

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th September 2019 at 7.15pm in the village hall annex. Plans for DC/19/2866/FUL were available before the meeting.

Present: Councillors Bassinette (in the chair), Lewis, Mackay, Sutherland-Rogers, Sutton and Winyard. Also in attendance was Mr. Mark Knight (Locum Clerk), Cllr. Beavan (District Councillor) and four (4) members of the public.

405/19-20 Chairman's welcome.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

406/19-20 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Richardson. These were accepted.

407/19-20 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None were declared.

408/19-20 Open Forum

None

409/19-20 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Richard Smith was not in attendance and no written report was received.

410/19-20 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr. David Beavan reported on the strategic planning for stage 4 of the Sizewell C consultation. It was a disappointment that work which involved the destruction of Coronation Wood as a precursor to the start of Sizewell C was approved by the district council by a single vote.

The Harbour Consultation was planned for a month to six weeks and it was unfortunate that Walberswick had no representation in the Committee. Cllr Beavan suggested that Walberswick should contact representatives from other authorities to help its voice be heard.

Bailey Bridge has had a temporary repair which appears to be fine, although this will be monitored to ensure that the County did not again close the bridge.

There was discussion about the Scottish Power Windfarm proposal including its impact on the view out to sea and the impact of the construction of the enormous sub-stations on traffic on the A12 and connecting roads. While overall it was felt that wind was preferable to other energy sources, it was important to ensure that there was no environmental damage to the seabed. The greatest concern was that the Sizewell C plans took no account of the impact on the roads and the surrounding areas that the land-based element

of the Scottish Power development would have. Therefore it was felt that the Sizewell C development, on top of the Scottish Power infrastructure construction, would create an even more intolerable impact on the communities including Walberswick.

Concerns were raised about the planning process and the ability for the Council to respond in good time. The example of the planning agenda item that evening which had reportedly been approved by the District before the Council had had a chance to comment. Cllr. Bevan suggested that any communication should be emailed rather than verbal and should be copied to himself and the Chair to produce a paper trail in the case of any dispute with the Planning Office. Cllr. Bevan also reported that even though the method of representation concerning planning consultations and decisions has changed, the Ward representative can still call in a specific application for arbitration if the Town or Parish council objects.

Cllr. Bassinette asked about individuals who might seek to circumvent the planning application process by proceeding with the work and then asking for permission retrospectively. Cllr. Bevan responded that it was imperative for him and East Suffolk District Council to be notified as soon as possible to allow for an enforcement officer to inspect and take the appropriate actions.

Cllr. Bevan then left the meeting at 7.30pm.

411/19-20 To consider the Minutes of the Meetings of 8th and 25th July 2019 for accuracy and for the Chairman to sign as a true record.

It was **AGREED** by those members present to adopt the minutes presented. The Chair was given authority to sign these as a true record.

412/19-20 Finance Matters

412/19-20.1 Review Lloyds bank account receipts/budget & payments/budget as of 31st August 2019

It was **RESOLVED** to accept these figures as presented. Reviewed by Cllr. Lewis.

412/19-20.2 Confirmation of HSBS bank balance: £15,859.58 as at 31st August 2019

The existing balance was **CONFIRMED** with no changes.

412/19-20.3 Approve Bank Reconciliation Lloyds Account to 31st August 2019

It was then **RESOLVED** to approve these figures.

412/19-20.4 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet

Signed.....

Dated.....14/10/19.....

The Npower bills have been investigated as correct. The relatively high amount is because Npower insists on recognising the Heritage Hut as a business and therefore we have high standing charges and extremely low usage charges. Under the conditions of the lease arrangement with the Charity, the electric bills are now being transferred to the WCLC and they will resolve this issue going forward.

It was also noted that the cost of membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for the RFO was split between Walberswick and the other parishes on which he served

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise all payments. Cllr. Bassinette signed the appropriate documents.

412/19-20.5 Review & Approval of Annual Insurance Cover Renewal & Fidelity Guarantee Cover

On behalf of the RFO, Cllr. Lewis gave a verbal report on this matter. It was noted that CAS, the provider, had recently switched insurers and recommended that we update our coverage. This was also in line with a recommendation from the internal audit report. It was further noted that this insurance covered all assets without the need to list the individual value of each. This was highly preferable since it was difficult to value individual benches, pieces of playground equipment and historic assets

It was then **RESOLVED** to sign up to the three-year deal with Parish Protect per the recommendation of the RFO.

413/19-20 To discuss this Council's response to the Scottish Power Offshore Windfarm proposal.

It was noted that the consultation period was over, but that it was important to note the impact of the windfarm infrastructure on the Sizewell C proposal. It was agreed to make reference to this in the final response to Sizewell C 4th round consultation. It was further **AGREED** to review and comment on the Impact Assessment Document which would be published by the end of the year.

