

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 3rd August, 2009

PRESENT

Councillors Mr A E Hunt (Chairman), Mr D C B Webb (Vice Chairman), Mr R G Buncombe, Mr B Tibbles, Mrs M V Dabbs and, Miss M Verneti (Clerk). County Cllr Mr R Leighton and District Cllr Mr P Austin.

1. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE** - Mrs A Aldridge and Mr K G Webb
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** were **approved** and were signed as a true record by the Chairman
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
The Chairman declared a prejudicial interest in Items 5 a
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. **Play Equipment** – The Clerk had written and complained about the late installation time – Playquip Leisure had had staffing issues but they promised to install it during the first week in August, weather permitting.
 - b. **Cycling Proficiency** – Booked for Thursday 20th August – final arrangements to be made when the Road Safety Officer returns from her holiday 4th August 2009. When finalised posters will be put up.
 - c. **Bailey Bridge Road** – A response had been received from the Highways Department stating that the individual who raised the matter had seen road mid-process and that it was now finished. However it was mentioned that Highways had promised to resurface the whole road from the end of the houses to the new section and this still had not been done. The Clerk was asked to write and chase this up.
 - d. **Grass Cutting** - The Highways Department responded that they had not cut back the verges, but that when they started their second round of cutting they would ensure that the triangle in the middle was cut back.
 - e. **“Stepping Out” Letter** - A response was received from the Heath Walk Team at Suffolk Coastal stating that although they could not change this year’s pamphlet all traffic would be redirected away from the Church in future.
 - f. **Dredging Application Letter** – The letter drafted by Cllr R. Buncombe is to be circulated to other Councillors for their comments before the Clerk sends it out.
5. **PLANNING**
 - Planning Notifications Received**
 - a. **THORPE VIEW, The Street** - Retrospective Planning Application was granted with cosmetic conditions. The Councillors were extremely unhappy about yet another retrospective application being passed and asked Cllr Peter Austin to take the matter to the District Council with the Parish Council’s concerns.

Tree works

- a. The Council had no objection to Application No C09/00087/TCA – to Fell 3 Lelylandi conifers between rear of No 8 The Terrace and The House on the Green

Planning Applications Received

- a. **LAND NORTH OF ALEXANDRA COTTAGE, The Street** – Further information had been received, sent directly from the Architect to the Chairman. It was unanimously agreed that until formal notification of the changes had been received from the Planning Office it was not right for the Councillors to discuss the matter further. It was agreed to move this item to the new Planning meeting to be held on 17th August 2009.
- b. **WALBER HOUSE, Leveretts Lane, C09/1113** – This application had been received by the Clerk after the Agenda for this meeting had been published. As a response was required before the next scheduled meeting it was agreed to hold a new Planning Meeting on 17th August 2009.
- c. **BLYTH REACH, Palmers Lane, C09/1040** - This application had also been received by the Clerk after the Agenda for this meeting had been published. As a response was required before the next scheduled meeting it was agreed to hold a new Planning Meeting on 17th August 2009

6. ACCOUNTS

a. Receipts

There were no recorded receipts

b. Payments

- i. Parish Plan Steering Group – Mr B Cardwell – Payment of Grant - £500.00
- ii. Village Hall Mgmt Committee – Hire of Hall for May/June 2009 - £53.00
- iii. NALC – Renewal of LCR Subscription 2009/2010 - £13.50

It was **unanimously supported** that the above accounts should be paid.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Letter from Brian Haward re Land at Alexandra Cottage** – The Chairman read the letter to those present. Whilst Mr Haward intimated that a specific Councillor was responsible Walberswick Parish Council did not condone what had happened but remained adamant that its and associated local authority right and proper procedures had been fully complied with and was satisfied that Mr Haward's intimation was perhaps misguided. Planning applications became publicly available on submission to the local authority.

It was decided that Cllr M Dabbs, and Cllr R Buncombe, neither of whom had declared an interest in the project, draft a letter to Mr Haward regretting if any offence was caused, but assuring him that no member of the Parish Council had been responsible.

