

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Main Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 4th July 2011.

PRESENT: Councillors Mr D C B Webb (Chairman), Mr A E Hunt (Vice-Chairman), Mr N J Crocker, Mr B Tibbles, Mrs R Woodcraft and Miss M Vernetti (Clerk). County Councillor Mr R Leighton and District Councillor Mr M Gower.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Mrs A Aldridge and Councillor K G Webb

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on Monday 6th June were proposed by Cllr Mrs Woodcraft and seconded by Cllr Hunt and unanimously agreed, by those who had attended. The Chairman signed them as a true record.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

The Chairman, Cllr Mr D Webb declared a personal interest in item 6.b.3

4. REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE

The District Councillor, Mr M Gower reported that the district councillors were undergoing significant amounts of training, for example he was due to attend training the following day on audit.

The County Councillor, Mr R Leighton reported that subtle changes of direction at the County Council were continuing. More than 800 employees had left the employment of the County Council although there had been few redundancies. The Chief Executive had left today and the workforce was still being slimmed. There was still a need to make big financial cuts and these cuts would be decided at the local level.

PCSO Newson reported that there had been no crimes in Walberswick in the last month. The priority for the Saxmundham and Framlingham Safer Neighbourhood Teams, (the area into which Walberswick falls), was to deal with youth related anti social behaviour and disorder in Saxmundham. The next public meeting was due to be held on 10th August.

The mobile police station would return to Walberswick on 12th July between 10-11.30am.

The Chairman suspended the meeting whilst Mr Smiley asked if more could be done by the Police in issuing parking tickets. PCSO Newson stated he would speak to the officer in charge of the Mobile Police Unit.

The meeting was reconvened, and the Chairman thanked the police for their swift response to his notification of gas cylinders being left on the beach after a party. Cllr Crocker asked what the position was with regard to camping on the beach. The Chairman explained that there were bylaws preventing camping on the dunes or

having fires on the beach except in certain circumstances. PCSO Newson said that if there was related disorder the police could be contacted and would attend. PCSO Newson also brought up the fact that there was still no neighbourhood watch co-ordinator in Walberswick and that this was detrimental to the village. It was **agreed** to put an item in the Village News asking for a volunteer.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. SCC have confirmed that the “intelligent light system” would be added to the street lights in Adams Lane and Nightingale Close by the end of the year. This would enable the lights to be turned off at pre-determined times.
- b. There were no updates on the future of the Post Office, the future of the windpump, or the potential steps on the allotments. The Clerk was asked to chase these items.
- c. With regard to the pot holes in church Lane – the Chairman agreed to chase the Housing Association regarding the pot holes as they are clearly getting worse.
- d. J T Pegg and Sons in Aldeburgh have been asked to come and quote to repair the swings. The clerk reported that if play equipment was repaired rather than replaced then it would not be possible to claim a grant from our section 106 monies.
- e. The owner of the Boiler flue in the main street had confirmed that this was due to be altered by the end of the month.
- f. The Chairman stated he had spoken to the Planners regarding the sign and hoarding at Alexandra Cottage and it was unclear if they could do anything. It was agreed that the Clerk should write directly to the Developer to see if he could at least be persuaded to paint the hoarding a more sympathetic colour.
- g. The Clerk had spoken to Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) about the Council’s request for an additional rubbish bin at the village hall. The person she spoke to had no record of the village hall having any bins and therefore said she was unable to provide another. During the Councillors’ discussion it appeared that the bins weren’t for the use of the village hall, they were for the camp and caravan sites and general visitor use, agreed with SCDC as part of the visitor management strategy, thus saving SCDC on rubbish collection costs . It was **agreed** that the Clerk would persevere with SCDC, Steve Green at SCDC may be able to help her. It was also **agreed** that Cllr Hunt would raise the matter with the village hall committee.
- h. The meetings concerning Southwold library had been suspended pending the outcome of Suffolk County Council’s (SCC) review of its policy on libraries.
- i. Nothing had been heard from either SCC or the EA regarding the steps over the sea wall at the end of the allotments. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase this.
- j. The Clerk had been in touch with Nigel Minter from Anglian Water with regards to the sewerage problems at the end of the village. Mr Minter had confirmed that the lines had been jetted again, and there had been some signs of fat and grease build up. They were repeating the camera survey later in the week so there should be more information to hand by the next meeting, although Mr Minter had stated he was still keen to carry out a leaflet drop of the area.

