

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 29th June, 2009

PRESENT

Mr A E Hunt (Chairman), Mr D C B Webb (Vice Chairman), Mr R G Buncombe, Mrs A Aldridge, Mr B Tibbles, and Mr K G Webb (Councillors), Miss M Verneti (Clerk). Mrs C Reeve attended for latter part of the meeting.

1. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE** - Mrs M V Dabbs
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 c and d
Cllr D C B Webb declared a personal interest in item 5c
Miss M Verneti made a note of a personal interest in item 5c.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. **Sluice gates and padlock:** Letter received dated 10th June apologizing for the mix up with the gates.
 - b. Still no response from Mr A Wells Baker regarding development at rear of Rosemary Cottage – carry forward until response received.
 - c. **District By-Election** will be held Thursday 9th July – notices posted 16th June 2009.
 - d. **Play Equipment:** Having received all the money (2nd half of outdoor play grant (450) and 2nd half crabbing 2009 (500) the order was placed. Email dated 25th June to say they didn't think that due to availability of materials it was unlikely that it could be installed until the beginning of September. Councillors were unhappy about this response and asked the Clerk to write and try to get the matter moved forward.
 - e. **Cycling Proficiency:** Whilst it is difficult to guarantee numbers it was agreed to go forward with it – hopefully on Wednesday 19th August – with two sessions, 10 – 12 on the playing field for everyone, and then if enough interest 2.00 – 4.00 for the over 10's to do roadwork. Notices to be placed in Tuck Shop on Notice Boards, Councillors' gates, Village News etc.
 - f. **BEG Planning Application:** has been submitted, notices to local land owners were signed by the Clerk and sent out on the 15th June 2009
 - g. **Dog Bins** have been emptied
 - h. **Lifebelts/Phones:** – WDC and BT have agreed to replace/repair them. Councillors' to check works have been done.
5. **PLANNING**
Planning Applications Received
 - a. **THORPEVIEW, The Street** - Retrospective Planning Application – Retention of self-contained annex to amended design. Application No: C09/0854
The Council objected to the above application for the following reason:

- The Parish Council had opposed the original planning application, and therefore could only further vociferously object to this revised retrospective application for an even larger building and they urged Suffolk Coastal District Council to reject in entirety the application.
- The Parish Council also took the opportunity to state that they felt that the continuous “retrospective planning approvals” being experienced represent serious abuse of the planning system stipulated by the Local Development Framework and can no longer be condoned. This application has clearly and seriously overstepped the mark.
- With that in mind Walberswick Parish Council is strongly of the opinion that this application be rejected and the consequences fully enforced by the Planning Authority.

b. **LAND NORTH OF ALEXANDRA COTTAGE, The Street** - Planning

Application for erection of three new dwellings, garages and cycle stores Application No: C09/0934

The Chairman, who had declared an interest, left the room and took no part in the discussions.

The remaining Councillors objected to the above application for the following reasons:

- It represents severe over massing on the site, which is in a Conservation area, and the modern “ski-chalet” design is totally out of character with the surrounding buildings, and is significantly detrimental to the character and nature of the surrounding environment.
- The Parish Council is concerned about access onto the narrowest part of The Street for up to 12 resident vehicles, plus delivery vehicles. Also there are significant risk assessment issues with respect to safety, access and the environment which this Council strongly believes are not given due consideration in the Application.
- The Parish Council understood the developer had approached all local residents and included letters in the Design and Access Statement which, we felt were intended to deliberately mislead the planners into thinking there is support for the development, when in fact a significant adjoining owner does not appear to have been consulted at all.
- There are several instances where the brief is misleading and indeed contradicts what is being proposed.
- The following statements contained within the Access and Design Statement are unjustifiable and unsustainable:
 - “That there was a preference for a tendency away from a pseudo cottage style of property certainly where this would assist in a reduction of mass.”
 - “There is no demonstrable need for low cost housing within the village of Walberswick”.
- The Parish Council strongly believes that this proposal would benefit from a site visit from the Planning Committee.

c. **WESTWOOD and PLEACH COTTAGE, Lodge Road** - Planning Application, and Re-establishment of Mea Allen garden at Westwood (including demolition of Pleach Cottage and garage, new dwelling, garage, studio, wall and stores including cycle store.

The Chairman, who had declared an interest, left the room and took no part in the discussions.

Whilst the Council had no objection to Pleach Cottage being demolished in favour of reinstating the garden, they did make the following objections:

- The Parish Council objected to the design of the new property feeling that it is totally out of keeping with the surrounding properties. It is also believed it is “over-massing” on a small plot, with the north and east sides of the building very close to adjacent boundaries.
 - The tall cobbled wall along Lodge Road, is totally disproportionate and certainly not in keeping with surrounding properties and looks to be urbanising the area.
- d. **RIPPLEWAY, 16 Millfield Road** - Replacement of chestnut fencing and mixed hedging with new fence. Application No: C09/0603

The Parish Council had no objection to this application and in fact approval had been received before the meeting.

Planning Notifications:

- a. **THE OLD CORNER HOUSE, THE STREET. C09/06150616**
Suffolk Coastal granted permission and listed building consent for the extensions, and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, subject to all conditions set out by the authority but refused consent for any alterations to the parking area or the relocation of the oil tank. Both will require further planning permission.
- b. **MAFEKING COTTAGE, THE GREEN C09/0579**
Suffolk Coastal granted permission for the extension subject to all conditions set out by the authority.

