

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Planning meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd 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, Mr N J Crocker and, Miss M Verneti (Clerk). .

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs R Woodcraft, County Councillor R. Leighton and District Cllr Mr P Austin.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**
Cllr K Webb declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 3.1 as he had worked for the Developer before and as they are related, the Chairman, Cllr D Webb declared the same interest.

3. PLANNING MATTERS Planning Applications:

C11/0375 LAND TO THE SIDE AND REAR OF ROSEMARY COTTAGE AN FORMER WAVENEY LODGE (KINGFISHER/MOONFLEET), THE STREET – Erection of 5 dwellings with associated garages, including 1 affordable house, and the construction of a new vehicular access road (resubmission following refusal of C10/0188)

As they had declared a prejudicial interest the chairman, Cllr D C B Webb, and Cllr K G Webb left the meeting. The Chairman passed the chair over to the Vice Chairman, Cllr A E Hunt.

The Vice Chairman began by handing the floor to each councillor in turn.

Cllr N Crocker began by stating he had studied the plans as well as the valuable letters of objection that had been sent to the Parish Council. He made a general observation that there was an ongoing shortage of housing in the UK. The previous application had been refused because of the number of properties, the layout and the size and position of one property. This application has dealt with these issues and appears well thought out and as a result in his judgement the development should go ahead. He was pleased that the proposal included an affordable property and that it could be managed locally. Ultimately the development would be beneficial to the village.

Cllr A Aldridge stated that she had voted against the previous application due to the number of houses. Her main concern was that the affordable unit only had two bedrooms – she stated that for a young family starting a family 3 bedrooms would be better. She stated that you wouldn't be able to see the development from the road and that there was a constant demand for housing in a village such as Walberswick, which is constantly evolving. On this occasion Cllr Aldridge was in favour of the application.

Cllr B Tibbles had voted in favour of the previous application, and as this was for less houses, and the provision of an affordable unit he stated that he would be in favour of this current application.

Cllr A E Hunt stated that he was not entirely happy with the design of the houses, and would have liked to see some smaller units. He felt that there was a real danger of the four bedroomed houses becoming second homes and that this was a trend that had to be reversed as certain areas of the village were becoming ‘hollowed out’. He also stated that the development in its current form did not represent the best interests of Walberswick. The type and style of houses should be more diverse. On this occasion he felt he had no choice but to object.

The Vice Chairman then proposed a motion that the application be refused, there was no seconder. Cllr B Tibbles then moved that the application be approved, Cllr N Crocker seconded this motion and the vote was carried 3 votes for and 1 against.

The Chairman, Cllr D Webb and Cllr K Webb rejoined the meeting and the vice chairman informed them of the result of the vote.

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Various members of the public raised questions to do with the application. Mrs S Harvey stated that if the Parish Council would consider the development to be incremental then there would be provision for two affordable units, but it was clear that this was not the case as when the developer put in the application for the replacement of Waveney Lodge he was not in possession of Rosemary Cottage.

Mrs Reeve stated that in her opinion the houses were too big and that the requirement in Walberswick was for smaller units that the elderly could potentially downsize into. The Parish Council stated that this had been an original idea and they had been behind it, but that it appeared to no longer be viable.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Parish Council meeting was scheduled for Monday 4th April at 7.30 pm and the meeting finished at 8.30 pm

Signed.....

Date.....