

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 6th September 2010.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mr D C B Webb (Chairman), Mr A E Hunt (Vice Chairman), Mr C J Hosea, Mr B Tibbles, Mr K G Webb, Mrs R Woodcraft and, and Miss M Verneti (Clerk). County Councillor Mr R Leighton and District Cllr Mr P Austin.

1. No apologies were received.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on Monday 9th August were duly agreed. Cllr B Tibbles proposed and Cllr R Woodcraft seconded and the Chairman signed them as a true record.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**
Cllr K G Webb declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5d.
Cllr D C Webb declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5d and a personal interest in Item 5b.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. Measuring the pot holes is still outstanding
 - b. **Play Equipment:**
Playquip Leisure have stated that hopefully if the spring isn't damaged the horses body/head can be replaced with not too much problem – they also stated they can carry out repairs and upgrades so it was agreed to get them down to look at the swings on the green.
Cllr Hosea mentioned that he had been approached about equipment for older children. The general view was that there had been a great many problems with the skate board ramp when this had been tried before, with youths from outside the village causing vandalism and litter including needles, and the Councillors were unwilling to revisit that idea. Cllr K Webb also stated that it was imperative that the parents came forward and got involved in anything that was proposed. It was also agreed that it would be prudent to wait until the results of the Parish Plan questionnaire were available and revisit the question then.
The clerk had obtained a second quote for the fencing for the play equipment but was asked to see if it could be modified further by not having to be rabbit proof as it was purely to keep the dogs out of the area as yet more dog fouling around the equipment was evident when the Clerk met the fencer up there.
The Clerk is to chase ROSPA again re the response to last year's report and change of address for this year's report.
 - c. Village Green by-laws to be checked regarding parking on the Village Green and changed if necessary.
 - d. Second Letter re Street Lighting in Adams Lane to be sent to residents.
 - e. Anglian Water had reacted quite positively to the Sewage Problems at the bottom end of the village – The Clerk agreed to stay “on the case”.

- f. With Regard to the Consultation on Council Tax Referendums, the Clerk explained that whilst on first reading it didn't appear to affect a small Parish Council such as Walberswick, SALC had advised that because our precept was so small *any* percentage increase could be seen as "excessive" therefore we were exactly the type of Parish Council that should respond. The Chairman agreed to respond on the Council's behalf. SALC had also sent a Local Services Survey which it was agreed the Clerk would complete.
- g. The Chairman had written to Dr T Coffey MP regarding the Post Office closure – he had received a response stating her promise to assist where she could.
- h. The grass cutting quotations for 2010 are finally sorted out, with an agreement to sort out 2011 in February. This inadvertently will save the Parish Council money this year.
- i. The clerk had written to the RSPB regarding Sea Eagles and received a one line response stating our comments had been noted.
- j. After complaints had been received and a phone call from the Clerk at Southwold Town Council regarding the annual cycle ride the Clerk had written to the organisers and complained about the lack of information, the fact cyclists were using the footpaths, and one resident being verbally abused. The police had been copied as well, and Sgt Goddard at Saxmundham had backed our complaint.
- k. The Clerk had complained to the EA about the long 4 month closure of the footpaths for the second year running. She received a response stating they hoped to be finished long before that
- l. The Chairman had written to the EA some time ago regarding the Dunwich River Sluice. He had finally received a response and at present it was not clear what their plan was. The Parish Council agreed to keep an eye on it.

5. PLANNING

- a. **Planning Notifications Received:**
 - 1. **The Old Corner House, (C10/1566 and 1567)** –Listed Building consent and permission for revised scheme – Granted
 - 2. **Westwick, Lodge Road (C10/1619)** – Erection of a porch - Permission Granted
- b. **Planning Applications Received:**
There were no planning applications from SCDC but the Clerk had received a copy of a WDC Planning Application Ref: PP01182209 from Southwold Town Council asking if the Parish Council had any objections to the proposed works at East Point Bay. The Chairman explained that WCLCT had put in the application to put some posts in to stop the shingle being washed up in front of the buildings, and to protect the bank on the seaward side of the bay. The Parish Council had no objections.
- c. **Tree Works:** There were no official notifications but The WCLCT had written to the Parish Council to pre-advise them of an application for 14 Self seeded sycamore trees to be removed in Bennett's copse.
- d. **Other Planning Matters:** As the Chairman, Cllr D Webb, and Cllr K Webb had declared a prejudicial interest in this item, even though it was a report not a discussion, they left the room. The Vice-Chairman, Cllr A Hunt took the chair for this item. Cllr Tibbles stated that he had attended the Development Control sub-committee's site visit to Rosemary cottage, along with the District

Councillor. He was there purely to answer any questions the Committee may have had. They viewed the site from Rosemary Cottage and also from the gardens of 8 Adams Lane and Little Meadow, the Street. The Planning Officer's report is due next week, and the committee meet later in the month.

