

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 December 2010.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mr D C B Webb (Chairman), Mr A E Hunt (Vice Chairman), Mr B Tibbles, Mrs R Woodcraft and, and Miss M Verneti (Clerk).

1. Apologies were received from Mr K G Webb and Mrs A Aldridge and District Cllr Mr P Austin.
2. The Chairman stated he was moving item 9 on the Agenda, which was “Parish Council Vacancy” to this point in the meeting. He stated that even though some residents had called for an election, only one person had put their papers in, therefore the election was once again, uncontested, and Mr Nick Crocker was duly appointed to the Parish Council. Mr Crocker was invited to join the Council, signed the Declaration of Office and was welcomed to the meeting.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on Monday 1st November were proposed by Cllr B Tibbles, seconded by Cllr A E Hunt and unanimously agreed. The Chairman signed them as a true record.
4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**
There were no declarations of interest.
5. **REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE**

NB: During discussions regarding the introduction of a Public Forum Protocol (see later item) it had become clear that if the reports from District and County Councillors and the Police had been moved to the public forum, then they would not have been minuted. In between meetings it was agreed to leave the decision to Cllr Leighton and Cllr Austin, and they both elected to keep their reports as part of the minuted Council meeting, but to move it up the Agenda to enable them to leave if other meetings arose.

County Cllr Rae Leighton spoke about the “New Strategic Direction” at the County Council. The budget cut from central government was 28%. When you look at the split (40% from Council tax and 60% from central government) it is clear that 28% is quite considerable. As SCC is trying not to raise the council tax, the only way forward is a radical re-thinking of services. He made it clear that this was not “privatisation” but rather the Council looking for voluntary groups and local councils to come forward with assistance on projects. He detailed two such schemes in Saxmundham and Dunwich and hoped other councils/groups in the Blything ward would follow suit.

District Cllr P Austin was unable to attend but had sent an email via the Chairman stating that the next round of Revenue Grants were due by 31.01.2011.

The Clerk had received a report from PCSO Newson stating that there were no recorded crimes in Walberswick for the period 28th October to 5th December 2010.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. With regard to the potholes in Church Lane, the Clerk had been in touch with Suffolk County Council Highways Department who had confirmed it was not their responsibility. The previous Clerk Mrs Hunt mentioned that they had been persuaded to do it last time, but it was agreed that they had not made a very good job of it. It was suggested that the Housing Association be contacted.
- b. Playquip Leisure had submitted a very reasonable quote, which due to timing the councillors had agreed to via email. The hope was to get it fixed before the Christmas school holidays.
- c. Mr Nigel Minter from Anglian Water had arranged a meeting to come and explain what they had done and what they were proposing for the future. This was cancelled due to bad weather and agreed to rearrange in the New Year.
- d. The Clerk had received an email from the Developer for Alexandra Cottage stating the tree should be taken down early December.
- e. The Chairman had been told by Royal Mail that a new sub-post mistress had been appointed for Yoxford, and they stated that they would approach her in the New Year to see if she would be prepared to continue the outreach service to Walberswick.
- f. With regard to the Public Toilets the clerk had emailed NPS again who stated they were waiting for the budgets to be posted, at which time they would be back in touch.
- g. The Clerk had written to Natural England with regard to the Windpump. They had written back to say it was being handled by Adam Burrows and we await a response from him.
- h. With regard to the damage on Stocks Green both the Chairman and Cllr A Hunt had been trying to find out who was responsible, and it appeared to have happened a second time. The Chairman had put some posts in to stop it re-occurring and it was hoped that time would repair the grass.
- i. Cllr A Hunt had spoken to Suffolk Coasts and Heaths about the letter previously received regarding undergrounding overhead power lines. It had been hoped that they could be persuaded to do some in the village rather than the middle of the marshes, but it appeared that the work was being done under a grant from Offcom and couldn't be changed. It was agreed that this was a complete waste of money.
- j. With regard to the letter from Chattisham and Hintlesham PC's regarding pylons it was agreed to write a letter of support stating that wherever reasonably possible new power cables should be underground.

