

## WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Richardson, Sutherland-Rogers, Sutton and Winyard. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote.

Also in attendance (via Zoom) were two (2) other members of the public, District Councillor Beavan, Mark Knight the Parish Clerk and County Councillor Richard Smith (from 8.05pm).

### **058/21-22 Chair's welcome.**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and explained the process regarding hybrid meetings.

### **059/21-22 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Whiting.

It was also reported that Cllr. Richard Smith would be arriving late due to other commitments and that his report would be taken up when he arrived.

### **060/21-22 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.**

None.

### **061/21-22 Open Forum**

None.

### **063/21-22 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan**

Cllr Beavan reported on the Southwold and Reydon Emergency Planning Group in relation to an item later on the agenda. He said that it was being revived after a period of inactivity and that it would help the communities deal with potential emergencies related to floods as well as potential new risks such as those that arose from Covid-19.

He reported about the disappointment in relation to the Harbour Management Committee which, contrary to commitments made by ESC, consisted solely of ESC cabinet members rather than any local representation or expertise. An advisory group was being established and this now provided the only avenue for local and technical input.

East Suffolk Council Cabinet will be meeting in full at the end of July. Cllr. Beavan planned to introduce a motion to move the district towards being carbon neutral by 2030. He and others also wanted to introduce motions related to increased rewilding.

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Councillors raised with Cllr Beavan ongoing problems with getting Norse in to cut the green and playing fields and also the poor state of the footpaths. Cllr Beavan agreed that this was a problem across the district and suggested it be raised with Cllr Smith as the path cutting was the responsibility of Suffolk County.

**064/21-22 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 were **APPROVED** with the Chairman to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

**065/21-22 Finance Matters 2021/22**

**065/21-22.1 To consider the Internal Audit Action Plan**

The plan was discussed and the five points within it were considered. Only one required action by the Council and this would come up under the next agenda item. The Responsible Financial Officer was thanked for his work and the report was **APPROVED**.

**065/21-22.2 To consider the proposed Reserves Policy**

Cllr. Lewis gave a brief background to the proposed policy and it was **AGREED** to adopt the policy as written. It was further agreed that the policy would be added to the list of policies that are reviewed and re-adopted on a rolling 3 year period.

**065/21-22.3 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet**

It was **APPROVED** to pay all items. Cllrs. Bassinette and Winyard were authorised to carry out the electronic payments.

**066/21-22 Planning**

**066/21-22.1 10 Manor Close, Walberswick DC/21/2685/FUL**

The Council agreed with the recommendation in the PAG report and that they would **OBJECT** to the application due to the loss of amenity to neighbours, to the development being out of character with the existing neighbourhood scheme and that the scale and design seemed to encourage the property to potentially be used as two separate holiday lets.

**066/21-22.2 22 Manor Close, Walberswick DC/21/2862/FUL**

The application was considered and it was **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the application.

**066/21-22.3 Update on dialogue with East Suffolk Council Planning**

The Parish Clerk gave a verbal report on communication and logistical difficulties

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being experienced with East Suffolk Council Planning Department. It was pointed out that the unwillingness to consider extensions, the difficulty of communicating with planning officers and the general approach of indifference to community input made it extremely difficult to have a positive impact on planning issues. The Clerk and the Chair pointed out that this experience with ESC was not common elsewhere in the County and that other districts had a much more congenial and positive working relationship with the communities, Parish Councils and Clerks.

It was **AGREED** that the situation was not acceptable and the Parish Clerk should write a paper illustrating the problems and, in particular, highlighting how ESC compared unfavourably with other district planning offices. Cllr. Lewis will then take this up with SALC and the local area forum which he also chairs.

#### **067/21-22 To consider joining the Southwold and Reydon Emergency Plan Group**

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would join the group and Cllr. Lewis volunteered to represent the Council. Once the document being produced by this group was compiled, it would then be brought to the Council for approval and an assessment made of whether a separate plan just for Walberswick was needed in addition.

