

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th July 2022 at 7pm.

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

Also in attendance (via Zoom) were (2) two members of the public, District Councillor David Beavan and Mark Knight the Parish Clerk.

047/22-23 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

048/22-23 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Richardson and Tucker.

049/22-23 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

Cllr. Whiting declared an interest in item 054/22-23.2.1.

050/22-23 Open Forum

One member of the public commented that he supported the efforts being made by the Council to dissuade cyclists from riding on the footpaths particularly those through the marshes to Dunwich. He urged the Council to continue to do whatever it could to stop this practice. He also asked about the status of the pirate ship replacement, the replacement of memorial benches and the provision of a bottle bank.

In response, the Chair stated that the Council would be posting additional signs along the footpaths, that later in the meeting the Council would be considering the pirate ship replacement and that there was a bottle bank already in the village

051/22-23 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

052/22-23 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that the decision regarding Sizewell C has been delayed until 20 July.

He was disappointed by the decision of ESC to limit the input of ward members to

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planning decisions sent to the Planning Referral Panel . Whilst the member could attend the meeting, they were not allowed to speak unless called upon to do so.

The Harbour Management Committee was due to meet again in the week commencing the 18th July with the Advisory Group to meet soon after.

An initiative to double the Council Tax on empty or second homes was under consideration. Cllr Beaven was supporting the increase if the monies raised were used to support the provision of affordable or social housing for local people.

053/22-23 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 13th June 2022

The minutes of the 13th June 2022 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

054/22-23 Planning

054/22-23.1 To note the decisions made under delegated authority since the last meeting

**054/22-23.1.1 1, Valley Farm, Ferry Road
DC/22/1919/FUL**

The application was considered under delegated authority with a decision to **OBJECT** to the application due to application not satisfying the relevant policies of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, in addition to this the submitted Flood Risk Assessment and the Heritage Statement do not satisfy the criteria of the National Planning Policy Framework and would cause harm to the Walberswick Conservation Area (a designated heritage asset) and the setting of No.1 and 2 Valley Farm (both of which were Grade 2 listed assets).

054/22-23.2 Applications for consideration

054/22-23.2.1 Hedgeley, The Green DC/22/2321/FUL

The Council **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to this application due to there being no material changes to the application since this was considered in October 2021 and that, therefore, the reasons for the original objection were unchanged.

054/22-23.3 Consultation Response

054/22-23.3.1 To respond to the Draft Housing in Clusters and Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document

The Council considered a report provided by PAG. The Council expressed its appreciation to PAG for the quality of its report and the clarity it presented on the complex issues within the consultation. The

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Council agreed with the recommendation in the PAG report to abstain from making any comments to the consultation at this stage.

District Councillor Beavan left the meeting at 7.26pm.

055/22-23 Finance Matters 2022/23

055/22-23.1 Approve items on the Authority to Pay Sheet

It was **AGREED** to pay all items on the sheet. Cllrs. Bassinette and Sutton were authorised to make the electronic payments.

056/22-23 Discussion regarding grass cutting contract

It was **AGREED** that the service from the current contractor was sub-optimal with late cutting and lack of information of when work would be done particularly on the Common. Although it was difficult to find companies with the equipment to take on the work, it was agreed to try again and the Parish Clerk was asked to seek alternative quotes and present these to the September meeting of the Council.

057/22-23 CAS Rural Services Survey

Cllr. Lewis reported on the survey and it was **AGREED** to delegate authority to complete the online survey to the Parish Clerk and Cllr. Lewis. If there was anything of particular note in the survey, a report would be made to the Council at the September meeting.

058/22-23 WCLC – Formation of a Corporate Trustee and changes to charitable scheme

The report given to the Parish Council and published on the website in relation to some minor changes in the scheme were **NOTED** without any objections to the proposals.

059/22-23 To approve the quote for the Pirate Ship

Three quotes for a replacement Pirate Ship on the Common were discussed and the appointment of Contractor One, at a cost of £21,576.44 (exc. VAT), was **APPROVED**. The selection was made on the basis of best design and value for money. The Council expressed its appreciation to Maggie and James Cochrane for their very generous donation towards this project which allows it to immediately proceed. It was also **NOTED** that the Walberswick Common Lands Charity had agreed to the installation of this piece of equipment in line with the existing lease agreement and subject to all safety considerations being met.

