

Discussion paper - Walberswick Flagpole replacement

Background:

The current village flagpole (outside the Village Hall) was originally purchased on behalf of the RNLI on the initiative of the late Robin Buncombe. Actual ownership of the flagpole has never been clearly established.

The flagpole has now seized, hence the union flag is continuously flying. Harrisons, a flagpole specialist company, were called in by WCLC at the request of the Village Hall. After inspection, they have condemned the whole installation, citing damage caused by a reversing vehicle some time ago.

A quotation for a replacement 10 metre pole has been obtained from Harrisons, who quoted £1578 + VAT

WCLC were contacted by the Village Hall about potentially funding a new one, but are understood have initially declined, on the basis that it is village amenity and they referred the matter back to the Village Hall & the Parish Council

The Village Hall has, in principle, offered to fund up to half the replacement cost

Parish Council involvement in the flagpole

At one time the Parish Council had clear ownership of the village flagpole and it appears on the Parish Council 2007 asset register

There is obvious benefit to the village of the Parish Council purchasing the replacement flagpole (avoidance of VAT) and if the Parish Council purchased it, it should be back on the Parish Council asset register and be owned by the Parish Council

The Parish Council has an interest in the flagpole as there are rules and regulations around what flags can and cannot be flown, as well as protocol requirements for flying flags on state occasions (like coronations and funerals) which are overseen by the Parish Council on behalf of the village.

There is already a "flagmaster" in place, who is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee and it is believed this would continue

Other village amenities (e.g. village signs, bus stop, benches) are already owned by the Parish Council and appear on our asset register

Proposed way forward:

The Parish Council enters into dialogue with WCLC to see if part funding might be available from them, but the Parish Council also agrees to part fund up to half the cost, along with the Village Hall

The Parish Council agrees to take formal ownership of the replacement flagpole and purchases the new one on behalf of the village and puts in on our asset register

The Village Hall continues to provide a flagmaster

September 2023