

# WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

## **PRESENT**

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

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs R Woodcraft, Mr NJ D Crocker, and, County Councillor R. Leighton and District Cllr Mr P Austin.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February were proposed by Cllr B Tibbles, seconded by Cllr A Aldridge and unanimously agreed. The Chairman signed them as a true record.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**  
Cllr K Webb declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 6.b.1 and a personal interest in Item 6.b.4. As a relation of Cllr K Webb, the Chairman, Cllr D Webb declared the same interests. The Chairman, Cllr D Webb also declared a personal interest as he is a Trustee of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity.
4. **REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE**  
County Cllr R Leighton and Cllr P Austin were unable to attend and had sent no reports.

The Clerk had received a report from PCSO Newson stating that there had been three crimes in the village in the past two months, the theft of a set of ladders from a garage, a theft from a building and a burglary dwelling, all of which remain undetected.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
  - a. Cllr K Webb brought up the subject of the Environment Agency still not finishing repairing the banks, and in fact making them a great deal worse – the latest proposed closures of footpaths took them up to July this year, making the period of repair over 18 months – it was agreed that the Chairman would write and try and get something resolved.
  - b. It was hoped to have the meeting regarding the Visitor Centre in the next couple of weeks.
  - c. With regard to the boiler vent at head height in the Main Street the Clerk reported that she had contacted the owner of the property who had agreed to get someone to look at it.
  - d. The Clerk reported that there were several outstanding matters that required chasing and it was hoped to get some results by the next meeting.

## 6. PLANNING

### a) Planning Notifications:

- a. **Fishers Garage, The Street C10/3081** Conservation Area Consent granted for the demolition of existing shed and workshop.

### b) Planning Applications:

Cllr K Webb and Cllr D Webb declared interests in items b) (a) and (b) the Chairman handed the meeting over to the Vice chairman and both councillors left the meeting and took no further part in the discussions that followed;

- a. **Marsh View, The Street C11/0219** Erection of single storey side extensions and associated alterations including cladding of front elevation. – No Objections
- b. **Moorside Cottage, Palmers Lane C11/0402** Alterations to dwelling including reconstruction & new tiled pitched roof on garden room, over cladding part of existing facing brick wall with insulation & timber weatherboarding, new render to parts of existing external wall, replacing & enlargement of existing windows, insertion of low profile roof lights, new oil storage tank & externally located boiler. – No Objections

The Chairman and Cllr K Webb returned to the meeting

**Primrose Cottage, Lodge Road C11/0240 & 0241** Erection of one and a half storey cottage style dwelling and remodelling of bungalow including first floor extension to form one and a half storey dwelling. – Cllr Hunt brought up the fact that the positioning of the houses, especially the proposed new house would make the street scene look unbalanced and very different. He also mentioned that one of the very near neighbours had had no notification whatsoever from SCDC. The general agreement was that it would make the site look over crowded and the Clerk was asked to write with the Council's objections.

- c. **Marshway, Leveretts Lane C11/0359** Erection of 2 storey side extension, single storey outbuilding and iron gate in front boundary & associated alterations to dwelling and garden (porch to be demolished & oil tank to be removed) – No Objections
- d. **Lane Corner, Palmers Lane C11/0433** Construction of new *attached* cart lodge and store, with combined annexe (Demolition of attached garage to existing property). There were no objections to the design or location of the cart lodge, but the concern was that as it was detached from the property it would be a relatively easy job to change the garage into living accommodation thus creating a separate dwelling. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to SCDC and state that the Parish Council wished for a condition to be placed upon the application preventing any further conversion of this new building into a dwelling in its own right.
- e. **Land to Side and Rear of Rosemary Cottage (Etc) C11/0375.** Even though the plans had arrived on the Saturday morning before the meeting it had been requested by one Councillor who was away on holiday, and seconded by a second Councillor who had been unable to attend the meeting that due to the contentious nature of the previous application on

this site, that discussions and decisions be postponed until a suitable time when all Councillors could attend. The remaining Councillors agreed to this and it was agreed that another meeting would be arranged as soon as was practicably possible.