7. PLANNING

- a. **Planning Notifications Received:**
 1. **Greyroof, Millfield Road, (C10/2341)** – Erection of two storey side extension & single storey rear extension - Approved
- b. **Planning Applications Received:**
 1. **Driftwood, Church Lane (C10/2849)** Erection of single story porch addition to the front, with internal bathroom accommodation. – No objections.
- c. **Tree Works:**

1. **Bittern House, Millfield Road** – Removal of 3 conifer trees, one bay tree and one holly tree. – No objections
2. **White Cottage, The Street** – Prune Silver Birch at front and reduce same at rear. – No objections

8. ACCOUNTS

a) Receipts

- a. SCC Ground Rent from Visitor Centre – 2005 – 2010 £13.00
- b. Photocopying charges Mr A Walpole - £2.01
- c. Waveney Norse – Recycling Credits to 30.09 - £5.69
- d. Easter Power Wayleaves payment - £23.50

b) Payments:

- a. Donation to Ipswich and East Suffolk Headway - £25.
- b. ROSPA Inspection - £148.05
- c. Viking Stationery Requisites - £301.92

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

- c) **Budget for 2011:** The Clerk stated that she and the Chairman had gone through the budget for 2011 and agreed it. She also stated that whilst SCC and SCDC would both be cutting their budgets, it was important that the Parish Council began building the reserves back up. It would be sensible to keep the precept the same as 2009/2010 and not reduce it, or increase it. This was proposed by Cllr R Woodcraft, seconded by Cllr A E Hunt and unanimously agreed.

9. SPEED MANAGEMENT DOCUMENT

There was nothing to add on this item as the Parish Council was still waiting to hear about the potential speed change request from Suffolk County Council.

10. SEA DEFENCES

The Chairman stated that WDC had put the wheels in motion to start the works on repairing the North Dock Wall next year – planning permission had been applied for and things were moving in a positive direction.

He also stated that the works at East Point Bay on behalf of the WCLC to strengthen the banks were ongoing and that some residents had offered to contribute.

11. PARISH COUNCIL PROCEDURES:

- a. The Chairman read out the finalised “Public Forum Protocol”. He asked that a resolution be passed that this protocol be accepted. The resolution was proposed by Cllr B Tibbles, seconded by Cllr A E Hunt and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was asked to put the protocol on both notice boards, and it is attached to these minutes. (*see Appendix 1*)
- b. Cllr A Hunt was continuing to work on the revised Standing Orders which had been suspended at the last meeting to prevent continued criticism. However, the Parish Council confirmed that they were conducting themselves in accordance with the old Standing Orders and the law.

12. ROSPA REPORT

The Clerk had received the annual ROSPA Report on the play equipment. It was very similar to last year with, on the Green; the old slide failing to meet the new Regulations, Not enough bark chippings and the big swings needing work, and at the Common; matting that been mown over, the broken horse (which is in the process of being fixed), and the discrepancy between Playquip leisure and ROSPA as to the drop height on the new equipment.

Although none of the above risks were marked as anything higher than low/medium, it was agreed to discuss further improvements in the next twelve months.

13. WALBERSWICK VISITOR CENTRE:

There had been various letters going between, Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, The Local History Group, The Common Lands Charity and the Parish Council, and it was clear that all parties wished for more input from the village. The Chairman stated that he would try and speak to Suffolk County Council Property/Resource Management to ascertain if there were any plans to sell the building, and in the meantime it was agreed that in the New Year a meeting would be set up between the interested parties.

14. 2011 MEETING DATES:

The Clerk had a list of potential dates – as often as possible these were the first Monday in each month (bank holiday's excepting) they were:

Monday 10 th January	Monday 7 th February
Monday 7 th March	Monday 4 th April
Monday 16 th May	Monday 6 th June
Monday 4 th July	Monday 1 st August
Monday 5 th September	Monday 3 rd October
Monday 7 th November	Monday 5 th December.

Full Council elections will be held on May 5th and therefore any new councillors will join the council on Monday, 16th May.

The date for the Annual Parish Meeting has been set at Thursday 14th April.

These dates will be adhered to as far as possible but in each case the Agenda will be posted 4 clear days before each meeting on the usual notice boards. Any changes to these dates will be given as much notice as is practicably possible.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. It was agreed not to make a donation to a request from "Victim Support".
- b. A letter had been received from "East Suffolk Jet Washing Services" a company offering commercial jet washing services. It was agreed to keep on file for future use.
- c. A letter was received stating what the estimated costs would be for next May's elections. The average cost was approximately £450.00.
- d. A letter had been received from SCDC stating that after the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee's review of Planning Services, it had been agreed to revisit this to see what progress was being made in May 2011. Councils were therefore invited to make any further observations before then. It was agreed to put this letter on the March Agenda to see if anyone had any comments.

