

# WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 11th May, 2009.

## **PRESENT**

Mrs M Dabbs, Mr R G Buncombe, Mr A E Hunt, Mr D C B Webb, Mr K G Webb, Mr B Tibbles and Mrs M Aldridge (Councillors), Mrs V J Hunt (Clerk), Miss M Verneti and one member of public.

### **1) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Mr. A E Hunt was proposed by Mr. D Webb, seconded by Mr. B Tibbles and duly elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year. Councillor Dabbs, the retiring Chairman, was thanked for her work in what had been two difficult years for the Council.

**2)APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from County Councillor R Leighton

### **3)ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Mr. D Webb was proposed by Mr. B Tibbles, seconded by Mrs. A Aldridge and duly elected as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

### **4)DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor K Webb declared an interest in item 10b

**5)MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### **6)ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

Mrs. M Aldridge was proposed by Mr. A Hunt, seconded by Mr. R Buncombe and duly elected as Parish Council representative to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils for a further year.

### **1) ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. A. Hunt was proposed by Mr. D Webb, seconded by Mr. K Webb and duly elected as Parish Council representative to the Village Hall Management Committee.

### **2) ELECTION OF INTERNAL RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER**

Mr. R Buncombe was proposed by Mr. B Tibbles, seconded by Mr. D Webb and duly elected as Responsible Finance Officer for the forthcoming year.

### **3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a)**Track outside Parish Lantern** – Repairs had been carried out to the track
- b)**Fencing of sand dunes** – The Environment Agency had responded to the Council's letter stating that they were prepared to undertake the work. It was **agreed** to ask Giles Bloomfield if he would be prepared to meet with Councillors Tibbles and Webb to discuss the repairs etc.
- c)**Cycling Proficiency** - The Clerk had researched this and found that courses were available. It was agreed proceed as soon as possible and advertise it in the Village News.

- d) **Village Green** – The aeration of the green had been carried out, however lack of rain meant that the turf was in danger of dying. Councillor Dabbs agreed to organise watering of the area.
- e) **Allotment** – One allotment had been handed back to the Council. Interest had been shown by a local resident.
- f) **Local Government Review** – The Council had responded to the latest information received from the Boundary Commission.
- g) **Caravans** – Mr. John Winyard had stated that he would speak to the offending caravan owner who had arrived on site before 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- h) **Gorse on common** – This work was still to be carried out
- i) **Dog Fouling Notices** – Councillor Buncombe had prepared the notices. Councillor Dabbs would erect them in the necessary areas.

#### 4) PLANNING

##### a) **Planning Applications**

- i) **Close Cottage, Manor Close – Erection of pitched roof over garage, cladding on east elevation and conversion of garage to studio – Application No: C09/0489**

The Councillors had **no objections** to this application.

- ii) **Mafeking Cottage, The Green – Erection of single storey rear extension and two storey side extension (revised scheme to C08/2229) and erection of single-storey outbuilding – Application No: C09/0579**

Councillor K Webb declared an interest, left the room, and took no part in the discussions.

The remaining Councillors had no objections to the application. Concern was expressed at the number of small houses in the village being purchased for holiday homes and being extensively extended. It was agreed to convey this to the Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

- iii) **The Old Corner House, The Street – Insertion of cat-slide dormer in west elevation of lean-to extension, erection of rear extension and accompanying lean-to link, conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, alterations to off-street parking arrangements and relocation of heating oil tank – Application No: C09/0615 and C09/0616 (listed building consent)**

The Councillors opposed certain aspects of the application for the following reasons:-

This was already a large house being further extended with no consideration to the amount of car parking available. This property already had difficult and potentially dangerous access whether the entrance was from The Street or, the proposed change of entrance, on a blind corner in Leveretts Lane.

The proposal also included converting the garage into further accommodation. This was completely without regard to the parking situation of this particular property. The frontage of this house abuts the street where parking restrictions are enforced from May to September. The north side exits onto Leveretts Lane, a very narrow road, therefore unsuitable for parking. Losing a garage, a potential parking space, was unacceptable.

The council considered that it was very important for the District Council to take these issues into consideration when dealing with this application. Walberswick was a very busy village with several hundred cars entering daily during the summer months and other holiday periods.