6. ACCOUNTS

a) Receipts

- a. Bank Interest all accounts May to August £1.36
- b. Photocopying charges Mr A Walpole - £0.70
- c. Photocopying charges Mr H Gilby - £1.00

b) Payments:

- a. Village Hall Management Committee – Hire Costs July and August £30.00
- b. Suffolk Acre Insurance – Fixed Year 2/3 - £678.08

Cllr B Tibbles proposed and Cllr A E Hunt seconded that the accounts were agreed for payment and the receipts acknowledged.

7. EMU AGGREGATE FORUM

It was agreed that Cllr A Aldridge would attend the forum on behalf of the Parish Council and report at the next meeting.

8. SPEED MANAGEMENT DOCUMENT

A discussion took place as to other potential ways of calming traffic in the village. The possibility of a speed operated flashing sign at the top of Palmers Lane was discussed, but the SCC cost was £10,000. It was agreed to look at other suppliers and to revisit this item again.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Suffolk County Council had sent the clerk a copy of the full traffic order for Walberswick – she had attached this to the month's circulars and drew the Councillor's attention to it.
- b. Suffolk Coastal District Council had sent a letter stating they were reviewing the Register of Historic Buildings at Risk. The Clerk had phoned SCDC and discovered that the only property in Walberswick that was on the list was the Wind Pump at Westwood Marshes. County Cllr Rae Leighton, when asked stated, that is was his belief that the plan was still to renovate the building but the clerk was asked to write back and ask for confirmation.
- c. An invitation to the Home Start AGM. No one was able to attend but Cllr Woodcraft asked that we request a copy of the minutes after the meeting.
- d. An Email had been forwarded from Mr Ungless regarding SCDC's Policy 5.06 in the Interim Core Strategy regarding affordable housing. All the councillors had read this email as Cllr Hunt had circulated it, prior to the meeting, but it was agreed to wait for the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire before discussing it further.
- e. An email had been received from Barbara Priestman who was overseeing the incoming correspondence for the Sea Defence Group. It was regarding an article about to appear in the EDP regarding compensation being offered to erosion hit

houses in Happisburgh. It urged the Parish Council to lobby both District and County Councillors and the local MP's to ensure this was challenged.

- f. An email had been received complaining about the state of the toilets. It was agreed that regardless of the fact they were cleaned every day they were in a bad state of repair and in desperate need of upgrading. The Clerk was asked to write to SCDC about this.
- g. An email had been received from an organisation called Mow and Grow Suffolk Coastal regarding a garden clearance and maintenance service. The Parish Council stated they didn't need the service at present but the Clerk was asked to put the details up on the notice boards in case other residents may be interested.

10. REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE

PCSO Newson had sent a short report which the Clerk read out stating that there had been no reported crimes in the village from the 1st August up until 5th September.

County Councillor Rae Leighton explained to the Parish Council the new strategies being planned at Local Government level from central Government with a view to empowering local communities, and their "big society" strategy. At this stage no one was quite sure how it would be happening but as information became available he promised to pass it on to the Parish Council.

District Councillor Peter Austin told the Parish Council about the first simultaneous Cabinet meetings for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils which would be taking place on the 13th September. This was all part of the proposed Joint Management Structure which would hopefully save money over time.

11. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. Councillor K Webb stated that the grass seed for the village green had been obtained and he would be placing a pile of topsoil on the green in the coming days. It was hoped that a working party could be formed to start the re-seeding works as large areas of the green would have to be fenced off.
- b. A discussion took place between the Councillors about the topic of Play Equipment for slightly older children, and it was agreed to wait until more information from the Parish Plan Questionnaire became available. Cllr K Webb did state that it was imperative that the parents got involved with any such decisions.
- c. Cllr Hosea expressed concern over some of the questions in the Parish Plan questionnaire. Cllr Hunt explained that many of the questions arose from earlier consultation with parishioners and as such may appear to be narrow. He suggested that judgement be reserved until the final report is produced.

12. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Several questions were asked by members of the public and all answered accordingly.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 4th October at 7.30 pm.

- 14. The Final item on the Agenda was to consider recent legal advice and the Clerk's Terms and Conditions. Under the LGA 1972 ss100 and 102 and Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public were requested to leave. A separate File note of the discussions will be kept on file at the Clerk's residence.

The Meeting was closed at 9.00 pm

Signed.....

Date.....