

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th June 2010

PRESENT

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

1. The Chairman introduced the two new Councillors, Mrs Rita Woodcraft and Mr Chris Hosea who had put their names forward and been elected as a result of an uncontested election. Both Councillors signed the Declaration of Office in the presence of the other Councillors, and the documents were witnessed by the Clerk
2. Apologies had been received from Mrs A Aldridge (Vice Chairman), and were taken as read for the County Councillor Mr R Leighton.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** for the 10th May 2010 were **approved**, subject to one change requested by Mr A E Hunt, which was duly altered and initialled by the Clerk and Chairman. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**
 - a. **Changes to Procedure:** The Clerk explained that due to some thinly veiled complaints from some people in the village, the Parish Council had asked her to obtain some advice from SCDC Monitoring Officer, Mrs Hilary Slater and SALC. The clerk had previously distributed the documentation received to all Councillors. It appeared that in future because of the blood relationship between Cllrs D and K Webb, when one declared an interest the other had to declare the same interest, and it was unanimously agreed that in future this would be adhered to. However, in the past Mr K Webb had been extremely cautious when declaring an interest in potential work, and the monitoring officer had made it clear that in future unless money had actually changed hands, or there was a prior working relationship between Mr K Webb and the applicant then he need only declare a personal interest, and could therefore remain in the room and indeed vote, as could Mr D Webb. It was only in the case of a clear prejudicial interest that both Mr D and Mr K Webb would have to leave the room only for the vote.

As this was clearly a serious matter the Clerk also asked all Councillors to re-read and once again complete the “register of interests” forms to ensure that the were all still current and correct.

b. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr K Webb declared an interest in item 6a. The Clerk pointed out that this was not necessary as it was only a Planning Notification.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- a. The Clerk stated that she had not had the time to complete the minutes of the Special Planning meeting but that they would be completed before the next meeting.
- b. The Clerk was still chasing a response from the EA as to why the footpaths were going to be closed for so long, but in the meantime had received a phone call stating that work was to begin again in August. She had told the EA that August was the worst possible time to close the paths as it was when the most visitors were in the village, and asked them to reconsider.
- c. Sgt Goddard had still not responded to our request to attend a meeting, so the Clerk had emailed Cllr Leighton to see if he could help.
- d. SCC has responded to the complaints about potholes by asking the PC to fill in a form which involved measuring the potholes! It was agreed that a working party would go “potholing” as soon as possible and complete the forms.
- e. Cllr K Webb has got some grass seed on order so that the very bad bald patches of the green can be re-seeded before the school holidays.
- f. The clerk had written to all residents in Adams Lane regarding the Street Lighting, she had received some responses, and a couple of residents had been onto SCC and been told about the possibility of fitting Timers to the lights so that they went off at midnight – it was clear from the initial response that most residents wished the lights to remain but were interested in this Timer.
- g. Cllr A Hunt explained that he had taken the issue of the Mobile Library to the Village Hall Management Committee meeting and they had agreed to issue the Van with a key fob for the village hall car park for a trial period of three months to see if that eased the problems.
- h. Two wooden posts have been erected by the post box at the green end of Ferry road to prevent illegal parking.

6. **PLANNING**

- a. **Planning Notifications Received:**
 1. **Manor House, The Street (C10/0888)** - Despite the Parish Council objecting to the overmassing of the site the application had been passed. The Clerk had emailed Mr Price at SCDC to ask why and received a long email response, which was read out at the meeting.
- b. **Planning Applications Received:**
 1. **9 Church Lane (C10/1161)** – External insulation and render of property. The Council had thought that this application had been withdrawn but it had been re-submitted (C10/0084) with no apparent change. The Parish Council still objected to the proposal as it would destroy the way the house looked. Cllr Woodcraft who currently lived in a similar house confirmed that she had no problems with damp and Cllr K Webb, who had grown up in the house stated that it was a total waste of taxpayers money.
 2. **Kermont, The Street (C10/1190)** – erection of single garage. One Councillor did question why a new garage was required when there was already a double garage on the site, but the Parish Council did not have any planning reasons for objecting so therefore did not object to this application.

3. **Tygwyn, The Lea (C10/1251)** - Erection of entrance lobby, replacement garage and various changes to windows. The Parish Council had no objections tot his application.