**c) There were no new Tree works**

The Chairman mentioned the Beech Tree at Alexandra Cottage, and that the Parish Council had received a copy of correspondence between the Developer and SCDC stating that as work wasn't going to be starting until after the summer, the tree wouldn't be replaced straight away. Cllr K Webb brought up the fact that we had been told the fungus was in the roots, and yet the roots were still in place. The Chairman stated that Mr Minta, the SCDC Tree Officer had said there was no problem with this, but Cllr K Webb asked that the question be posed again. The Chairman agreed to do this

**7. ACCOUNTS**

**a) Receipts**

a. VHMC share of Grass cutting 2010 - £48.75

**b) Payments:**

a. VHMC Hire Costs Jan to March 2011 - £37.50

b. SALC – Training expenses by Mrs Cole - £62.64

c. Suffolk Acre Membership for 2011/2012 - £25.00

d. Suffolk Acre – Sports Pavilion Insurance 2011/2012 - £45.49

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

**8. SEA DEFENCES UPDATE**

The Chairman reported that there was no update on the repairs to the North Dock Wall, but it was discussed that no one on the Walberswick side had seen the proposed application. The Clerk was asked to contact WDC to see if plans could be sent.

**9. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Chairman reported that the previous week a black box had appeared up by the Church – this had been installed by SCC to measure the traffic speeds in the village, but there was some concern that for most of the week it had been behind a parked car! The positive point was that SCC were obviously taking seriously the request for a change of speed limit in the village.

**10. FORTHCOMING ELECTION**

The Clerk had received notification of the timings for submission of papers should anyone wish to stand at the next election and had also received a stack of Nomination Papers which for ease were being kept at the Chairman's house. The Clerk once again explained that SCDC had asked that wherever possible the Clerk delivered the completed nominations to SCDC in one pre-arranged appointment.

It was stated that the "Notice of Election" would be posted on the 18<sup>th</sup> March with completed nomination papers due on 25<sup>th</sup> March, or at the latest 4<sup>th</sup> April.

The election would be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

## **11. ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS**

Cllr A Aldridge and Cllr R Woodcraft have been liaising with the Village Hall Management Committee over the arrangements. Cllr Aldridge is planning an Art competition which Anne Paton has agreed to judge and Cllr R Woodcraft has made various suggestions for events on the village green after the wedding finishes. It was suggested that it would be fun to introduce the “Leveretts Lane Street Race” again for adults, and fancy dress and races on the green for the children. Notices will be put up around the village in the next couple of weeks.

## **12. UPDATED STANDING ORDERS**

Following the helpful session held last month by Mrs Cole from SALC Cllr A Hunt had made some further alterations to the Model Standing Orders and distributed them to the Councillors for comment. A Resolution was made that these New Standing Orders be adopted. Cllr K Webb proposed, and Cllr Tibbles seconded the resolution and it was agreed by all Councillors present.

It was agreed that Clerk and Cllr Hunt would sort out the formatting of the document, and then the final version would be distributed to all Councillors and when time allowed it would be sent to Mrs Ungless to change into a PDF format and put on the Parish Council website.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hunt for all his hard work on the Standing Orders.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. A letter was received from WDC stating that the LDF Lowestoft Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour Area Action Plan Document was ready for submission to the Government and if anyone wanted to see the document it was available online at [www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF).
- b. SCC had written to state that they had no issue with the proposal of “steps” over the sea defence at the end of the allotment footpath. They had some suggestions as to what could be done and it was hoped to get a meeting sorted between WPC, SCC and the EA.
- c. A letter had been received from SCC regarding the proposed closure of the Southwold Household Waste Recycling Centre. As the Chairman was reading the letter out, a member of the public interjected that he had been at the Centre that day and the latest was that they had been granted a six month extension to November whilst private individuals looked into raising funds to keep the site open.
- d. SCC had sent a Consultation paper for the “Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Integrated risk Management Plan” The paper was distributed to Councillors via the regular circulars with comments asked for. A response was required by the 5<sup>th</sup> May. Should anyone wish to see the document it can be found online at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/IRMP](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/IRMP).
- e. The Chairman read out parts of a letter sent from a resident who was asking for information, in some cases dating back to the end of 2009, on the first Land to the rear and side of Rosemary Cottage application which had been refused. The Parish council agreed that going back over all this, mostly for information that did not exist, served no purpose and the Chairman agreed to write back to the resident in question and explain this.