6. PLANNING

a) Planning Notifications:

Plot 1, 2 & 3, Land North of Alexandra Cottage, C11/0723, 0680, 0679:
Planning permission granted.

b) Planning Applications:

1. **The Anchor, The Street, C11/1282:** demolition and replacement of existing bathroom.
It was **agreed** to raise no objections to the application.
2. **Hidden House, The Green, C11/1347:** construction of dormer with oak French doors to replace existing roof light to open out onto new oak and glass balcony/deck at first floor level.
It was **agreed** to raise no objections to the application.
3. **Plot 1, Land North of Alexandra Cottage, The Street, C11/1420:** application to vary conditions of permitted development rights on previous approval.
The Chairman (Cllr D Webb) declared a personal interest in this item as he was a near neighbour to the site and took no part in voting.
4. It was **agreed** to object to this application as the North Area Sub Committee had clearly had good reasons for imposing the condition on the original approval.

c) No applications for **tree works had been received.**

7. ACCOUNTS

a) Receipts: There were no receipts this month.

b) Payments:

1. NALC (National Association of Local Councils) magazine subscription - £15.50
2. Southwold Press – Flyer for Village News - £28.00
3. Mr A Church – Repairs to bridge approaches - £78.40
4. Essex & Suffolk Water – sports field - £17.85
5. Miss M Vernetti – Salary April to June - £1,084.20
6. Miss M Vernetti – Expenses April to June - £67.40
7. Mr D Webb – Chairman's Allowance - £50.00

Councillor Hunt proposed and Councillor Tibbles seconded that the accounts be paid and these were unanimously **agreed**.

8. UPDATES:

- a) SEA DEFENCES** - The Chairman reported that the piling where the Dunwich River meets the Blyth at East Point Bay appears to be working well. The works to complete the track from Eastwood Lodge towards Tinkers Marshes is progressing, albeit slowly, as there is not so much waste soil available. The contract for the repairs to the North Dock Wall should be finalised soon with work potentially starting in the autumn.
- b) VILLAGE SIGN** – The Chairman reported that the sign had been collected and was now being renovated. It was still to be decided where to erect the sign, but both potential sites would need approval from the County Council.
- c) TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT** – It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact SCC again concerning the possibility of a 20 mph speed limit and a flashing sign at the village entrance as nothing had been heard.

- d) **VISITOR CENTRE** – The Chairman had put in a submission to SCC but had not yet received a response. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council’s application for a grant towards works in the visitor centre from Suffolk Coasts and Heaths had been successful and they had been awarded £500.00.
- e) **BROADBAND** – Cllr N Crocker explained that this was now being dealt with by one of the Parish Plan Focus groups. He agreed to report back to the Parish Council with any future updates.
- f) **POSITION OF CLERK** – Due to the confidential nature of this item the Chairman proposed a resolution that this matter be discussed at the end of the meeting and the public excluded. Cllr A Hunt seconded this resolution and it was passed by all those present.
- g) **EXCLUSION NOTICE REVIEW** – Due to the confidential nature of this item the Chairman proposed a resolution that this matter be discussed at the end of the meeting and the public excluded. Cllr A Hunt seconded this resolution and it was passed by all those present.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) A letter had been received from Dr Therese Coffey MP concerning ship to ship transfers in coastal waters. It was **agreed** to reply suggesting there should be some financial benefit from it for local communities.
- b) Dunwich Town Trust were building two affordable houses. They were required to seek applicants for the tenancies firstly from the parish of Dunwich, secondly from adjoining parishes. It was **agreed** to post their notices on the noticeboards.
- c) SCC were compiling a thatch register. It was **agreed** the Chairman would count the number of thatched buildings in the parish.
- d) SALC had sent through an entry form for “Village Newsletter” of the year. The post of a member of the Parish Council to sit on the Village Newsletter Committee had still to be filled. It was agreed that Cllr Rita Woodcraft would join this group and the letter was handed to her to pass onto the Committee.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a) Cllr Hunt suggested a letter of condolence be sent to Mrs Gordon-Potts on the death of her husband, Peter Gordon-Potts who had been such an important and respected figure in the village. It was **agreed**.
- b) Cllr Hunt also brought up the success of Walberswick’s first “Open Gardens”. The Parish Council congratulated all those involved and Cllr Hunt agreed to pass this onto the Committee.

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a) Mr Mellor explained that the Parish Plan was looking at the possibility of obtaining solar energy and Mr R Buncombe added that it was looking at the possibility of procurement which would benefit groups of individuals. The Chairman stated that at this point he felt that it was not something for the Parish Council to get involved with and that at this stage it should be left to the individual. Cllr Hunt as representative on the village hall committee said he would refer the possibility of utilising the village hall roof for solar panels to the committee.

- b) Mr Wardell offered to help with restoration or painting of the village sign.
- c) Mr McCarthy referred to the Code of Conduct for Members and to the Council's standing orders and said that in respect of agenda items on the position of the clerk and exclusion notice review the Council had to explain why it was excluding the public.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 1st August at 7.30 pm and the public part of the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

- 13.** The Chairman proposed and the Vice-Chairman seconded that the public be excluded from the rest of the meeting as it referred to the appointment of the new clerk, and a review of the exclusion notices. It was so **agreed**.

a) The appointment of a new clerk

A resolution was passed and unanimously agreed by all those present that the position of clerk be offered to Mrs Jane Gomm. Mrs Gomm was present and accepted the role.

b) The exclusion notice review.

A confidential note of the discussions and decisions will be kept on file.

Signed.....

Date.....