

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall annexe at 7.30pm on Monday 1 August 2011.

PRESENT: Councillors Mr D C B Webb (Chairman), Mr A E Hunt (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Aldridge, Mr B Tibbles, Mr K G Webb, Mrs R Woodcraft and Miss M Verneti and Mrs J Gomm(joint Clerks). County Councillor Mr R Leighton and District Councillor Mr M Gower.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllr N Crocker.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July, subject to an amendment to item 11 b) where the name Mr Duane should have read Mr Wardell were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Hunt and seconded by Cllr Woodcraft.

Minutes of the special meeting held on 19 July, subject to an amendment to the spelling of Harvey in item 4 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Aldridge and seconded by Cllr Tibbles. The Chairman explained that although the meeting had been held in private the Council had decided to publish the minutes.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

Prejudicial interests: none

Personal interests: The Chairman, Cllr D Webb declared a personal interest in item 6 b).

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

The County Councillor, Mr R Leighton expressed pleasure at the number of members of the public attending the meeting. Suffolk County Council was making available £10,000,000 in pursuance of the extension of broadband throughout the county. With regard to speed limits, in order to save costs in future, all speed limits in the county had been surveyed to ensure they conformed to current central government guidance and largely met the wishes of the community. In future if a request for a change in the limit were made, it would be considered by officers and if the requested change did not conform to government guidance then the matter wouldn't be taken further. Savings of £50,000,000 needed to be found in the next two years. The establishment was being reduced by 1470. Libraries and recycling sites weren't to be closed, but changes to their management may happen.

The District Councillor, Mr M Gower reported that the District Councillors had spent a day reviewing the Core Strategy which would guide planning and development in the District for the next 20 years. The strategy was approved by the District Council subject to further consideration of its contents on environmental appraisals. There had been significant controversy over the proposal to allocate an area in or around Martlesham for 2,000 houses, but overall it had been considered that it was necessary to agree the strategy as without it the District would become more vulnerable to speculative development.

There was no report from the police.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. Potholes in Church Lane. **Agreed** that the Clerk would pursue the matter with the housing association.
- b. Sewage problems. Anglian Water had not received any reported problems this year, but intended to do a leaflet drop in the affected areas advising householders and others of what should not be disposed of in the drains. It also hoped to put an item in the village news in May or June next year.
- c. Post office. The Clerk would be given contact details by the Chairman in order to pursue this matter.
- d. Wind pump. The Council was still awaiting a response from Natural England.
- e. Repairs to the play equipment. ROSPA's last inspection had highlighted that the slide needed adjustments. Cllr K Webb was liaising with J T Pegg on this matter.
- f. Rubbish at the village hall compound. Cllr Hunt would report back to the Council once the matter had been raised by him at the next village hall management committee meeting.
- g. Beach Clean. A letter had been received from the Dunwich Parish Meeting. **Agreed** that if possible the timing of the October beach clean be co-ordinated with the clean undertaken on behalf of Dunwich Parish so that the complete stretch of beach between Walberswick and Dunwich could be cleaned.
- h. Steps over sea wall on public footpath adjacent to allotments. Both Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency were willing to agree to steps or a ramp subject to conditions. However who was to carry out and pay for the work was still unresolved. **Agreed** that the Chairman would contact the parties again to move matters on.
- i. Viridor Credits had asked whether the Council wished to nominate a representative to sit on the decision making steering group which distributes landfill communities fund monies in the area. At present no councillor was able to attend the meetings.
- j. Recycling Centre, Southwold. This would close on 15 August and reopen on 22 August under new management. Fees would then be charged. Leiston Recycling Centre would continue to operate without charges. **Agreed** to publicise this in the Village News and on notice boards.
- k. Hoarding around Alexandra Cottage. A reply had been received from the developers who were not prepared to change the hoarding colour and explained that the hoarding was necessary to comply with health and safety requirements.
- l. Ship to ship transfers. **Agreed** the Clerk would write to Dr Coffey suggesting that some of the licence fee proceeds should be distributed to local communities.

