

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th September 2020 at 7.15pm.

Present (remotely via Zoom): Councillors Bassinette (in the chair), Lewis, Richardson, Sutherland-Rogers, Sutton and Winyard.

Also in attendance (remotely via Zoom) were two (2) members of the public, Mr. Mark Knight – Parish Clerk, Cllr. D Beavan – District Councillor.

064/20-21 Chairman's welcome.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

065/20-21 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

None

066/20-21 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

067/20-21 Open Forum

One member of the public representing the Planning Advisory Group (PAG) spoke about the PAG and its relationship with the Parish Council. Given that the Chairman, John Nichols, had announced his retirement from the PAG, it was a good time for the Council to acknowledge the members of PAG, its Terms of Reference (TOR) and selection of a new Chairman. As background, the person explained that: the original planning advisory group consisted of Paul Bradley, Frank Duffy, Alan Gomm, Alvin Hunt, John Nichols, Bill Ungless. They were subsequently joined by Katherine Gomm, Brian Martin and Brian Morton. Given the death of Brian Morton and the resignations of John Nichols and Bill Ungless, the PAG currently consisted of Paul Bradley, Alan Gomm, Katherine Gomm, Alvin Hunt and Brian Martin. The WPC Chairman suggested that at the next meeting in October, the WPC would include an agenda item to confirm the TOR of the PAG, the current membership, and to agree to the choice of a new Chairman of PAG to replace John Nichols. The Council again expressed its sincere appreciation for the work of PAG and the invaluable advice that the group provides to the Council on planning applications. Cllr. Beavan added that there were many planning changes underway and the Planning Advisory Group was very important to the Parish as a consequence.

068/20-21 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

Signed.....*J Bassinette*

Dated.....*12/10/20*

069/20-21 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported on the following issues:

The request made by the Lib Dem, Green and other Councillors for an extraordinary meeting on Sizewell C was turned down by East Suffolk Council, but pointed out that the Suffolk County Council had now officially come out against the development because of the overwhelming negative impacts it would have on the area.

Parking issues in the area are going to the Overview and Scrutiny panel at East Suffolk Council to sort out a number of problems that have arisen. Cllr. Beavan encouraged any problems to be quickly reported to him. He specifically mentioned that parking enforcement had incorrectly ticketed the cars of carers which are exempt from parking regulations.

There will be a meeting of East Suffolk Council on the 15th October about the coming winter and the impact Covid-19 will have at this time of year, with more and more being delegated to local councils. He said that Track and Trace had been a major disappointment with compliance rates of only 50%. He thought that shielding people will also need a lot of help during the winter season.

He said that he was pushing to control the use of late night fireworks and asked that any complaints be forwarded to him. He said that rules to allow silent firework displays only outside of special days (Guy Fawkes, New Year) were being drawn up. Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers reported that she was involved with a group which are attempting to address this issue as well and supported the actions being taken by Cllr Beavan.

One member of the public then left at 7.39pm.

070/20-21 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 13th and 27th July 2020

The minutes of the 13th and 27th July 2020 were **APPROVED** with the Chairman to sign a copy of the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.


071/20-21 Finance Matters 2020/21

071/20-21.1 Review bank receipts/budget & payments/budget (as at 31st August 2020)

The documents provided by the Responsible Financial Officer were **APPROVED** with no questions being asked.

071/20-21.2 Approve bank reconciliation (to 31st August 2020)

The report was **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** with Cllr. Lewis being given authority to sign the documents as appropriate. Cllr. Lewis also updated the meeting

Signed... 

Dated... 12/10/20

regarding the still uncleared £60 cheque which the RFO was now attempting to work with the auditors to clear from the accounts once and for all.

071/20-21.3 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet

The items detailed on the sheet were **APPROVED** and Cllrs. Sutton and Winyard were authorised to make the electronic payments.

071/20-21.4 To review and approve the annual insurance cover

The report and associated documents were discussed and Cllr. Lewis reported that the RFO was confident that this coverage was appropriate for the Council. The annual insurance cover was then **APPROVED**.

072/20-21 Planning

072/20-21.1 1 Anchor Cottages, Ferry Road DC/20/2919/FUL

DC/20/2875/TCA &

The report was considered and it was **AGREED** that the Council would **SUPPORT** this application provided that the construction proposed is ancillary to the main house.

072/20-21.2 Ardmay. The Street

DC/20/3266/FUL

The report was considered and it was **AGREED** that the Council would **SUPPORT** this application. It was noted with appreciation that this was an unusual application in that the proposed renovation would improve the look and character of the house.

073/20-21 To consider initiating a volunteer Community Speedwatch Group

Cllr. Bassinette reported that over the summer, she had received a number of complaints by villagers about speeding in the village. In response to these complaints, she had contacted Suffolk police (Halesworth) to take advice and they had proposed that self-help was the best course for Walberswick including using Speed Indicators (SID) and possibly setting up a Community Speed Watch. The Chairman added that one of the villagers who had contacted her about the speeding had indicated a willingness to lead a Community Speed Watch if one were established.