- e. Documentation had been received from SCC regarding the proposed Digital Switchover in 2011. Tacolneston Transmitter, the one serving Walberswick is due to be changed in November. It was agreed to publish this and the website and contact details in the village news, but should any residents have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the clerk.
- f. SCDC had written regarding a potential breach of planning control with regards to a beach hut being erected on the beach. It stated that the Parish Council would be kept informed of any progress.

16. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. Cllr Aldridge had sent her apologies as she was away on holiday but had attended the last SPLG meeting and sent this short report:
 - “ Malcolm Blakeney, Chairman, gave a report on his consultation with the Deputy Leader of West Somerset Council about how they are negotiating with EDF for a community fund when they build Hinkley Point. There is a similar group starting up which is focussing on access roads. EDF has written to people who will be affected by the build to inform them of a litigation scheme including mitigation of effects and property support. It was agreed that it was important to keep in touch; we want them to do well. A discussion took place regarding the community document and it was agreed to tweak the language so that it was not so confrontational. A task force has been set up by the district council to look at planning for Sizewell C. Two members of the Group went to the meeting and it was thought inappropriate for SPLG to be a member. The vote was 9 to 1 against. There was disappointment and puzzlement at the decision. We are allowed to be observers. It was suggested that we have a strong presence with EDF and that we should put our proposals to them ASAP before they are hijacked. It was also noted that a lot of the materials for construction will arrive at Lowestoft and that there will be a high risk radioactive material stored at Sizewell for the next 100 years.”
- b. At the last meeting before he was elected a Councillor, Mr Nick Crocker agreed to look into the options for increasing the Broadband speed in Walberswick. He reported to the Council that his initial research showed that as there is no cable laid into Walberswick and as such the alternatives to BT appear limited. BT have suggested fibre optic in planned to be laid to the junction box in the village in 2015 however this appears even then unlikely to guarantee future speed requirements to all. Given increasing demand for bandwidth some property experts suggest lack of availability could have a negative impact on property values. Purchasing a leased line for sharing could be an alternative and Cllr Crocker will research more to produce a paper for the Parish Council.
- c. One cllr asked if it was at all possible to get the old sign back. The Chairman agreed he would contact the people who had got it and see if they were interested.
- d. Cllr Tibbles reported that he and Cllr K Webb had shut the floodgates on Sunday morning and they were happy to report that they were all working correctly.
- e. The subject of the Royal Wedding was mentioned and the fact that at the last one for Charles and Diana, various village events were organised and it was agreed to put the item on the next agenda for discussion.

17. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a. Mr A Walpole asked three questions;
 - i. Would the Parish council be prepared to take the lead on the discussions about the Visitor Centre and agree to write back to Suffolk Coasts and Heaths. It was agreed that the Clerk would do this.
 - ii. Would the new Public Forum Protocol be attached to the next minutes. It was stated that it would be, and would be put on the village notice boards.
 - iii. With regard to changing the speed limit, he remembered from when he was involved in the traffic management group in previous years that there was potentially a problem between having a 20 mph speed limit and having to have street lights. It was agreed that nothing would be agreed until we had all the information to hand.
- b. Mr J MacCarthy asked why the Clerk had decided to refuse to accept “signed for” mail. The Chairman explained that he had been with the Clerk when the letters turned up and seeing as how Mr MacCarthy had already sent the letters via email, it seemed pointless accepting yet another copy of them so they had been returned with “received by email” written on them. He stated that the Clerk and the Chairman would have had no idea what was in the envelope, and it was agreed that this was the case. He then demanded that his letters be responded to, and the Chairman tried to explain that he had been sent everything he was entitled to.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 10th January 2011 at 7.30 pm.

The Public were then requested to leave so that the final two items on the Agenda could be discussed *in-camera*.

19. WALBERSWICK COMMON LANDS CHARITY:

Next Nominative Trustee Selection

Mr James Darkins was the only applicant for the role, but it was unanimously agreed that he had contributed a great deal to the Charity and should be nominated to serve another 4 year term. The Clerk was asked to inform the Common Lands Charity and Mr Darkins.

20. GIFTS FROM THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

It was unanimously agreed that Mrs E Bloomfield should be sent a card and a gift to thank her for continuing to keep the bus shelter clean during the previous year.

The Meeting was closed at 8.50 pm

Signed.....

Date.....