and the SCDC Planners to find out what sort of permissions are required, and also broach the subject of the reducing the speed limit to 20 mph with the SC Highways Department.

- 8.** Following the resignation of Mr C Hosea, which the Chairman had accepted, the Clerk had informed the Returning Officer at SCDC and the notices advertising a vacancy have been posted. If no one calls for an election, and no one puts their name forward, as it is only 7 months until full Parish Council elections (May 2011) it is hoped that the Parish Council would not need to co-opt for the remaining term.

**9. SEA DEFENCES**

The Chairman reported that work had begun at East Point Bay on behalf of the WCLCT to put some posts in so that the tide did not continue to push all the shingle up in front of the buildings there.

The Chairman also told the Parish Council of the success that the Southwold Harbour Trust had had with WDC in obtaining a substantial EFF Grant, which meant that the repairs to the North Dock Wall could go ahead. The bid had also included much better facilities for the fishermen including crane, cold store, fuel store, and ice making facilities.

**10. WALBERSWICK COMMON LANDS CHARITY:**

**a. Dates for Nominative Trustees**

The Parish Council had received a letter from WCLCT stating that the terms of 3 of the 4 Nominative Trustees, plus 1 of the 2 Co-optive Trustees all came up for review within 5 months of each other. It was felt that if this was left then there was the potential risk of losing continuity and experience in a short space of time and given that a number of the Trust's initiatives were long term it was felt that this should be changed. The Parish Council was asked to agree to the following changes:

Mr James Darkins – expiry due December 2010 – no change;  
Mr David Webb – expiry due January 2011 to be moved to December 2011; Mr Nigel Hunt – expiry due May 2011 to be moved to December 2012; and Mr Clive Brynley-Jones – expiry due June 2012 to be moved to December 2013.

The proposal was discussed and agreed, proposed by Cllr B Tibbles and seconded by Cllr A Hunt.

**b. Next Nominative Trustee Selection**

The Term for Mr James Darkins was due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. As the timing was short the Clerk explained that she had already posted the notices

on the boards asking for applications. The closing date had been stated as 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 so that the Councillors could make a decision at the next Parish Council Meeting.

#### **11. PARISH COUNCIL PROCEDURES:**

- a. SALC had provided the Chairman with a draft format for Public Forum Protocol. The Chairman read this out and asked for comments. The Councillors agreed that it was a good idea to implement this protocol. Cllr Austin was asked for his views and he stated that it might be a good idea for the external reports to be presented during the public forum as it meant if there were other meetings to attend, especially in the case of the County Councillor, they could leave after delivering their report. It was therefore agreed to adopt this protocol and the Clerk agreed to publish it on the notice boards.

**NB:** Subsequently it was suggested that if the external reports were held outside the meeting then they would not be minuted. It was therefore agreed to ask the County and District Councillors where they would like the external reports to be presented and then agree the final wording at the next meeting.

- b. Due to certain members of the public calling into question some of the Standing Orders, and after some discussions with SALC it was clear that they needed some updating. The Chairman therefore asked for agreement to suspend the current Standing Orders. This was proposed by Cllr R Woodcraft and seconded by Cllr B Tibbles. It was further agreed that they would be updated by a smaller group of Councillors comprising, Cllr A Hunt, Cllr A Aldridge, Cllr R Woodcraft and the Clerk.

#### **12. CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS**

It was agreed that Cllr Aldridge would order the Christmas Tree for the village green to be delivered early December. The annual carol service will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December and the Clerk agreed to book the Vicar and the Village Hall. Cllr K Webb stated that Mrs Webb would co-ordinate and organise the coffee and mince pies in the village hall afterwards.