It was also agreed that the Clerk would write to the Planning Department, suggesting that in future, where an artists impression of a proposed development was included in the Application, that it might be possible to have this attached to any public notifications.

- b. **Email from WCLC re damage to the Handrails.** (Handrails to the steps that lead over the wall near Tows Cabin) The Clerk had mistakenly reported this to the

Highways Department instead of the Environment Agency. It was agreed that she would wait for a response from Highways before contacting the Environment Agency directly about the problem.

- c. **Letter from WCLC regarding Nominative Trustee Election** - The Clerk read out the letter informing the Parish Council that Mr K Webb's term of office as a Nominative Trustee expires on the 22nd October. It was agreed to post an Advertisement on the Notice Boards in the Village and in the Village News and to consider all applications before making a decision based on existing procedure agreed between WCLC and the Parish Council.
- d. **External Organisations Requesting Use of Village Notice boards and newsletters.** Several requests had been received by the Clerk asking for information to be posted on the village notice boards and in the village news. After a discussion it was agreed by the majority of Councillors that it was acceptable to put up agreed notices asking for volunteers from Charities, but that the request from the EADT for the Council's minutes or a report should be turned down.
- e. **Local Development Core Strategy Consultation Letter:** No one on the Council had had sight of this report yet, Cllr R Leighton stated that it was very important that we had "our say" and it was agreed that the Clerk write to get a copy of the report as soon as was possible.
- f. **Marie Curie – Request for Donation** - The Parish Council agreed to a donation of £25.
- g. **First Review of Shoreline Management Plan** - Cllr D Webb to prepare a report for the Council for the next meeting.
- h. **Waveney Mobile Library Route 12** - Letter to be sent by the Clerk thanking SCC for improving the service and notices to be placed on the notice boards and in the Village News.

8. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES.

- a. The Environment Agency are to carry out some repairs to the river banks around Reydon Marshes.
- b. Cllr D Webb reported that the Planning Application, for works to strengthen the river banks on both sides of the estuary from Tinkers Marsh to the Harbour is currently with Suffolk Coastal District Council. Andrew Blois had hoped to start work at Tinkers Marsh late August but it is now unlikely that planning approval will be received in time to meet this aim. (post meeting note: SCDC will consider this Planning Application in September).
- c. Cllr D Webb reported that the WDC Cabinet had approved the report that said repairs to the North Dock Wall were necessary, and HR Wallingford should be retained to do a further study on the long-term measures. As for the short term dredging a new channel away from the wall was still the preferred option, but would be reviewing the short-term options. Funding for this was coming for £50,000 that had been set aside for something else, so there shouldn't be any delays in getting this study completed before the next budget was set in 2010. The report also agreed changes to the monitoring of the wall.
- d. Cllr R Buncombe reported that the replacement chestnut fencing promised back in May by the Environment Agency was still not installed – the Clerk was asked to chase this up. It was also agreed that Cllr R Buncombe would do some WPC notices asking people to stay out of the fenced off area.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE

The Chairman, Cllr A Hunt offered the Councils congratulations to Cllr Rae Leighton for being re-elected as County Councillor, and Cllr Peter Austin for being elected as District Councillor.

Cllr Leighton began by informing the Parish council that there were 27 new councillors elected to the County Council but that overall it was the same administration with the same policies and strategies of the last 4 years. There were several shifting appointments, but the main priority was still to get Suffolk through the recession helping small businesses and individuals wherever possible while still keeping the council tax as low as possible, and to “watch this space” for more of the same.

Cllr Peter Austin brought up the subject of the three wheelie bin system and informed the Council that Walberswick was next in line. There is to be a roadshow in the Village Hall Car Park on the 8th September and every household would be receiving a leaflet explaining the new system before hand. The Scheme was due to start on the 26th October, and this would also schedule the start of alternate weekly collections. Cllr Austin stated that as much help would be offered to the village as possible to make the transition a smooth one, and households would be given a choice of sizes for the bins.

Cllr M Dabbs stated that whilst they had known that the bins were coming, no mention had ever been made of the alternate weekly collections and felt that it had been “pushed through” sneakily with no proper consultation. She pointed out that there was already a massive problem with holiday homes and rubbish and felt that the bins and alternate collections would just make the matter worse.

