

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, 10th May 2010

PRESENT

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

1. Cllr A E Hunt proposed Cllr D C B Webb as Chairman. Cllr B Tibbles seconded this, all other Councillors were in favour. Cllr D C Webb accepted and signed the Declaration of Office in the presence of the other Councillors.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - County Cllr Mr R Leighton
3. The new Chairman Cllr D C Webb proposed that the Vice Chairman should be Cllr Mrs A Aldridge. Cllr A E Hunt seconded this and all other Councillors were in favour. Cllr Mrs A Aldridge accepted.
4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - Cllr K G Webb declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Items 10.b 2 & 3 and also stated he would withdraw.
5. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** for the 29th March 2010 were **approved, subject to a few typographical errors and one change.** It was agreed that they would be signed as a true record by the Chairman at the next meeting.
6. The new Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs A Aldridge was happy to continue as the Parish Council representative to SALC.
7. Cllr A E Hunt was asked to continue as the Parish Council representative to the Village Hall Management Committee, and he agreed.
8. The Clerk had checked with SALC and had been informed that there was no need to have a separate Councillor as the Responsible Financial Officer as well as the Clerk, and that as long as the accounts continued to be audited by an external auditor then that was satisfactory.
9. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. The Clerk had finally heard from Philip Ridley late on the previous Friday evening regarding the planning meeting. The first available date was Friday 14th May, which whilst being short notice was acceptable to all the Parish Councillors and as we had been trying to set this meeting up for some considerable amount of time it was agreed to go with this date. Even though it was a Parish Council meeting not a public meeting notices and Agenda would be posted in the normal places as soon as was practicable.
 - b. The Clerk had received a response from SCC blaming the closure of the footpaths on the Environment Agency – the clerk had written to obtain their comment but as yet had had no response.

- c. Sgt Daye Goddard had responded somewhat cryptically to the request that she attend our meeting to discuss the issues we had with the Mobile Police Station and general policing in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would write again to explain what input we were looking for.
- d. It was agreed that the issue of the Parking Restrictions and signage was the responsibility of the Parish Council, not Walberswick Car Parks Limited, and the Clerk was asked to contact Highways and see what the current situation was.
- e. The Clerk had complained to Highways about potholes in Short Lane, The Street and Church Lane and been sent a form to complete requesting more information.
- f. It was clear that regardless of the aeration performed on the Village Green by T Oram it was in a bad way with lots of bald patches. It was agreed that Councillors would get some grass seed and try and re-sow some of it before the summer season.
- g. The Clerk had been informed by Mr David Gallagher at Waveney DC that the issue of winter siting of the caravans had been passed to him to deal with. The clerk sent him the details of the Planning Application dated 2002 which Cllr A Hunt had found and is waiting for a response.

10. PLANNING

a. Planning Notifications Received:

1. **9 Church Lane (C10/0084)** - The Parish Council had received a letter dated 30th March stating that the application had been withdrawn – however the day before the meeting a new proposal arrived. It will therefore be discussed again at the next meeting.
2. **Spindrift, Lodge Road (C10/0327)** – Application withdrawn
3. **18 Manor Close (C10/0382)** – Application approved
4. **Anchorlea, The Street (C10/0268)** – Application approved

b. Planning Applications Received:

1. **Millcroft, Millfield Road (C10/0966)** Erection of two outbuildings and wall (existing garage to be demolished). – There were no objections to this application.

Cllr K C Webb declared an interest in the next two items and left the room.

2. **Manor House, The Street (C10/0888)** Erection of timber framed single bay cart lodge. The Parish Council objected strongly to this application. They felt that the cart lodge right in the middle of the plot would have a massive impact on the street scene. It was also felt that the number of continuous applications for this site, the swimming pool, numerous extensions and outbuildings meant that the garden was greatly reduced. There was also concern that the Architect had used old drawings for the application which did not correctly show the new extensions, outbuildings, swimming pool and trampoline pit on the site.
3. **Land to side and rear of Rosemary Cottage, and former Waveney Lodge, The Street (C10/0188)** Erection of 8 dwellings, to include 2

affordable units and 4 bungalows and construction of access road – Revised scheme.