#### **068/21-22 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.**

##### **068/21-22.1 Footpath and Highways**

There was a discussion around the frequency of grass cutting. In addition, there was a discussion of the condition of the footpaths and the lack of attention by Suffolk County Highways. It was agreed that Cllr Bassinette would try to make contact through the Bailey Bridge working group given that many of the paths were unpassable.

##### **068/21-22.2 GDPR, SALC and Website**

No report was given.

##### **068/21-22.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area**

Further to the discussion under Footpaths, it was **AGREED** that the Parish Clerk should chase Norse to cut the Green and the playing fields both of which were seriously overgrown.

It was also **AGREED** that the Parish Clerk should book the Portaloo for the August Bank Holiday Cricket Match from the same supplier and timeframe as last year.

##### **068/21-22.4 Safe Spaces and Car Parks**

Cllr Bassinette reported that the new parking spaces by the church, and the addition

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of the yellow lines, were all in place and were proving very helpful in addressing the congestion and road rage that had caused so much trouble last summer. She added that it had been a very busy summer and that more cars had used the Car Parks in June than in any previous year.

#### **068/21-22.5 Heritage Hut**

No report was given.

#### **068/21-22.6 Sizewell and other power related developments**

Cllr. Bassinette reported on her recent attendance at the issue specific hearings and will forward a written report to be published on the website as soon as possible. She said that the hearings were tough going for all the interested parties and that EDF had large numbers of staff and QCs assisting it compared to the Interested Parties. Nevertheless, she felt that EDF lacked answers to many of the criticisms and that the environmental issues raised by the project were particularly shocking.

The Council thanked Cllr Bassinette for her work in representing the Council and it was agreed that a dedicated page would be added to the village website and that Cllr Bassinette would regularly post updates to help people stay informed and get involved.

#### **068/21-22.7 Neighbourhood Plan**

It was reported that Cllrs. Bassinette, Lewis and the Parish Clerk had recently attended a meeting with officers from East Suffolk Council regarding Neighbourhood Planning. In addition, Cllrs. Lewis, Whiting and Bassinette attended a separate course with SALC which included very practical advice by consultants and Councils with recent NDP experience.

It was noted that planning issues would necessarily be the biggest part of the NDP and that Paul Bradley, the Chair of the Planning Advisory Group, had agreed to join the Steering Group. In addition to Mr. Bradley, it was agreed that the NDP Steering Committee would consist of Cllrs Bassinette, Lewis and Whiting.

It was **noted** that the existing Parish Plan provided an excellent starting point. The Steering Committee aimed to hold initial drop in sessions in August/September to kick off the process.

#### **068/21-22.8 Village News**

It was **AGREED** to include items on the availability of ferry passes, Sizewell C, the state of the footpaths, and potential use of Cllr Smith's locality budget in the Village News depending on available space.

#### **069/21-22 Oral Committee Reports if relevant**

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No reports were given.

County Cllr. Smith then entered the meeting at 8.05pm.

**062/21-22 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith**

Cllr. Smith reported on his recent re-election and that he had been invited to re-join the Cabinet. His portfolio now included Economic Development, Waste and Transport Strategy.

Cllr Smith explained that whilst the District were responsible for collection, the County Council disposed of the waste with only 20% going to landfill.

He reported on his participation at the Sizewell Hearings and felt that the Planning Inspectorate was doing a good job and that the problems associated with the development were being highlighted. He noted also that raising the necessary funds could act as a brake on the proposed development.

Cllr. Smith said that he intended to offer each village, including Walberswick, £500 from his Locality Budget to be used towards marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The only stipulations was that the funds could not be used for a celebratory party or current expenses. It was **AGREED** to canvass the residents of Walberswick for support and ideas via the Village News.

There was a discussion of the poor state of the footpaths and what could be done to address the situation. It was agreed that Cllr Sutherland-Rogers and Bassinette would work together to reach out again to Suffolk Highways. Cllr Smith would be kept informed and would help follow up.

**070/21-22 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7pm.**

The time and date of the meeting was confirmed as above.

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm.**

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