

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Minute of the meeting of Walberswick Parish Council held in the annex of the village hall on Monday 8th April 2019 at 7.15pm. Plans for Application DC/19/0904/FUL were available before the meeting.

Present: *Councillors Bassinette (in the chair), Lewis, Mackay, Richardson, Sutherland-Rogers and Sutton. RFO and members of the public.*

334/19-20 The Chairman welcomed Councillors and villagers to the meeting.

335/19-20 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Winyard who was at work.

336/19-20 Councillor Smith declared his interest as a non-executive member of the Suffolk Norse Board in relation to Agenda Item 6.5 and would take no part in the discussion.

337/19-20 Open Forum.

Two speakers expressed the view that the payment for legal fees should not be made at this meeting as the Council had not budgeted for these expenses and that the Council was spending too much of the budget on administrative costs including salaries. It was also asked where on the website the lease could be found. The Chairman said that these issues would be handled under the relevant agenda items.

338/19-20 It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minute of the meetings of 11th and 19th of March 2019 as a true and accurate record.

339/19-20 Report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith. He mentioned the upcoming elections for Parish Councils and congratulated Walberswick for having all seven Councillors in place when many Councils were struggling to be quorate including Saxmundham Town Council with only 4 nominations for the 14 seats. As for the SCC budget, he explained that the largest proportion continues to be allocated to youth and adult social care, including special needs education. Councillor Smith reported that the Sizewell C consultation received over 1000 responses. Sizewell C will not share the responses publicly, but SCC was copied on many of these. He congratulated all the local councils, including Walberswick, that submitted responses. It was his hope that there would be a fourth round consultations given that there were many important areas where EDF had not provided anywhere near sufficient information.

340/19-20 Finance Matters

- a) **Lloyds Bank account ****1763 Reconciliation** was compared to the bank statement by Councillor Sutherland-Rogers who signed it to confirm that it agreed with the Reconciliation Sheet. **The Council approved the Reconciliation.**
- b) **HSBC Account ****1870 Reconciliation** was compared to the bank statement by Councillor Sutherland-Rogers who signed it to confirm that it agreed with the Reconciliation Sheet. **The Council approved the Reconciliation.**
- c) **Performance against budget.** The document was noted by Councillors.
- d) **Authorisation to Pay.** It was noted that the £1.73 payment to the Clerk was an adjustment on a previous payment. It was noted that the authorisation included salary and expense authorisation for both March and April 2019. This adjustment was on the recommendation of the new RFO and in line with best practice to authorise the salary payment in the month in which it was paid, so in future no retrospective authorisations of salary would be required. It was noted that this change made absolutely no difference to the amounts being paid, only when they were authorised. It was noted that the payment to Mantins was for legal services provided and budgeted for in the

J. Bassinette
13 May 2019

2018/19 fiscal year and that the financing was available in the reserves as the payment was not able to be made by the end of March 2019 and that the unspent prior year budget allocation was now sitting in reserves. **It was resolved that the cost, in excess of the £500 in the current legal budget line, would be taken from reserves.** It was noted that the expenditure on a new laptop was necessary for the RFO and that this had not been specifically budgeted for as the Council had not known this would be necessary when the budget was approved. However, there was sufficient financing in the Administration budget line to cover this cost. **It was resolved that the payments on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet were approved to be paid.**

e) **It was resolved that Suffolk Norse be contracted to cut the village grass in the 2019/20 season.**

341/19-20

- a) **It was resolved that Councillor Winyard be appointed to represent WPC on the new management committee of the Heritage Hut.**
- b) **Councillors resolved that they found the drawing of the proposed porch for the Heritage Hut pleasing and appropriate and that they had no objection to WCLC making an application for any necessary planning permissions for this addition.**

342/19-20 Councillors discussed a proposal for adding **adult gym equipment to the playing field near the fenced portion of the children's play area.** Provisional research on the cost suggested that a package of 4 pieces of equipment could be around £2800 (excluding VAT). The Council felt that it would be a positive improvement to the playing field area and a benefit to the community to have such equipment. **It was agreed that additional research should be done to identify external financing for the equipment (including possible grant funding from East Suffolk, CIL or corporate programs) and to get at least 3 proposals with quotes. This could then be considered further and brought for approval at a future Council meeting.** Councillor Richardson agreed to take on these tasks.

343/19-20 Oral reports from Councillors

Footpaths and Highways. Councillor Sutherland-Rogers reported that a serious breach in the fencing along the river, previously reported to the Harbour Master, had still not been repaired. She had followed this up and was told that the Harbour Master was unable to buy and install the fencing because the new District authority still had not provided a VAT number. The Council agreed to look into the possibility of putting up its own temporary fencing if practical. Councillor Richardson agreed to explore this and get back to Councillor Sutherland-Rogers and the Harbour Master.

Traffic Management and Car parks. Councillors Mackay and Winyard had attended a presentation on traffic management led by the Safe Spaces Working Group at which new ideas were presented to make it safer for cars, pedestrians and bicycles to share The Street. The proposals were based on making changes to the landscape rather than adding more signs, lines and enforcement. They felt that this was a really interesting approach. The Green and the area near the church were the main problem areas and consideration was being given to try out some schemes in these areas.

SALC/GDPR/website The SALC website is now open to all Councillors (rather than just Clerks) and a large amount of information is available. WPC's submission regarding Sizewell C stage 3 consultation was sent to the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG) and the Sizewell C Consultation, SCDC, SCC and Theresa Coffey MP. It was agreed that Walberswick should continue to be part of the SPLG and Councillor Lewis agreed to continue in his role as liaison. Once the signed copies of the new Playing Field licence and the Heritage Hut lease were received back from the solicitors, they would be

published on the Parish Council website and Councillor Lewis confirmed that they would be in the "Property" section of the website, then under "Playing field" and "Heritage Hut" respectively.
Safety Committee – The Fete Committee had asked that the posts on the Green which need replacing be completed before the fete in order to prevent accidents or injury. **It was resolved that WPC would strive to ensure it would be completed before the start of the summer holidays.**

344/19-20 Councillors considered the approval of the appointment of a Nominative Trustee to the WCLC. **Resolved that the Council approved the appointment of Kate Goodchild as Nominative Trustee on the Walberswick Common Lands Charity.**

345/19-20 Planning

DC/19/0904/FUL New carport at Stock's House, Stock's Lane. Resolved that the Council agreed with the PAG report that consent be refused and that the PAG report would be submitted setting out the reasons for the refusal pending further consideration of the size and scale of the proposal.

346/19-20 Date of Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 13th May 2019.

Councillors to send items for the Agenda to the Clerk by Wednesday 1 May 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