Cllr. Sutton agreed and was happy to see if the group was feasible as there were significant safety concerns in the village. Cllr. Richardson also shared the safety concerns but said that it would be important that if a Speed Watch was established that the volunteers also be safeguarded physically or from any retribution by other villagers who may be caught speeding. Cllr. Winyard also agreed that the traffic on the road into the village is particularly bad and he has never known it to be as bad

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Dated...12/10/20

as this year. In response to the fact that setting up a Speed Watch and acquiring appropriate equipment could cost in the range of £2500, Cllr. Beavan kindly offered to make a contribution from his Locality Budget to help with the initial set up costs for this group.

In terms of the SID, all the Councillors expressed support for a second SID which would allow one to remain as it is now near the entrance to the village, and to use the second to help deter speeding on the way out of the village especially just beyond the Co-op shop where many cars speed up. Cllr. Lewis suggested that the proposed community speedwatch group should also be tasked with maintaining the SIDs and should be formally convened as an advisory group under the Parish Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman would communicate with the Safe Spaces Group and the WCLC to express the Council's support for a second Speed Indicator Device for the village if sufficient support from villagers was expressed. It was suggested that a second article be added to the VN to encourage villagers to express their opinion.

It was then **RESOLVED** to begin to explore the creation of a Community Speedwatch Group. As the next step, it was agreed that Cllr Bassinette and Cllr Sutton would ask a representative from the Halesworth police to meet them to see if there was a suitable location in the village where a volunteer group with the speed gun could operate. If a group proves feasible it was agreed that rental of the required equipment was preferable to out-right purchase in the short-term.

074/20-21 To consider an accessibility statement for publication on the WPC website to ensure compliance with the new accessibility regulations

Cllr. Lewis reported on the upcoming enforcement date of the 23rd September 2020 for new accessibility regulations and the need to publish an Accessibility Statement on the website as part of this. He reported on the process undertaken by both WPC and the village Webmaster to ensure that contrast and other major errors were entirely remove from the website. The only remaining issue now was the correct formatting of both new and old PDF documents (documents going back to September 2018 are covered by the new regulations). Many documents have been made accessible, but there is still a backlog to process. In the absence of a better solution it was proposed in the short to medium term to subscribe for a full copy of Adobe Reader, which would allow all new and existing PDF documents to be made accessible.

It was then **RESOLVED** to adopt the Accessibility Policy with no changes and to subscribe on a monthly basis to a full copy of Adobe Reader for the Clerks PC

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075/20-21 To consider this Council's relevant representation with regard to the Sizewell C DCO

Cllr. Bassinette introduced the report which extensively outlined and detailed the Council's response to the DCO. Cllr. Bassinette would submit this document as soon as it was approved.

It was then **RESOLVED** to approve the report as presented and for Cllr Bassinette to submit it to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of Walberswick.

076/20-21 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.

076/20-21.1 Footpath and Highways

Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers reported that a request regarding banning crabbing on the the kissing bridge had been received. Cllr. Bassinette confirmed that the Council was aware of the issue but that it had become more complicated because of media reports about the bridge and the subsequent request by local police that the current signs, asking people not to crab and bearing the Suffolk police logo, be removed since the police were not in a position to enforce it. Cllr. Sutton agreed with Cllr. Bassinette regarding the complicated nature of the problem and it was agreed that this would need to be taken up as a separate item following discussions with Suffolk County who were responsible for the bridge.

076/20-21.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

Cllr. Lewis reported that the elections for the Area Forums and SALC board were coming up, so he would report back to the next meeting on whether he was still chair of the East Suffolk South Forum and on the SALC board.

076/20-21.3 Litter

No report was given.

076/20-21.4 Playing Fields and the Green play area

The Clerk gave an update regarding the order of the baby seat for the swings.

Cllr. Winyard reported that there were many rabbit holes and a dog waste problem on the playing field. He requested that should some top soil be made available, then he would be happy to continue filling these in. It was **AGREED** to agenda an item on playing field to discuss the possibility of budgeting for more regular maintenance including signage to remind people not to allow dogs to soil the fields, keeping the fence and gates in repair and dealing with the rabbit holes.

The Clerk reported that the ROSPA inspection would take place before the end of October this year and the report will be forwarded as soon as it is received.

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Dated...12/10/20.....

076/20-21.5 Safe Spaces and Car Parks

This had been covered under a previous agenda item.

076/20-21.6 Heritage Hut

Cllr. Winyard reported that the Management Committee had met with the WCLC to unblock obstacles that had delayed the start of work. He shared with the Council a draft circular that would appear in the VN updating the village on the work. He also mentioned that he and Cllr Sutton were taking part in a sponsored ride which would, in part, raise funds for additional investment in the HH renovation along with funding for a cancer charity. The Council thanked Cllr Winyard for his work on the Management Committee and to both Councillors for undertaking the arduous ride to raise funds.

076/20-21.7 Sizewell and other power related developments

This had been covered under the previous agenda item.

076/20-21.8 Neighbourhood Plan

No report was given

077/20.21 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

Nothing for the meeting.

078/20-21 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12th October 2020 at 7.15 pm. There would also be an extraordinary meeting to address a planning application on the 28th September 2020.

The time and date of the meeting was confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed..........

Dated...12/10/20.....