060/22-23 To agree to fund a Portaloo for the Cricket Match

It was **AGREED** to fund the facility for the event in perpetuity as part of the approval of the yearly event.

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061/22-23 To discuss membership of Southwold Public Rights of Way working group

Cllr. Lewis explained that Reydon Parish Council had approached Walberswick and Southwold to form a working group to work with Suffolk County Council to improve the maintenance of the footpaths which was a yearly problem in the local area. The Group would try to find solutions to the lack of clearing and poor condition of heavily overgrown footpaths. The Council **AGREED** that Walberswick should join the working group and Cllrs. Lewis and Sutherland-Rogers were delegated to attend the meetings, Cllr. Bassinette and Whiting also agreed to attend the meetings as Walberswick representatives if needed.

062/22-23 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

062/22-23.1 Footpath and Highways

Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers reported that new signs were now up on the Bridleways' posts leading from Lodge Road. These explain there are no cycling routes, only Footpaths, through the Walberswick marshes to Dunwich. The map shows cyclists the correct route to follow to access Dunwich by continuing along Lodge Road and beyond.

It was reported that Cllrs Sutherland-Rogers and Bassinette had walked through the village to check the number and positioning of the 20mph signs, the 'smiley faces' and the speed watch area signs. They have all been positioned and the distances between them measured by Suffolk Highways (SH) whose responsibility they are. Councillors agreed that there were adequate signs in line with SH guidelines, but unfortunately, they are simply being ignored by some motorists. A member of the village volunteer Speed Watch Team acknowledged vehicles (including some residents) exceeding 20mph are regularly reported. The Walberswick Car Parks Board have been approached and have agreed to help by placing additional signs just inside the car park exits to remind visitors to help by respecting the 20mph speed limit in place throughout the village.

062/22-23.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

No report was given.

062/22-23.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area

It was **AGREED** that four tonnes of topsoil should be purchased for essential works on the field and that the contractor should address the problems with the fencing. The Parish Clerk also reported that the ROSPA report on the two sites was due in September and that an action plan for repairs would be developed from this professional assessment.

062/22-23.4 Safe Spaces and Harbour Management

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No report was given.

062/22-23.5 Heritage Hut

Cllr. Lewis reported on a project to install a second defibrillator in the village which would be funded by the Walberswick Common Lands Charity. There remained an issue, however, on where the defibrillator would be located. It was **AGREED** that getting a second unit was a good idea and that the WCLC did retain the right as the tenant to install it on the Heritage Hut. However, it was **AGREED** that the Council would ask WCLC to look at possible alternative locations such as the Village Hall and the Tea Shed. It was agreed that Cllr. Lewis would send a letter to WCLC to communicate the outcome of the Council's discussion.

062/22-23.6 Sizewell and other power related developments

Cllr. Bassinette reported that BEIS was expected to make an announcement on 8th July but this had been postponed again until 20 July. There was speculation that this delay was a result of the Minister who had been tasked with taking the decision had been moved to another department as part of the resignation of MPs over Boris Johnson's leadership of the party.

062/22-23.7 Neighbourhood Plan

It was reported that the Housing Needs Survey response was looking very positive with a response rate of some 50-60% compared to an average of 30-40% normally. It was **AGREED** to make one last push on social media, Village News and the website to raise the response level even more.

062/22-23.8 Village News

The items to include in the Village News were discussed and agreed with follow up by Cllr Sutherland-Rogers with the Chair and Vice-Chair as usual.

063/22-23 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

No reports were given.

064/22-23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the updated format of the report and took questions. The Council was supportive of the format and thanked the Clerk for the improvements made. In response to the item on the Report related to a new noticeboard, it was agreed to substitute two smaller noticeboards with the combined capacity (24 A4 sheets) for the one large noticeboard replacement which would have entailed the expense of commissioning a bespoke item. This would also simplify having one locked noticeboard for Parish Council items and one unlocked noticeboard for use by the public.

065/22-23 To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to

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Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of the following items in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt with after the item that confirms details of the next meeting.

This was so **RESOLVED**. Two members of the public and the Parish Clerk left the meeting at 8.21pm.

067/22-23 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12th September 2022 at 7pm.

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

066/22-23 Employment matters

The Council then discussed an item related to employment and agreed that the Chair would follow up with staff directly.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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