#### **13. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. An invitation had been received to the SALC AGM. It was agreed that Cllr D Webb and Cllr K Webb would attend for the Parish Council
- b. A letter was produced from SCDC inviting Councillors to a Budget Review and “Big Society” meetings to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November at Woodbridge. It was agreed that County Councillor Leighton could inform the Parish Council of the necessary and salient points.
- c. A letter was received from Ipswich and East Suffolk Headway asking for a donation. After a discussion it was agreed to send them a donation of £25.00
- d. Two letters had been received from Suffolk Coasts and Heaths one, a survey on Responsible Dog Ownership, which the Chairman agreed to complete, and a second one on Undergrounding Overhead Power Lines. After a

discussion on the fact that this power lines were across the marshes it was clear that undergrounding these cables would be a waste of money which could be much better spent on the cables in the actual village. Cllr A Hunt agreed to draft a response.

- e. A letter had been received from the Britten Pears Organisation giving information on grants that could be available to small village organisations. It was agreed to send this information to the Village Hall Management Committee, the Local History Group, and Sanderlings.
- f. The letter received from UNISON regarding SCDC's New Strategic Direction was added to the circulars for Councillors to read and comment on further if necessary.
- g. An email update had been received from Chattisham and Hintlesham regarding Pylons. Cllr Hunt agreed to find out some more information on it on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **14. REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE**

The Clerk had two reports from PCSO Newson for September and October. For August and beginning of September there were no recorded crimes, and for end September, beginning October there were two recorded crimes, one theft "other" on September 12<sup>th</sup> and Criminal damage to a vehicle on September 20<sup>th</sup>, which the Parish Council assumed was the vandalism to the Environment Agency Trucks.

County Councillor Rae Leighton was not in attendance.

District Councillor Peter Austin told the Parish Council that the decision on repairs to the A12 at Blythburgh had been deferred whilst local MP's tried to secure extra funding. There had obviously been a comprehensive spending review and were expected to produce a 7.25% reduction over the next two years, which amounted to some £1.8 million in grant funding. WDC had been working on a 5% reduction and it was hoped to offset that over the next couple of years.

#### **15. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

- a. Councillor K Webb stated that the grass seed, which had been kindly donated by a village resident, looked as if it had taken for the most part, and he also thanked all the volunteers who turned up and helped.
- b. The Beach clean was a success, with less rubbish collected than previously which was a good sign. There was also a good turnout, and again he thanked all those that had taken the time.
- c. Cllr Aldridge stated that she had been approached by another resident of the Terrace to see if the single yellow line opposite the Terrace could be changed to a double yellow, as when cars parked there it was virtually impossible to get out of either end. The Clerk agreed to contact Highways and look into it.
- d. Cllr Aldridge also stated she had been sent an email document from the Marine Aggregate Company where she had attended the forum, and she agreed to forward this information on to the other councillors.
- e. Cllr Tibbles reported that all the caravans had been moved for the winter.

- f. Cllr A Hunt stated that he wished to publicly thank Cllr Tibbles for his help when at very short notice it was discovered that the guttering at the village hall was blocked and the kitchen was flooding and he turned out straight away to sort the problem out.
- g. The Chairman stated that he wished to thank Mr John Harris for the extremely supportive letter he had sent to the Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal District Council.
- h. The Chairman also told Councillors that through the website, Kay and Bill Ungless had heard from a couple who believed they had purchased the “stolen” original village sign. The chairman was in touch with them and report any further developments.

**16. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- a. Mr J MacCarthy asked if there were any financial implications for the meeting held “in camera” on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. The Chairman responded that there were not.
- b. Mr N Crocker asked whether the Parish Council had heard anything about improving the Broadband speed in the village. The Chairman responded that he hadn’t and Mr Crocker stated that he was happy to do some research as it was possible that improvements may be on the cards with Sizewell looking ever more likely, and the Brewery’s new distillery and distribution centre needing better speeds. It was also agreed that Cllr Aldridge would take it to the next SPLG Group meeting as an item to be put on the “wish list”.
- c. Mr A Wells Baker brought up the subject of the village hall and whether or not the council would be interested in a scheme were it was extended and upgraded with office suites that people might be able to use. Cllr Hunt, who is also on the Village Hall Management Committee pointed out that over the last couple of years £30,000 had been spent on improvements and it was unlikely that they would want to do more at present.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm.

The Meeting was closed at 8.50 pm

Signed.....

Date.....