

# WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Main Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

## **PRESENT**

Councillors: Mr D C B Webb, Mr A E Hunt, Mr K G Webb, Mrs A Aldridge, Mrs R Woodcraft, and, Miss M Verneti (Clerk). County Cllr Mr R Leighton and District Cllr Mr M Gower.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mr B Tibbles and Cllr Mr NJ D Crocker.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May were proposed by Cllr Mrs A Aldridge and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Woodcraft and unanimously agreed. The Chairman signed them as a true record.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

Cllr Mr D Webb declared a personal interest in item 6b.4

Cllr Mr K Webb declared a personal interest in item 6b.4

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

County Councillor Mr R Leighton reported that at the AGM of the County Council the new leader had pledged to look at the current strategy. This was not, as reported in the media a “U-Turn” on policy, but more a “new route” to enable the Council to make the savings required. It would be more about changing the criteria for savings, but it was important to note that removing cost savings from some areas would mean that other areas would need to be cut. There was still much to be done and he would continue to report back to the council.

*NB District Cllr Mr M Gower had been delayed so actually gave his report later in the meeting, but for the sake of clarity his comments are included here in the correct section as per the published Agenda.*

The District Councillor Mr M Gower reported that Mr Ray Herring had been elected Leader of the District Council with Andy Smith as the Deputy Leader. All the various Committees were still be sorted out, and at present Mr Gower is sitting on the North Area Development Control Committee and the Policy Development Committee. As previously reported finances are tight, but there is a great deal of emphasis being put on the joint workings between SCDC and WDC and ensuring that they deliver the savings needed so as not to impact on other services.

There was no report from the Police this month.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. There was little progress on some of the outstanding issues.
- b. The Clerk had spoken again to the owner of the boiler flue in the main street and had been assured that this was being taken care of.
- c. No one from SC Services had come back about the rubbish bin at the village hall and the Clerk agreed to chase this again.
- d. The Clerk had spoken to a couple of companies who supplied play equipment and the like for like costs of replacing the swings on the green were between £2,000 and £3,000, a new slide would be between £4,000 and £5,800 and a see saw, which many children had mentioned in the Parish Plan questionnaire would be between £3,500 and £5,500! It was agreed initially to speak to the J T Pegg and Sons in Aldeburgh to see if any repairs could be effectively carried out to the swings.

## 6. PLANNING

### a) Planning Notifications:

- a. **Lane Corner, Palmers Lane C11/0433** – Permission Granted but our request to ensure it was never considered a separate dwelling has been included.
- b. **Primrose Cottage, Lodge Road C11/0240** – New dwelling approved.

### b) Planning Applications:

Cllrs D Webb and K Webb declared a personal interest in item 6 b.d

- a. **Short Lane House, Short Lane, C11/1073** – Erection of Porch – Unanimous – no objections.
- b. **Hoistwood House, The Street, C11/1083** – Re-submission of approval C10/1706 with alterations – Unanimous – no objections.
- c. **Seven Acres, Lodge Road, C11/1085** – Erection of single rear and side extensions – as it was not visible from the road – unanimous – no objections.
- d. **3 Church Lane, C11/1148** – Installation of external oil tank and boiler – 2 Cllrs declared an interest, remaining Cllrs had no objections.

### c) There were no new Tree works.

- d) **Other Planning Matters:** The sign at Alexandra cottage was brought up – The Chairman had already spoken to SCDC and been told that regulations state that a sign must not be more than two square meters unless it contains a place name and the sign had at the top “Alexandra Place”. However the planners were investigating whether such a large sign should be placed in an AONB.

## 7. ACCOUNTS

### a) Receipts - None

### b) Payments – None

- c) **Annual Audit:** The Clerk presented the annual accounts to the Parish Council which had been agreed by the external auditor Mr A D Kohn. The chairman read through the BDO Audit Governance Statement which was agreed by all present and it was signed and dated ready to send off. The clerk stated that it had been agreed with BDO to not return the other paperwork until the new clerk’s details were agreed.

## 8. UPDATES:

- a) **SEA DEFENCES** – The Chairman reported that a small group had been formed after the Parish Plan meeting specifically to look at the sea defences on the Walberswick side and that works to the North Dock Wall were progressing albeit slowly as WDC had the issue of a “Hung Council” to deal with.
- b) **EXCLUSION NOTICE REVIEW** – Cllr N Crocker was away at present but had confirmed to the Chairman that he was a long way to completing the Review and hoped to have something more concrete to report at the next meeting..
- c) **VILLAGE SIGN** – The Chairman had been in contact with the couple who had the sign and Mr James Darkins had agreed to go and collect it at a mutually agreeable time. It was clear that it might need some restoration, which the Crabbing Committee had agreed to pay £600 towards, but there was still the issue of deciding where to put it. The two contenders were on Stocks Green, as the Walberswick Frigate was built at the bottom of Stocks’ Lane and opposite the church near the bus shelter. Either place would most likely need the permission of Suffolk County Highways and it was agreed to put something else in the newsletter to seek people’s views.
- d) **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UPDATE** – There was still no feedback from SCC so it was agreed to chase it.
- e) **VISITOR CENTRE** – The Chairman had attended a very good meeting that afternoon with the County and district Councillors, and representatives from SCC, Natural England, Suffolk Coasts and Heaths and the Walberswick Local History Group. SCC had made it clear that they were pleased to see the village running the centre and were happy to discuss handing ownership of the hut back to the village. It was considered that it may be better to hand it the Common Lands Charity as they were responsible for other properties, but this had still to be discussed..
- f) **POSITION OF CLERK** The Chairman proposed a resolution that this item be discussed *in camera* at the end of the meeting when the public had left. This was unanimously agreed.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Clerk had received a letter from an independent person offering to do Playground equipment checks – it was agreed to keep this on file.
- b) SCC had sent through a blanket letter regarding the implementation of “intelligent” street lighting across the County. This was nothing to do with the specific issue in Adams Lane, but as yet the Clerk had been unable to contact the correct people to find out when this would be resolved.
- c) An invitation from Viridor Credits to nominate someone to sit on their committee for the Landfill Communities Fund Body. This was circulated to the Councillors for their views.

## 10. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a) Cllr K Webb mentioned the pot holes in Church Lane – it was clear that they were getting worse whilst the Chairman and Clerk were getting nowhere with SCC Highways and the Housing Association – it was agreed to keep chasing.

- b) Cllr K Webb also mentioned that since the fence had been put up around the play equipment on the common WDC had been unable to cut the grass, the Chairman agreed to take his mower up there and it was agreed to keep an eye on it.
- c) The Chairman stated that he had provisionally booked the village hall for the 4 day weekend in 2012 to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and it was hoped that the Parish Council along with the Village Hall committee and the Villagers themselves could come up with a good set of events to celebrate the occasion.
- d) The Chairman also mentioned he had reported to the police, the party on the beach where empty canisters of nitrous oxide had been found.

**11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- a) Mr R Buncombe asked that on a future agenda the state of the ground and access to, either side of the Kissing and Went Bridges be looked at. Cllr K Webb suggested sending someone to have a look at what was needed.
- b) Mr Peter Byrne stated that the bins at the village hall had been cleaned and were better, but still not great – there was still no sign of the extra bin, and the Clerk was asked to chase this.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm and he closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.20 pm. The Public were requested to leave.

**13. *IN CAMERA* DISCUSSION**

As the item under discussion concerned the applications for position of Clerk it will not be included in these minutes, but a confidential note of the discussion will be kept on file.

Signed.....

Date.....