Cllr A E Hunt began the discussion by stating that there were still, in his opinion too many houses on the plot. He stated that the original plan of 3 to 4 bungalows on the site would have been acceptable but that this was not. It classed as an estate which he did not feel the village needed, it was far too big, and would have a large impact on the visual amenity of its surrounding neighbours. He asked that the Council refuse the application again.

Cllr B Tibbles stated that if what the developer, Mr Wells Baker had stated during the public forum before the meeting began, then it was clear that Suffolk Coastal District Council were in favour of development of the site, and as was so often the case the Parish Council would be able to do little to stop it. The other Councillors agreed, and it was agreed to write to SCDC, objecting in principal to the size of the development. It was also agreed to try to arrange a meeting between one or two Councillors and a Planning Officer to have a discussion with the Developer to see if a compromise on the development plan could be reached that would be satisfactory to the Developer, provide a benefit to the village, and be more acceptable generally.

Cllr K Webb returned to the Meeting

c. **Tree Works:**

1. **Saltlick, Leveretts Lane (C10/00036/TCA)** Eucalyptus 25% reduction –
The Cllrs had no objection to this.

d. **Other Planning Related Matters:**

1. **Planning Forum – 8th June 2010** – SCDC were running a second Planning Forum on the 8th June and it was agreed that Cllrs D Webb, A Aldridge and A E Hunt would attend on behalf of the Parish Council and report back to the others.

11. ACCOUNTS

a. **Receipts**

- i. Bank Interest Oct – 31.03.10 - £1.92
- ii. Insurance Refund for repairs to the Flagpole, less excess on policy - £641.00
- iii. Village Hall Management Committee's share of grass cutting for 09/10 - £95.59
- iv. Walberswick Common Lands Charity's share of grass cutting for 09/10 - £95.59
- v. SCC Recycling credits to 31.03.10 - £5.41
- vi. First Half of Precept for 2010/2011 - £3871.00

b. **Payments**

- i. Annual PCC Donation - £150 (09/10 accounts)
- ii. Annual Subscription to SALC - £142
- iii. Annual Subscription to Suffolk Acre - £25

- iv. Blois Farms – Bird in Hand Field – Rent April to October 2010 (New agreed amount) - £75
- v. Walberswick Common Lands Charity - Annual Rent for the Sports Field - £1
- vi. Annual Subscription to NALC – Local Councils Review - £13.50

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

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. A letter had been received addressed to Mr Hunt and Mr Webb questioning the Councillors adherence to the Code of Conduct. It was felt that this letter was a deliberate ploy to cast doubt on the integrity of the serving Councillors and should not be dignified with a response. However it was discussed that all letters should be addressed to the Clerk, not individual members of the Council
- b. The Clerk had received a letter from the SCDC Monitoring Officer Mrs Hilary Slater, stating that she had received the same letter mentioned in 12.a, and that should we require any advice or clarification then we were free to call her. It was agreed that the Clerk would call.
- c. A letter had been received from the Environment Agency regarding our letter about the flood risk map. It was a long response with attachments so the Clerk had added it to the monthly circulars for every Councillor to read. If necessary it could be revisited after everyone had read it.
- d. The Clerk had received a letter from SCDC detailing changes in Services. The two main areas of concern were the introduction of a charge for additional litter collections as this would potentially affect the Beach Clean, and reducing the verge cutting from 17 down to 14 cuts per year. The Clerk was asked to write and obtain clarification about the beach clean and ask SCDC to ensure that the junction at the Water Tower be kept clear and the verge at the end of Adams Lane.
- e. The Clerk had received another response from Mr Dexter Kirk regarding the potential Southwold and Reydon Swimming Association. It appeared that building their own pool appeared to be a non-starter, but that trying to get St Felix to extend the hours it was open to the public was a better option. Mr Kirk had told the Clerk he would keep her informed.
- f. A resident had emailed the Clerk about the problems the mobile Library was having with parking and stopping at the green, and how the Parking attendants had requested a parking fee when they had tried to park at Ferry Road. It was agreed that Cllr A Hunt would take this matter to both Walberswick Car Parks Ltd, and the Village Hall Management Committee, to see if a suitable solution could be found.

13. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES

There was nothing to update this month.