Tree Work Applications

MARLISH, SHORT LANE, No objection raised to removal of T1 Leylandii Conifer.

6. ACCOUNTS

a. Receipts

- i. Suffolk County Council Locality Grant from Cllr Leighton for play equipment - £700
- ii. Donation for play equipment from two local residents £2,400
- iii. Donation for play equipment from British Crabbing Federation £500
- iv. Suffolk County Council Outdoor Play Space Grant – 50% of - £450

b. Payments

- i. Inland Revenue - Mrs V Hunt Final tax payment - £28.64
- ii. Village Hall Mgmt Committee – Deposit for Car Park Fob for new Clerk - £30.00
- iii. Southwold Press – Bill for printing Flyer from AGM for Village News - £25.00
- iv. Mr A E Hunt – Chairman’s Allowance - £50.00
- v. Essex and Suffolk Water bill for water used on sports field April to September 2009 - £15.45

It was **unanimously supported** that the above accounts should be paid and the receipts were acknowledged.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Email re coach parking from Village Hall Management Committee** – The Clerk to reply
- b. **Consultation of Suffolk Coastal’s Climate Change Strategy** - The Clerk to distribute via email to Councillors
- c. **Letter from Townwalks.co.uk** – The Clerk to reply that service offered not required.
- d. **Email from T Gilbert re Bailey Bridge Road** - The Clerk to pass onto Suffolk Coastal District Council for their comments

8. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES.

- a. **Letter re proposed Dredging off Southwold** – It was discussed that this particular application was closer in that previous applications, and therefore it was agreed that Cllr R Buncombe would write a letter on behalf of the council to obtain more information.
- b. Cllr D Webb reported that WDC had accepted their responsibility to replace the North Harbour Wall and were actively looking for funding.
- c. Cllr D Webb also reported that the Common Lands Charity were looking into piling the banks of the Dunwich River around the East Point bay.
- d. Cllr D Webb also reported that the Blyth Estuary Group were planning to take the Environment Agency to judicial review over their report.

9. EXTENSION TO CAR PARK OPERATIONS

Cllr R Buncombe raised the question of whether a public meeting was required to discuss the changes being asked for. It was agreed that a piece would be put in the village news explaining that the Parish Council had been asked to consider the proposal of bringing forward the start of the parking restrictions from 1st May to 1st April, and that if any members of the public wished to discuss the matter it could be brought up at the September Parish Council Meeting.

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

Cllr Leighton was not at the meeting nor did he send a report.

Jamie Newson - Police Community Support Officer was not at the meeting and had not sent a report.

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs C Reeve attended the meeting and brought up the following questions:

- a. Would the Parish Council give consideration to having some disabled parking bays permanently allocated outside the church? Mrs Reeve had contacted the Highways Department and had discovered that it was a simple process requiring one form to be completed. The Parish Council agreed in principle to 3 bays

being designated, one on one side of the gates, and two on the other, and it was agreed that the PCC would make the application.

- b. Had any consideration been given to providing either sheltered accommodation or affordable housing on the site behind Alexandra Cottage? The Parish Council advised Mrs Reeve to write to the Planners and raise the matter directly.

12. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. Mr Mark Aldridge had phoned the Clerk and asked the Council's permission to use the village green for the Fete. This permission was granted and Cllr M Aldridge asked to relay this to Mr Aldridge.
- b. Cllr M Dabbs asked that Suffolk Coastal be chased to cut the grass at the triangle by the water tower. The Clerk agreed to write.
- c. Cllr D Webb brought up the "Stepping out in Suffolk" brochure which showed a Walberswick walk starting at the church. It was agreed that this could potentially cause a traffic hazard and the Clerk was asked to write and ask them to move the meeting place to one of the car parks.
- d. The Clerk was asked to write to the planners as to why the Parish Council had not received any planning application for works at Anchorlea.
- e. Cllr D Webb reminded the Council that the Shoreline Management Plan meeting was due to be held on the 7th July and hoped people would attend.
- f. Cllr M Aldridge attended the SALC meeting on the 8th June and made a presentation to the Parish Council:

Ian Dunnett, project Manager with Suffolk Strategic Partnership working on making Suffolk the greenest county, gave a presentation. He started 21/2-3yrs ago creating a long-term vision of what Suffolk will be like in 30 years. His remit was to raise aspirations. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions by 60%, to make a vibrant economy and safe, healthy and inclusive communities. The challenges are in the response to climate change – mitigation, adaptation, protecting and enhancing the environment. What's happening in the county? There is the Orbis centre in Lowestoft for renewable energy, 20 public buildings already have woodchip boilers. Farmers are using woods to make wood briquettes which have a lower carbon footprint. There was concern from members that the woods would be used up. Suffolk University Campus is a sustainable build. Adnams store was the overall winner of the Carbon Trust Innovation Award. He is involving schools, village halls, pubs in the Energy Saving Trust carbon reduction partnership. There is an energy monitor available in libraries. Concern was expressed at the outsourcing of services at Ipswich hospital and it was agreed to write a letter. The next meeting of Salc will be on 14 September and there will be a talk on NATS which is concerned with where aircraft fly and are stacked.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3rd August, 2009

Meeting closed at 9.02 pm

Signed.....

Date.....