6. PLANNING

a) Planning Notifications:

Hoist Wood House, The Street, C/10/1083: retention of kitchen and utility extension, variation of approval C/10/1083, permission granted

Seven Acres, Lodge Road, C/11/1085: single storey rear and side extensions, permission granted

3 Church Lane, C/11/1148: external oil tank and boiler, permission granted

Short Lane House, Short Lane, C/11/1073: erection of porch, permission granted

The Anchor, The Street, C/11/1282: demolition of existing bathroom and replacement of bathroom, permission granted

b) Planning Applications:

Little Meadow, The Street, C/11/1599: retrospective application to retain render to external walls: The Chairman (Cllr D Webb) declared a personal interest in this item and took no part in the voting.

It was **agreed** to object to this application as it was retrospective and therefore it gave no chance for the Parish Council or members of the public to give their views and comments on the development.

It was also **agreed** that the Clerk would write to Suffolk Coastal District Council to explain the Council's disquiet over retrospective planning applications.

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

7. ACCOUNTS

a) Receipts:

Recycling credit - £5.66

b) Payments:

1. Mrs A Aldridge replacement cheque for expenses - £16.80
2. Suffolk Coastal District Council uncontested election expenses - £100.00
3. Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group membership for 2011 - £30.00
4. Stationery from Viking - £475.00 incl vat
5. Miss A Verneti, salary July 2011 - £361.40
6. Miss A Verneti, expenses July 2011, including goal nets - £74.91 incl vat

Cllr K Webb proposed and Cllr Hunt seconded that the accounts be paid and this was **agreed**.

c) It was **agreed** that the new Clerk should attend the CiLCA (£350.00 ex vat) and annual return, audit and precept (£25.00 ex vat) training courses and that the sum of £450.00 inclusive of vat be paid in due course.

8. UPDATES:

a) Sea Defences - The Chairman reported that Waveney District Council had agreed to contribute £2,400,000 and the European Fisheries Fund had agreed to contribute £1,200,000 thus covering the total cost of repairs and facilities to the north dock wall.

b) Village Sign – the repair and re-erection of the sign was discussed. It was hoped the costs would be paid by the Crabbing Competition fund. The Chairman was waiting to hear from the Highways Authority concerning possible siting on land in its ownership. **Agreed** the clerk would pursue this.

c) Traffic Management - **Agreed** that the clerk would contact SCC again concerning the possibility of a 20mph speed limit and flashing sign at the village entrance.

d) Visitor Centre – There was to be a meeting at the visitor centre which the Chairman would attend on 8 August to make final preparations for the handing back of its management from Suffolk County Council to the village.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a) An invitation had been received to the AGM of Home-Start. No-one was available to attend.

b) A letter had been received from Sir Charles Blois giving a change of address. It was thought he would manage most of the land surrounding the village, but that his son, Andrew, would continue to manage the camp site.

c) A letter from Sovereign play equipment had been received offering to erect play equipment. It would be left on file.

d) Creative Arts East had requested the Council post notices for it. So **agreed**.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a) Cllr Hunt thought that it was a pity that some houses in the Street had lights which shone so as to detrimentally affect the view of the night sky. **Agreed** the Clerk would write to the owners of the Old Corner House asking them to reposition or screen their lights so as to shine downwards only. He also referred to the solar powered flashing sign at Blyford encouraging drivers to slow down. **Agreed** the Clerk would ask their Parish Clerk who had paid for the sign.
- b) Cllr D Webb raised the ongoing matter of thatching the bus shelter. He would obtain the application form to apply for planning permission and the matter would be brought back to the next meeting for a formal decision to apply.

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a) Mr Walpole asked whether people should now discuss issues relating to pigs with Sir Charles Blois, Councillors confirmed this. He also suggested that the re-erected village sign could be integrated with the proposed war memorial opposite the church. Councillors thought there was merit in this idea.
- b) Mrs Walpole sought clarification to funding of the north dock wall which was given.
- c) Mr MacCarthy raised issues relating to the retrospective planning application for Little Meadow and relating to the permissions for the demolition of Innisfree. It was suggested he apply to the Local Planning Authority for information and/or to complain as the Parish Council was merely a consultee in the planning process. He said he thought Mr Wells-Baker was running a retail operation. It was suggested he contact the Highway Authority. He asked for a copy of Cllr Crocker's report to the Council relating to the exclusion notices. The Chairman replied that the Council would consider his request.
- d) Mr R Buncombe asked that it be minuted that he felt certain people were intent on disrupting the work of the Parish Council.
- e) Mr Smiley was concerned about people apparently camping overnight in campervans on the public highway in the village. **Agreed** that the Clerk would investigate the regulations that applied to this.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 5 September at 7.30 pm and the meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....