

## WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Dadswell, Sutton, Watson and Whiting. 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) was Mark Knight the Parish Clerk, D Cllr. Beavan and C Cllr Smith.

### **047/25-26 Welcome by the Chair.**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. It was **AGREED** to move item 57.1 to immediately after item 51.

### **048/25-26 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Richardson.

### **049/25-26 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.**

Cllr. Whiting declared a non-pecuniary interest in item **054/25-26** regarding planning applications, so took no part in either discussion

### **050/25-26 Open Forum**

None.

### **051/25-26 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith**

C Cllr. Smith reported that Suffolk County Council had decided on their preferred option for Local Government Reorganisation with one authority for the whole of Suffolk being recommended. This will be confirmed on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025. It is understood that the three District Councils in Suffolk support two or three unitary authorities. Suffolk County Council will confirm this at an extraordinary meeting at the end of August.

The budget setting process for 2026/7 has also begun with £33m budget gap needing to be addressed, efficiencies are being sought, but these are becoming increasingly difficult to identify.

Finally, it was reported that Lion Link was very quiet in the past few weeks.

### **058/25-26.1 Lion Link – Meeting with MP**

Cllr. Bassinette gave a report on the meeting with our MP, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter on 27 June. We had just under 70 attendees filling the Village Hall. In addition to our MP, David Beavan, ESC District Councillor also attended. The meeting focused on Lionlink, Sizewell C and potentially other energy projects that are putting our village and Suffolk Coastal

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under threat from over-development, environmental damage, and massive transport disruption for years to come. The feedback on the session has been universally positive with appreciation for the MP's objection to Lionlink and her genuine concern about the unsupportable number of energy projects being proposed for Suffolk Coastal. Both the MP and District Councillor confirmed the importance of Walberswick residents and visitors engaging in the process and making our objections known throughout the upcoming consultation process. The MP also explained that she had offered amendments to the Infrastructure Bill to mandate greater consideration of the cumulative impact of energy projects on the local community and environment and to have cables buried to a depth of 1.8 metres so that the fields above can continue to be planted. Unfortunately, these amendments were rejected but this would be a critical issue to be raised during project consideration. WPC will continue its involvement as a statutory consultee in Lionlink, as an "Interested Party" in Sealink consultations, and as a member of the Sizewell C B1125 Working Group and Northern Transport Forum where we, together with other Parish Councils, try to limit the daunting transport, social and environmental impacts that the SZC construction will have on our area for the next decade and more.

It was noted by Councillors that the traffic related to all the supporting SZC infrastructure was building quickly and that there were serious concerns by residents and visitors.

Cllr. D Cllr. Beavan entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.

#### **052/25-26 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan**

Cllr Beavan reported on a "Plan B" proposal he was presenting to Lionlink that would propose that the cable come in at the harbour and come above ground nearer Blythburgh. The request would be for LL to invest in securing the walls of the harbour entrance to make a landing in the river feasible. He had not received feedback from LL on this proposal. He also discussed work ongoing at the caravan site in the Southwold Harbour that would improve the facility and provide more revenue to the harbour to secure its future as a working harbour.

It was also reported that Local Government Reorganisation was ongoing.

C Cllr. Smith then left the meeting at 7.20pm.

#### **053/25-26 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

The minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person. It was **AGREED** to place the item confirming the minutes immediately after the Open Forum item for future meetings, all in favour.

#### **054/25-26 Planning**

##### **054/25-26.1 Applications for consideration**

##### **054/25-26.1.1 Grey Roof, Millfield Road DC/25/2494/VOC**

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** this application subject to the East Suffolk Council ensuring that the Air Source Heat Pump and Air Conditioning units

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will not cause unacceptable noise disturbance to adjacent properties.

## **054/25-26.2 Applications for consideration**

### **054/25-26.2.1 Toby Cottage, Leveretts Lane DC/25/1332/FUL**

The Council **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to it being in a highly sensitive location and a building of considerable historic interest in the conservation area.

D Cllr. Beavan then left the meeting at 7.26pm.

## **055/25-26 Finance Matters 2025/26**

### **055/25-26.1 Review of Receipts & Payments Budget Reports (30 June 2025)**

It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the figures in the Reports.

### **055/25-26.2 Review & Approval of Bank Reconciliation (30 June 2025)**

It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the report as presented. Cllr. Watson was authorised to sign the document.

### **055/24-25.3 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.

## **056/25-26 Consideration of a request by ITV to film in Walberswick**

It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the request from ITV to present the weather from the Crabbing Bridge week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Cllr. Bassinette will coordinate the parking arrangements with the filming crew.

## **057/25-26 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:**

The update on Lionlink was taken up earlier in the meeting as it was of particular interest to County Cllr Smith.

## **058/25-26 Oral Committee Reports if relevant**

No reports were given.

## **059/25-26 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk gave an update on recent emails. It was asked if there had been an update regarding the Camp Site development. Cllr. Lewis reported that East Suffolk Council had given the applicant time to produce a Habitat Risk Assessment with the eventual approval needing to be granted by East Suffolk Council and Natural England. A final decision would

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be made by 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025. It was also clarified that as the proposed number of plots was under 50 then approval, perhaps conditional, would be likely.

Cllr. Bassinette also reported that a local business next to the Heritage Hut was still using the Village Green to advertise and conduct business. It was **AGREED** for the Chair to write another cease and desist letter. It was also noted that the homeowner on the Green whose home was being renovated needed to be reminded that trade vans and building material lorries were not allowed to park on the Green.

#### **060/25-26 Matters Arising**

There were no matters to address at this stage.

#### **061/25-26 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm.**

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

**The meeting closed at 7.52pm.**

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