Cllr R Buncombe disagreed by saying that Suffolk Coastal District Council, via the elected member, published newsletters and consultation processes (such as the SALC Area Committees on behalf of the Parish Council which he had reported back to the Parish Council), clearly indicated that the three wheelie bin system would be accompanied by targeted alternate weekly collections.

Cllr Austin assured the council that the District Council would be offering as much help as possible during the changeover.

Cllr Austin also brought up the subject of Latitude. He reported that generally people were happy with the way it had been organised this year and that it was within noise limits and the decibel allowance did drop after 11.00 pm.

It was agreed by the Council that the traffic management had been better this year, but Cllr M Dabbs raised the issue that it was still a massive inconvenience to the village and it was known that other surrounding villages had been granted some sort of concession. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the festival organisers explaining our views.

Jamie Newson - Police Community Support Officer was not at the meeting but did send a report for the period ending July 12th 2009:

“Please accept this short report and my apologies for being unable to be present.
There is a single recorded crime for the period from 8th June to 12th July this occurred on 3rd July in the area of the Street in Walberswick and was a burglary dwelling at present this remains undetected. Regards Jamie Newson”

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a. Mr John Harris asked who was responsible for cutting back the hedges in the entrance to the Sports Field and who was responsible for the upkeep of the Pavillion as it

looked very untidy. The Council informed Mr Harris that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council and that the grass was cut regularly. The Hedges had not been cut back so as to dissuade motorists from driving down there too fast, and that anyone who wanted to use the sports field or the pavilion only had to ask the Parish Council.

- b. Mr Harris also raised the matter of the Yellow lines in the village. The Chairman assured him that he had been chasing Suffolk County Council to get this done on a regular basis, and asked Cllr Rae Leighton to assist in getting this done.

11. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. Lady Freud had telephoned the Clerk and asked if when the path between Westons and the Tuck Shop ceased to be a Public Right of Way. The Councillors informed the Clerk that in fact that path had never been a Public Right of Way, but that previous owners had allowed people to use the access route to the common. However current owners had the right to put a gate on the path, and indeed padlock it when not in use. The Clerk to write back to Lady Freud.
- b. Cllr M Dabbs asked that a piece be put in the Village News reminding people to be considerate to their neighbours and not have bonfires on nice summer's day's.
- c. Cllr M Dabbs had been approached by a member of the public wanting to know why the area down by the caravan track had been fenced in. Cllr B Tibbles explained that this had been done to prevent cars parking alongside the track as this prevented the refuse collection lorry from emptying the wheelie bins that serve the caravan site and the camp site resulting in the bins overflowing and smelling.
- d. Cllr M Dabbs was concerned about the sight lines at the Water Tower (Blythburgh) junction. She raised concerns that it was becoming harder to see traffic approaching from the right (Westleton) until you had your car sticking out into the road and asked the Clerk to see if the Highways Department would send a surveyor to check the geometry of the sight lines.
- e. Cllr M Dabbs also reported that she and the Chairman had attended the Parish Plan Steering meeting and that they planned to have a stand at the village fete to ask for people's comments and were organising a Drop in Centre.
- f. Cllr M Dabbs asked why a programme being filmed in the village with regard to the Crabbing Competition hadn't been mentioned to other Councillors, and why they had not been asked for the usual donation to the Community Fund. Cllr R Buncombe replied that as it was promotion for the Crabbing, historically it had not been anything to do with the Parish Council, but it was agreed that going forward anything to do with filming, promotion or otherwise would be notified to the other Councillors as a matter of courtesy.
- g. The Clerk asked for the Council's permission to attend a "New Clerk's Day" in October and then start the "CiLCA Training" in November. The Council granted permission but asked if it was possible to establish what the actual cost in terms of time spent and travel expenses etc would be to the Council.
- h. The Clerk also mentioned that SALC had sent information of Clerk's Bursary Scheme which offered up to £100 towards training. It was agreed that the Clerk should further the application.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Extra Planning Meeting: Monday 17th August 2009

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 7th September, 2009

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed.....

Date.....