- f. The Chairman also referred to copious amounts of correspondence from a small minority of the public making demands as to what went on the Parish Council Agenda, and when the minutes were published and he explained yet again that it was not in the public's "gift" to make such demands.
- g. Another resident had written to the Chairman about Parking on the Green. The Chairman stated that as the "Residents Parking" Notice was not enforceable there was little that could be done. Cllr K Webb explained that there had been a weekend recently when one of the holiday cottages on the green had held a party and there had been cars everywhere, but that everyone affected by it had been apologised to. The Chairman agreed to write back to the resident concerned.

#### **14. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

- a. Cllr K Webb brought up the state of Sandy Lane – he stated that in certain areas it was a mud bath and the water had no where to go so just sat there – he remembered a similar situation in Stocks Lane where the Common Lands Charity put some hardcore down with drainage to the sides and that dramatically improved the situation – he stated that he realised that as soon as it dried out it would improve but for the longer term something should be done.
- b. Cllr K Webb also stated that it was important to get the bark chips for the green before the Easter break and the Clerk agreed to chase this up.
- c. Cllr K Webb finally brought up the subject of the Village Green – he stated that for the most part the seed they had spread so far had taken, but it was suggested that another bag of seed, raked and spread over the particularly bare patches now would mean it had a couple of weeks to take hold before Easter. It was agreed that a working party would meet on the green as soon as possible.
- d. The Chairman brought up the subject of the Brown Tail Moths, which were quite dangerous and caused skin irritation had been found in the brambles down by the beach huts at the back of the beach – The Common Lands Charity was taking steps to cut them the nests out of the brambles and burn them.
- e. Cllr A Aldridge mentioned that the sign "No Rubbish Tipping" had been taken down from the back of the Village Hall and that rubbish was collecting again. The Clerk and Chairman were asked to find a replacement.
- f. Cllr A Hunt mentioned that on one of the houses in the main street, and conservation area had a red and white illuminated sign. He believed it to be an alarm box, but felt that it was inappropriate for the area and asked the other councillors to take a look before approaching the owner.
- g. The Chairman finally brought up the subject of dog mess on the sports field – he stated that it appeared to be getting worse and one of the signs that had been put up had even been ripped down. He asked everyone to keep an eye on the area, especially as the Easter break was approaching and more children would be up there. It was also agreed to put yet another piece in the village news.
- h. The Clerk brought out the list of invitations to the Annual Parish Meeting – a few changes were made where people within organisations had changed, and a couple of new organisations were added. The Clerk stated she would get the invitations out as soon as possible.

#### **15. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- a. Mrs S Harvey brought up the subject of the Rosemary Cottage application regardless of the fact the Chairman had stated it would not be discussed. She asked what the Councils views were on it being an "incremental" development,

to which the Chairman responded that as far as the Parish Council was concerned it was a separate and new application. She then asked why and which Councillors had had informal meetings with the Developer and why they had not been minuted, to which the Chairman responded that in a small community it was perfectly reasonable for a developer to have discussions with individual councillors to gauge opinion.

- b. Mr J MacCarthy asked for the third time about the suspension of Standing Orders and continued to press the Chairman as to where the Parish Council had obtained its advice from. The Chairman stated that it had come from SALC.
- c. Mr K Benham asked about the location of any traffic calming sign. The Chairman reassured Mr Benham that it was early days and nothing had been agreed on the matter, but to rest assured that the residents, especially those with children would be consulted.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next full Parish Council meeting was scheduled for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm, with a separate Planning meeting to be arranged when all Councillors were available.

The Meeting was closed at 8.50 pm

Signed.....

Date.....