#### **b)Planning Decisions**

Planning permission had been granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council to the following properties subject to the developments being carried out in accordance to the applications and conditions set by the Authority:-

- i) Saltings, Seven Acres Lane – Erection of side extension, creation of first floor verandah and other external alterations
- ii) Te Awahou, Millfield Road – Replacement of existing greenhouse
- iii) Hidden Hut, The Green – Erection of two-storey dwelling (existing dwelling to be demolished)
- iv) Bennett's Drift, Leveretts Lane – Erection of replacement storage shed

#### **c)Tree work applications**

Suffolk Coastal District Council had no objections to the removal of a Holm Oak at The Old Rectory, The Street and to the felling of a Macracarpa at Homeland, The Street.

### **5)ACCOUNTS**

#### **a)Receipts**

- i) Suffolk Coastal District Council – Precept (first half of year) £3,645.00

#### **b)Payments**

- i) T Oram – Aerating Village Green (VAT £6.52) £50.00
- ii) Viking Direct – Office requisites £151.85
- iii) A Church – Repairs to track outside Parish Lantern £51.70
- iv) VHMC – Hire of hall £86.00
- v) CLCT – Hire of sports field £1.00
- vi) Suffolk Acre – Insurance of pavilion and subscription £63.00

### **6)CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Invitation to Charter Luncheon at Southwold on Thursday 29th May – The Chairman and the Clerk agreed to attend

b) Extension of car park operations to include April – The Clerk had contacted the Highways Department to enquire about the possibility of extending parking restrictions to include April. She had been informed that this was possible at a cost of approximately £2,000.00. Walberswick Car Parks Ltd had been given this information. The Parish Council agreed to support this action as congestion had become a problem in the village during April. Walberswick Car Parks Ltd. would cover the costs and open the Car Parks in April for a trial run of two years

### **7)SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES**

Councillor David Webb reported that work had commenced on the sluice but he was concerned at the construction of steps and fencing around the sluice. He assumed the provision of access steps and subsequent fencing, with locked gate to prevent public access, had been done in the name of "Health and Safety". However the fenced off area to the North East of the sluice was very popular with families who wish to indulge in the pastime of 'crabbing'. Based on past experience it would

be expected that people would climb over the fencing or even remove the padlock to gain access through the gate. Either of these acts could result in injury. It was agreed to write to the Environment Agency voicing these concerns.

It had also been reported that cars were parking at the turning point put in place by the EA at the Bailey Bridge. Councillor D Webb had already written to the Environment Agency suggesting that they place a removable post at the turning point to prevent this re-occurring.

## 8) PLAY EQUIPMENT

Councillor Aldridge and the Clerk had been obtaining designs and quotes for climbing equipment for the sports field to enhance the play equipment already in place. The Council agreed on two pieces of equipment from Playquip Leisure at a cost, including safety surfacing, of approximately £5,000. The Clerk reported that they had been pledged £1,700.00 from the 'Crabbing' and Locality Grant and there would be £900.00 in the play scheme fund at Suffolk Coastal. Councillor K Webb reported that a resident would like to make a contribution. It was agreed to write to her with details etc.

## 9) MATTERS RAISED BY THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE

There were none

## 10) MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a) Police and Parish Council meetings – As the police no longer attended the meetings it was agreed to write to Jamie Newson asking him to send a report to the meeting when necessary.
- b) Walberswick Common Lands Charity Trust meeting – Councillor D Webb read a report. See appendix 'a'.
- c) District Council By-elections – Councillor Buncombe had been informed that this election had not been called and therefore would not take place on 4<sup>th</sup> June with the other elections. It was agreed to investigate the reason for this.
- d) Village Sign – Councillor Dabbs reported that the sign, which had been vandalized, had still not been replaced. **Agreed** to contact the Highways Department.
- e) Short Lane repairs – The Highways Department had informed the Clerk that there was no money available in this year's allocation to repair Stocks Lane. However, they had advised her to write to the County Councillor to ask if the cost of repairs to the lane could be taken from the County Council's 'Local Transport Grant'. This was supported by most of the Councillors. This would have to be deferred until after the elections.
- f) Walberswick Surgery – This was in danger of being closed because of lack of use. Agreed to place an article in the Village News explaining this in detail.

## 11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2009

Signed.....

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Date.....