

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 7th February 2011.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mr D C B Webb (Chairman), Mr B Tibbles, Mrs R Woodcraft, Mr NJ D Crocker, Mrs A Aldridge and, Miss M Verneti (Clerk). .

The Chairman ended the public forum and began the meeting by thanking Mrs Jayne Cole, the Deputy Chief Executive of SALC for coming to the village and holding a training and advice session for the Parish Council on the new style Standing Orders, and for her continued hard work and advice on our behalf. It was hoped that the new SO's could be fully adopted at the next meeting.

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Mr K G Webb and Mr A E Hunt (Vice Chairman), County Councillor R. Leighton and District Cllr Mr P Austin.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on Monday 10th January were proposed by Cllr B Tibbles, seconded by Cllr N J Crocker and unanimously agreed. The Chairman signed them as a true record.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**
There were no declarations of interest.

4. **REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE**
District Cllr P Austin was unable to attend but had sent a message to the Parish Council stating that the District Council would not be increasing their portion of the rates for the next financial year.

The Clerk had received a report from PCSO Newson stating that there had been one crime in the village during the month of January, which was the theft of a set of ladders from a garage.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. The Beech Tree was removed but initially the stump remained which was where the experts had informed us that the fungus grew from, so the Chairman had written to the Tree Officer for his comments. The Stump was then grounded out, but the sawdust spread around all the other trees. The Chairman had contacted the Tree Officer again, who stated that in his opinion this was not a problem.
 - b. The Chairman had contacted Heritage Housing to find out what, if anything they could do for the potholes in Church Lane and was waiting for a response. It was also mentioned that there were a couple of large potholes in Leveretts Lane and the Clerk was asked to report these.
 - c. Cllr Crocker bought up the subject of a major project hat could unite the village. It had been put in the village news, but there had been little response. A couple of suggestions had been the replacement of the village hall to make it more

usable, and maybe more to be done with the Heritage Hut, a matter which is being progressed with SCC, WCLC, Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, and the History Society. It was stated that the Village Hall Management Committee had, and continued to improve the facilities at the village hall, but that major works had had to be done to the roof and electrics.

- d. There were no updates to be reported on any other outstanding matters

6. PLANNING

a) Planning Notifications:

- a. **Land North of Alexandra Cottage C09/1575** Erection of 3 dwellings & associated garages and cycle stores with construction of new vehicular access (revised scheme) Approved
- b. **Driftwood, Church Lane C10/2849** Erection of single storey porch to the front with internal bathroom accommodation – Approved

b) Planning Applications:

- a. **Fishers Garage, The Street C10/3080 & 3081** Demolition of existing shed and workshop, reduction of commercial garage space and conversion of part to residential. – No Objections
- b. **Bunbury Cottage, The Street C11/0122)** Erection of extension to single-storey outbuilding together with front and rear dormers to main dwelling – No objections except for preference on location of rear dormer.

c) There were no Tree works

7. ACCOUNTS

a) Receipts

- a. WCLC share of Grass cutting 2010 - £48.75
- b. HMRC VAT Reclaim April 10 to Jan 11 – 210.36

b) Payments:

There were no payments to be made this month

Cllr A Aldridge proposed and Cllr B Tibbles seconded that the accounts were agreed, and this was unanimously agreed.

8. SEA DEFENCES UPDATE

- The Chairman reported that repairs to the North Dock Wall are proceeding albeit slowly, but hopefully there would be more positive news in the next couple of months.
- Suffolk County Council had decided that the best way forward at Blythburgh was to raise the A12, however they were now looking at the suggestion of a sluice, but it was all dependant on money.
- The Environment Agency have made a terrible job of the top of the mill wall footpaths, using clay with no run off areas, so they are consequently flooded. It is clear they will have to be redone.
- There had been talk of the EA putting in a larger sluice behind the village hall, but the project leader had implied that there was not enough money to just replace the sluice, but that if they looked at a larger project, ie replacing the bridge altogether, then there may be more money available.
- The EA had been made aware of the fencing on the beach and they had told the Chairman that Natural England would be putting it back again.

9. ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

The Village Hall Management Committee have arranged for the Wedding to be shown on the big screen in the Village Hall, with people being able to bring a picnic to enjoy it together. The Parish Council were still keen to put on some other children's events, and it was agreed that Cllr Aldridge and Cllr Woodcraft would liaise with the VHMC to see what else could be done.

10. PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Peter Byrne read out a statement (*See Appendix 1*) from the Parish Plan Steering Committee detailing their progress to date. He also stated that there would be a meeting arranged on Saturday 14th May in the Village Hall to discuss the findings of the questionnaire and also the next stage.

The Chairman thanked the whole Steering Committee for their very hard work.

11. PROVISION OF HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Cllr Crocker gave feedback to the meeting on his findings on the subject. A copy of his positioning paper has been posted to the PC Website. There is a likelihood of Walberswick being disadvantaged compared to other areas in regard to the future provision of internet speed and availability. Given there are likely to be significant social and environmental gains from having universal access in addition to the more obvious benefits this is a cause for concern. Some initial feasibility work is being undertaken to seek potential solutions however, Cllr Crocker agreed to write a piece for the newsletter, and suggested that he should now form a small team to take the project forward. He hoped that anyone interested in helping, particularly those with a technical background would now come forward.

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. A letter had been received from WDC stating that they were adopting their new Framework. The letter stated that the Report was adopted by full Council on 26th January 2011. Should anyone wish to view the document it is available online at www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF.
- b. A letter and questionnaire from SCDC about the Litter Action – Spring Clean Suffolk 2011 asking parishes to get involved. As the Parish Council already organise a Beach Clean twice a year it was agreed to use that – it was therefore agreed that the next beach clean would be Sunday 17th April. The Clerk was asked to send back the questionnaire.
- c. An email had been received from Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations stating that Suffolk Coastal was under represented in being awarded Big Lottery Reaching Communities Grants. It was agreed to put the enclosed poster on the noticeboards.
- d. Dr Therese Coffey MP had responded to the Chairman's letter regarding Ship to Ship Oil Transfers. The Chairman read out the letter which stated her position on the matter, but did confirm that she believed that the oil spill equipment would be moving to Lowestoft.
- e. Mrs Hursell, Clerk to Southwold Town council had sent us a copy of a letter from the Department for Transport stating that the equipment referred to above would indeed be re-located to Lowestoft.

- f. Paperwork has been received from SCC to confirm that a short section of the Bailey bridge track (near the old railway station), that was not previously designated as a “bridle way” has now been so designated.
- g. A letter from SCDC stating that as Kerbside collections of recyclables was now fully up and running that, with the exception of the bottle banks, any recycling bins would be removed.
- h. Email and Press Release from National Grid asking for people’s comments on the potential undergrounding of cables. It was agreed to put something in the Village News.
- i. SCDC sent a letter asking if the Clerk would be willing to be the distribution and collection point for anyone wishing to submit nominations for the next election, and then deliver them at one specific time to SCDC. It was discussed and agreed that the Clerk would do this. More details would be forthcoming closer to the election.

13. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- a. The Chairman brought up the subject of steps over the flood defence at the allotments. The EA were happy for us to go ahead, but wanted to hold off while they tried to get the Flood Defence Consent fee of £50 waived. It was looking hopeful that between the EA and Suffolk Coastal Footpaths something could get done.
- b. The Chairman also stated that he was progressing the matter of resurfacing Church Lane with Heritage Housing.

14. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a. Mr J MacCarthy’s first question was why he had still not had a response to his letter dated 19th November 2010, and secondly when the “internal review” or appeal of his Exclusion Notice would be complete. The chairman stated that due to the great number of other matters the Councillors and Clerk were dealing with, the appeal would take “as long as it took” but that it was underway. Mr MacCarthy started to ask another question on the same subject but due to the existence of the Exclusion Notice the Chairman moved the meeting on.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 7th March 2011 at 7.30 pm.

The Meeting was closed at 8.35 pm

Signed.....

Date.....