

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Council Meeting** held on **Monday 1ST August** at 7.30 pm
in Walberswick Village Hall

Members: Cllr. E Richardson (Chairman) Cllr. L Sutton Cllr. P Widdowson
Cllr. R Catchpole Cllr. P Dunnett

Also present: County Councillor M. Gower, K. Forster - Clerk to the Council and 12 members of public

1/16 Chairman The Chairman opened the meeting and explained that item 1 & 2 would be moved to 8a, and that thereafter only item 9 & 13 would be covered.

2/16 Apologies: There were apologies from Cllr. Sutton

3/16 Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Widdowson declared that he received finance from SCDC with respect to his NUT activities.

4/16 Open Forum:

1. A member of the public commented on the fact that background reports and documents for the agenda had not been made available to the public. The Chairman responded that the comments were noted. He also said that he believed that there could be no expenditure if there was no budget set. The Chairman responded that the comments were noted.
2. A member of the public commented on the notice of the reduction of the speed limit in parts of the village being reduced to 20MPH which had been advised on 31st of July with only a consultation period of 1 week. He expressed concern that this was rushed. The point was made that the timescale was not the responsibility of Walberswick.
3. A member of the public stated that there was a lack of accounts submitted for 2014/15 & 2015/16, there was no BDO approval and that there was no budget for 2015/16 & 2016/17. The Chairman responded that the comments were noted.
4. A member of the public stated that although the road had been resurfaced and the lines repainted, outside Lodge Lane down to Freuds House, the yellow lines had been put in the wrong place. The Chairman advised the member of the public to contact Highways.

5/16 District Councillor report:

Cllr. Catchpole, as District Councillor, reported that the monthly reports are to be set up on Suffolk Coastal website.

Additionally, the District Council is concentrating on Devolution. He explained that this would mean the creation of 2 combined authorities – Cambridge & Peterborough and Norfolk & Suffolk. There would be an elected mayor who would be able to raise funds and levy charges on District Councils. There would be more powers devolved to District Council although this needed clarification and discussion. The merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney district council is under review following the success in savings from the combining of the services and officers.

6/16 County Councillor Report

Cllr. Gower reported that Devolution was also a major topic at County Level and he had voted against the proposal.

He also commented that he was surprised on the timescale for the 20MPH reduction, as it had taken at least 8 years to get to this point. He will discuss with Highways and suggest that there is a meeting, after the consultation period, to inform the parish on the proposed

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plans. A Member of the Public requested that this would not delay the implementation of the new limit.

The Chairman then thanked Cllr. Gower for his persistence and effort over so many years in achieving this reduction in speed. There was a round of applause from the Council and Members of the public.

7/16 Other Authorities Reports

The Chairman stated that she had received the post-installation inspection certificate of the newly installed play equipment. This had been posted on the Web Site.

8/16 Appointment of Clerk and RFO

The Chairman proposed that Karen Forster was appointed as the Clerk and Proper Officer and the Responsible Finance Officer. She stated that the hours were set to be 5 per week but for the first 2 months, due to the enormous amount of work that was required, she proposed that 15 extra hours per week could be paid as overtime. This would be based on a submitted, signed timesheet. This was seconded by Cllr. Dunnnett. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that Karen Forster be appointed in post under the terms described.**

9/16 Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting of 16th May were submitted for approval. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.**

10/16 Accounts

- i) **Balances in Bank** : This information was not available
- ii) **Invoices to be paid:** There were no invoices outstanding to be paid.
- iii) **Update on works to play equipment on Village Green:** The Chairman explained that following the approval at the last meeting to set aside £5000 for repairs to the play equipment (MI 160516/18 & 19) and safety play bark, the Walberswick Charity tendered for quotations. Only one was received in the timescale for a sum of £8500. The Charity concurred with this quotation and donated £2000, a further £2000 was donated by an anonymous donor through the charity and the balance of £ 4500 was paid by Walberswick Parish Council. In addition, £423 was paid for replacement play bark. The Chairman then commented that the play bark will need regular raking and will need replacing as it is regularly removed by children. Her proposal would be rubber matting which would be seeded by grass. **NOTED**

11/16 At this point the Chairman proposed that the meeting be closed and a new one called later in the month so as to allow the new Clerk and RFO to better understand the council business. This was seconded by Cllr. Catchpole. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the meeting was closed.**

Meeting closed at 20:09. Next meeting 7.30 pm 21st November 2016 in Walberswick Village Hall

Karen Forster
Clerk to Walberswick Parish Council
Heritage Hut, The Green, Walberswick, IP18 6TT

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