- c. **Tree Works:**
None

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **Receipts**
 - i. HMRC - 2nd Half 2010 VAT Reclaim £386.92
 - ii. Via T Kohn – Gift from anonymous benefactor - £1,000
- b. **Payments**
 - i. Village Hall Management Committee – Hire of Village Hall April to June 2010 £ 45.00
 - ii. T Oram – for aerating the village green - £50.01

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

- c. The Clerk had completed the annual audit with the help of Mr T Kohn. The Chairman read through the declaration as part of the audit and signed it as a correct and true record of the Parish Council’s accounts for the year ending 31.03.2010.
Both the Clerk and the Chairman expressed their sincere thanks to Mr Kohn for his continued assistance to the Parish Council.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. A letter of thanks had been received from SCDC thanking the Parish Council for submitting its comments to the Scrutiny Working Party, regarding planning issues.
- b. A Letter of thanks had been received from Walberswick PCC thanking them for their donation.
- c. A letter had been received from a Resident asking members of the Parish Council to pay her a visit – The Chairman and Cllr B Tibbles agreed to visit the resident.
- d. The Suffolk Coastal Conservative Association submitted a letter asking for permission to hold the annual fete on the Village Green. This was given verbally via District Councillor Peter Austin.

9. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES

The Chairman reported that with regards to the repair/replacement of the North Dock Wall, WDC were actively seeking grants and funding to top up what funds they had pledged to the project.

With regards to the Blyth Estuary project to reinforce the river banks, it was hoped that work would start at the end of August, but this would very much depend on the amount and availability of landfill from local contractors, but the plan was to go down the river via the track along side the gamekeepers house via the marshes and develop a service track behind the existing walls for future access.

10. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

It was discussed that now might be a good time to carry out another Housing Needs Survey, especially in light of the Chairman's previous survey into the number of holiday homes in the village, and the continued ill feeling regarding some planning applications. It was agreed that initially the Clerk would seek the advice of the various authorities who could offer assistance with this and a small piece be put in the village new to alert residents that it would be forthcoming.

11. PRESENTATION ON SUSTAINABLE VILLAGES FROM SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

It was clear this item has caused a bit of confusion as to how it was written as one member of the public had actually informed the Chairman of the SPS that he was in fact doing a presentation that night. The Clerk had sorted out the mix up, and it was agreed that it might be a very good idea in the future, but that it was important to get the HN Survey carried out first.

12. CHANGES TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Clerk had had a response from Mr L Smith at Suffolk County Highways Department, detailing where he thought he could put the new signs. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to try and arrange a meeting with Mr Smith to come to the village with a map of the proposals and meeting with any available Councillors.

The Meeting was suspended to receive external reports:

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

Due to the sad death of his wife County Cllr Rae Leighton was not in attendance but it was agreed to send the formal condolences of all on the Parish Council.

District Cllr Peter Austin stated that he had attended a SCDC LDF Planning forum, which was the same as the one Cllrs Hunt and D Webb would be attending the following evening. He also stated that Bramfield Parish Council had invited him to go and see the potential site at Thorington Pit for a new wind turbine. It would appear that currently this site is a haven for wildlife and has to be completely cleared before they can use it which is a shame, so there are currently discussions as to whether a smaller turbine can be sited there so that some of it can remain.

The Clerk had received a short report from PCSC Newson stating that there were no recorded crimes in Walberswick from the 1st April to the 7th June.

The meeting was re-convened.

14. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. It was brought up that the lifebelts had again been vandalised, and some of the signs put up by Natural England had been torn down, it had taken four people nearly an hour to clear up the broken glass after a party on the beach. The Police had been called but appeared to do nothing, in fact it turned out that they had had information that there was potentially going to be an illegal rave in Walberswick but had decided it was just going to be some youngsters “chilling” out. It was agreed to write to the PCSO Section commander to ensure that any such information is passed onto the Parish Council as there have been problems like this before.
- b. Cllr A Hunt stated that he was very pleased that Mrs Woodcraft and Mr Hosea had joined the Parish Council but stated for the record that he was very surprised that none of the people who had recently been highly critical of the Parish Council had bothered to stand. All the other Councillors agreed.
- c. The Chairman had attended the SALC meeting as Cllr Aldridge had been unable to. He reported that had there been an age profile, Walberswick would have come out quite well! He also stated that the main bone of contention still seemed to be Planning and because of this SALC were proposing to send out a survey to ask Parishes their views. SALC are moving to become a Company Limited by Guarantee in order to try to ensure that members are not liable in the organisation fails. They stated that the new National Planning body is likely to disappear as part of Government cuts.
- d. The Chairman also stated that it was a sad indication of how personal current planning issues had become and how dangerous misinformation was that a resident in the village had approached Cllr K Webb who was sitting outside his house and an altercation had taken place because the resident had still been of the misconception that the meeting with the Planners had been a public meeting, which was not the case.

15. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr A Walpole asked what format the Survey of Housing Needs would be taking. The Chairman stated that it was to be determined by the Parish Council and that the information would be sent out the Parishoners in the normal fashion, once the process had been decided.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 5th July. The Meeting was closed at 8.45 pm

Signed.....

Date.....