

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall annex at 7.30pm on 1 July 2013

SUMMARY NOTES of the pre-meeting public participation session

Mr Hunt said that there were lots of good events going on in the village and positive action except in regard to the Parish Council. Because of the behaviour of a few people the Council had recently lost nine good Councillors and two Clerks. He therefore proposed that the Council should call a public meeting so that the village could discuss the situation. Mr Cardwell said that he would second such a proposal. Cllr Tytler replied that the Council couldn't do that. Cllr Burroughes said he was concerned about what end would be met by such a meeting. Mr Hunt replied that action wasn't being taken by the Council, for example the sports field grass was two feet long, there were posts missing, donated play equipment was lying around which hadn't been erected by Councillors and there were also many items outstanding with the Information Commissioner. Cllr Tytler said he was appalled at what had happened. Mr Hunt said he thought a public meeting was needed to bring these people to account. Cllr Austin commented that at every Annual Parish Meeting in the last three years there had been great support for the Parish Council. Cllr Burroughes pointed out that in other villages volunteers carried out many of the tasks Mr Hunt said weren't being done. Mr Hunt replied that in the past the volunteers in this village were all Councillors. Cllr Webb suggested that Mr Hunt (together with others) could call a Parish Meeting to discuss the matter. Cllr Gower said he was very frustrated. Mr MacCarthy said it was out of the hands of the Council as it was now involved in High Court action which was a long and tedious process, having a meeting would do nothing, the Council must follow the directions of the Court.

Mr MacCarthy asked what processes the Council would put in place to respond to Mr Scrimgeour's consultation. Mrs Hunt commented that in a normal Parish Council planning matters would be on the agenda every month. Mrs Unless said she had placed on the website the letter sent to all occupiers about the matter. The Clerk said there would be a public meeting or "drop in" which was being organised by the Parish Plan Planning Working Group, but this was separate from the Parish Council.

MINUTES of the Meeting

PRESENT: Councillors Mr P Austin, Mr S Burroughes, Mr M Gower (Chairman and County and District Councillor), Mr D Tytler and Mr D Webb and Mrs J Gomm (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PCSO Newson.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2013 were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Austin. It was **agreed** to amend the notes of the pre-meeting public participation session by the deletion of the following sentence, "Cllr Gower pointed out that valuable assets in the village were not held by the Council, but by WCLC."

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2013 were signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Austin. It was **agreed** to delete the notes of the pre-meeting public participation session as one or two of the public participants of that session had complained that the notes did not accurately reflect what they thought they had said.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Pecuniary interests: None.

Local non pecuniary interests: Cllr Burroughes and Gower, members of Suffolk County Council and of Suffolk Coastal District (SCDC).

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

County Cllr Gower reported that it was still early days; there had not been a Council meeting since 23 May.

District Cllr Gower reported that there was to be a Council meeting on 5 July to consider the Core Strategy in the Local Development Framework.

PCSO Newson had sent a report saying that there had been no reported crimes in Walberswick during June.

5. ACCOUNTS

a. Receipts noted:

- Bank interest from all bank accounts, 01.04.12 – 31.03.13 £3.83

b. Payments:

The following payments were **agreed**:

- Essex & Suffolk Water, water bill for the sports field, 12.12.12-11.06.13 usage charge nil, fixed charge £19.65 total £19.65
- HMRC, tax and employer's and employee's NI for April to June £452.75
- J K Linley (also known as J K Gomm), Clerk's net salary from 15 May to 21 July, 15 - 31 May hours worked 23 hours 5 minutes
1 - 25 June hours worked 32 hours 20 minutes
26 - 30 June estimated hours to be worked 13 hours 50 minutes
15 May - 30 June total 69 hours 15 minutes, £950.51
1 - 21 July (3 weeks) 30 hours, £522.25
total £1,472.76
- J K Gomm, stamps 25 December 2012 – 1 July 2013, £10.70, total £3.80

It was proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Burroughes that the above payments be made and this was **agreed**.

c. Review of receipts and payments for the quarter ending 30.06.13 and management of financial risk posed by dealing with statutory requests for information, compared with budgetary provision

The Councillors had a copy of the bank reconciliation which showed the bank and cash book agreed at the figure of £10,510.14. Cllr Tytler asked how much was in the bank.

The Councillors had a copy of the cumulative summary of payments and receipts (which didn't take account of vat) and said that all payments were within budget so there was no need for transfers between budget heads.

It was proposed by Cllr Austin and seconded by Cllr Webb and **agreed** to accept the bank reconciliation and cumulative summary of payments and receipts.

6. REQUESTS TO USE THE SPORTS FIELD

The Council had received two requests to use the sports field. It was **agreed** to grant permission for the use of the field on 27 July for a fun dog show and for the proceeds to benefit the mother and toddler group. It was also **agreed** to permit the field to be used one day a week throughout August for a sports camp for children and young people.

7. REQUEST TO USE THE VILLAGE GREEN AND VISITOR CENTRE

The village fete committee had requested to use the Village Green and Visitor Centre on 24 August for the village fete, the visitor centre to be used for the site manager. This was **agreed**.

8. REPLACEMENT CLERK

The Clerk had resigned as of 21 July. During discussion it was suggested that an advert could be created by using the recent Job Evaluation. The Clerk pointed out that she had not seen the Job Evaluation and it had not been considered by Council. Cllr Webb also suggested it would be better if a newly elected Council appointed the new Clerk. Cllr Austin proposed, Cllr Tytler seconded and it was **agreed** to appoint a temporary Clerk and that Cllrs Burroughes and Tytler be delegated the power to find someone willing to take on the job, who would then be considered at a meeting of the Council. It was also **agreed** to discuss the proposed Job Evaluation at the next meeting. It was also **agreed** that a working group be set up to deal with freedom of information matters consisting of Cllrs Gower and Tytler.

9. ELECTION

After discussion Cllr Austin proposed, Cllr Tytler seconded and it was **agreed** that Suffolk Coastal District Council be requested to trigger an election to be held on the second or third week in September.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr Webb said that the Council owed Mrs Gomm great thanks, she had worked very hard over two years to deal with the freedom of information requests, but as soon as she replied to one request it resulted in receiving more.

He also thanked all the appointed Councillors for their efforts in attempting to resolve the freedom of information issues. It had not been easy and he knew they had come in for a lot of flack. Cllr Burroughes replied that it was the rough and tumble of politics and they all had thicker skins now.

Cllr Austin said that the Parish Council records were now at the visitor centre and those making the freedom of information requests had been made the offer to visit the centre to read the records for themselves. He had been told it was a silly idea and it wouldn't be possible to find the relevant material, but he had personally found material that had been requested easily. He said that when he appeared before the tribunal to say he had made this offer, but it had not been accepted, it might be found that requests were vexatious.

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 29 July 2013 provided the Village Hall annex is available.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Signed.....

Date.....