14. Appointment of New Councillors

The Notice of a Vacancy for a Councillor had been posted on the Notice Boards. The Clerk had spoken to the Returning Officer at SCDC who had confirmed that more than 10 Residents had called for an Election. As they were still very busy

with the General Election it was hoped to get the “Election Timetable” to the clerk in the following week, with an election being held towards the end of June.

15. Street Lighting in Adams Lane

The Clerk explained that Mr Chris Lister from Suffolk County Council’s Highways Department had contacted her regarding the street lighting in the Village. He had been approached by a gentleman who was urging him to object to the Rosemary Cottage application because, as it was classed as an “Estate” it would require street lighting, and most residents would be against this. Mr Lister rang the Clerk to inform her that the rules had changed and now, “estates” no longer automatically required street lighting, it was left up to the choice of the local Parish council. Mr Lister had visited the village to see the site for himself and had been surprised to see the street lighting in Adams Lane, and felt that there MAY be a case for possibly getting the street lights removed. It was agreed at the meeting that the Clerk would write to all residents in Adams Lane and Nightingale Close and ask them for their views before taking this matter any further.

16. SPLG Report

Cllr A Aldridge attended the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group on behalf of the Parish Council and reported back that the aim of the group was to get what improvements they could out of the proposed new power station at Sizewell, should it go ahead. She reported that it was very early days as yet, and there was going to be a lot more local consultation, especially in the areas regarding transportation and recruitment for the area. The Environment Agency were carrying out Flood Risk assessments on the area, and there was still talk of a new access road. The organisers stated that if we wished they would be happy to come and do a presentation for us, but it was agreed that this was not required at present although we may take the offer up at a later stage.

17. Traffic Management and Parking

The Clerk had been approached by another Parish Council who had been told we had carried out a visitor management survey, and they had asked for sight of it. It was agreed that in respect of the latest Signage and yellow line problems that it was probably out of date and of not much use to anyone else. The Clerk was asked to write back to that effect but offer any other help that may be of use.

On the subject of the signage and change to parking restrictions it was agreed that this was the responsibility of the Parish Council, not Walberswick Car Parks Limited and the Clerk was asked to contact SCDC Highways Department to re-open discussions with them to get the matter sorted.

The Meeting was suspended to receive external reports:

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

County Cllr Rae Leighton has sent his apologies, District Cllr Peter Austin stated that he had nothing new to report and the Clerk had not received a report from PCSC Newson.

The meeting was re-convened.

19. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

1. Cllr K Webb mentioned again the state of the village green. Mr Oram had aerated it again, but there were large bald patches all over it. It was agreed to get some grass seed, and attempt to re-seed it before the summer started in earnest..
2. Cllr K Webb also noted that the guttering at the rear of the village hall had come down and was in need of repair. Cllr A Hunt agreed to bring this up to the Village Hall Management Committee.
3. The Clerk had received a response from Highways requesting more information about the potholes we had reported – it appeared they needed to be measured!
4. Cllr B Tibbles mentioned about illegal parking at the post box at the end of Ferry Road. It was agreed to look into placing two wooden posts in front of the area to prevent this.
5. Cllr A Aldridge brought a request from Mr Aldridge for permission to hold the fete on the Village green on the 28th August. It was mentioned that it was the Church organising it this year. Permission was granted and Cllr A Aldridge agreed to tell Mr Aldridge.
6. Cllr A Hunt brought up a request from Mr W Ungless and the Parish Plan Steering Committee about the questionnaires for the village, and how they needed volunteers for delivering and collecting these forms. The notice was going to be published in full in the Village News.
7. It had been noted that the horse’s head was missing from one of the pieces of play equipment up on the common. Councillors had looked around for it to no avail and the Clerk was asked to contact Playquip Leisure to discuss a replacement.
8. Cllr D Webb had also checked out the state of the large swings on the green and it appeared that the frame was need of some repair. The Clerk was asked to contact Waveney District Council to see if they might come out and repair it for us under a Health and Safety issue.

20. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr N Jones reported that someone had applied to take over the post office in Yoxford, but nothing was agreed yet and it was likely that the Outreach Programme will end with the retirement of the current Official. It was hoped that the Post office would see that this was classed as “Post Office Essential Services” and be continued, but as yet that was not clear. Mr Jones agreed to keep the Parish Council informed.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 7th June. The Meeting was closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....

Date.....