414/19-20 To discuss a way forward with regards to the children's play equipment on the Village Green

Cllr. Lewis gave a verbal report surrounding progress made in this area. It was **RESOLVED** to empower the Locum Clerk to source three quotes to either repair or replace the slide, whilst Cllr. Lewis would further look into identifying which company originally installed the slide and whether just the step could be replaced. It was agreed to bring this back to the Council in October.

Signed.....

Dated...19/10/19...

Problems were also noted regarding parents still allowing their children to play on the equipment despite it being clearly marked as unsafe. Cllrs. Lewis, Sutton and Winyard, with help from WCLC, had therefore put up even more hoardings and signs to warn again that the slide should not be used.

It was also noted that the Walberswick Community Lands Charity had indicated that it would consider contributing to removing the slide if requested and necessary.

415/19-20 To consider a proposal paper concerning memorial benches

Cllr. Lewis gave a verbal report, accompanied with a written report, regarding a recent survey he and Cllr Richardson undertook with help from the Historical Society and previous surveys. All the benches which the Parish Council are responsible for were identified and had an accompanying photograph, manufacturer and GPS coordinates. There are 37 in total. 2 of the existing benches require repair and it was proposed to completely remove a further 2 if no-one came forward to repair them. The remainder were all in good enough order to require no immediate work, but a schedule of routine maintenance and survey should be developed

It was also **RECOMMENDED** that:

- The asset register be updated in this regard.
- The two benches in need of repair be found a sponsor or steward to take care of the bench and if these cannot be found then they are to be removed on safety grounds. It was noted with gratitude that Jeremy Solnick had already come forward to offer support for the repair of the bench dedicated to Hansi Bohm
- That a paragraph on each person who has a memorial bench named after them be produced by reaching out to local groups and included on the website
- To gather the names and contact details of potential supporters for each of the benches for when work is needed.
- To get the netting repaired in the roof of the Jubilee Bench outside the Village Hall.
- For this to then form an annual inspection schedule with a two year maintenance schedule when identified.

It was then **RESOLVED** to accept these recommendations.

416/19-20 To discuss this Council's response to the Sizewell C 4th round consultation

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It was noted that the Council was disappointed over the lack of response from the last round of consultations and frustrations were shared over the prevalence of government policy which seemed to support development over environmental and other community concerns. It was agreed that coupled with the Scottish Power Windfarm proposals, the Sizewell construction period would have an extremely negative effect on residents and visitors to Walberswick and all of the surrounding areas for a generation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft response already circulated would be revised to incorporate the points from the discussion and then forwarded to the Locum Clerk to submit, including copying-in representatives at District, County and National level.

417/19-20 To discuss the proposal regarding scroll renovation

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposal already circulated and to send the thanks of the Council to the Scroll historians group.

418/19-20 To discuss Councillor interest in the 'Routine Playground Inspection Course' to be run on the 17th September 9.30am to 4pm in Stowmarket

No councillors were available to attend the training due to work commitments. But it was **AGREED** that the Locum Clerk would look for similar courses as they arise and bring them to the attention of the Council.

419/19-20 Councillors to consider for approval the appointment of a Nominative Trustee for the WCLC

Mr. Adam Cooke was approved as per the recommendation from the WCLC. Special thanks and appreciation were extended to Mr. Jeremy Solnick, the outgoing trustee, for his years of service to the WCLC.

420/19-20 To note the new adopted constitution for the Village News

The new constitution was acknowledged and noted.

421/19-20 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant

421/19-20.1 Footpaths and Highways

Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers has reported the following to Suffolk County Council. A fallen signpost at the junction of 14 and 24: the boardwalk on Footpath 1 linking Footpaths 22 and 24 which has many areas of damaged wire netting causing potential trip hazards.

Estuary fencing update, the Harbour Master has now organised the installation of a further stretch of new metal fencing running from the steps to the beach back along part of the flat grass area behind the dunes. However, the old, broken, low picket

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fencing at the back of the beach and along the high sand dune to the steps still remains. This area is still cause for serious concern due to the current very easy access to the estuary especially by dogs and children, Further discussion with the Harbour Master will therefore take place when he returns from holiday on the 15th September.

421/19-20.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

Cllr. Lewis gave a report on the recent Suffolk Coastal Forum which he also chaired. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney are currently having discussions about how best to align to the newly formed East Suffolk District Council. An update was also given regarding new accessibility website guidelines which the Council will have to comply with by September 2020 and both Cllr. Lewis and the village webmaster were engaged with the website provider on this topic.

Cllr. Lewis also updated the council on a recent SALC board meeting he attended, where a motion was passed supporting this Council's decision to challenge and not immediately pay the recent audit bill

421/19-20.3 Litter

No report was given.

421/19-20.4 Playing Fields and the Green Play Area

Cllr Winyard pointed out that there had been no port-a-loo at the Annual Cricket Match on the bank holiday weekend. The Chairman apologised for the Council's oversight in this matter. The Council **RESOLVED** that for 2020 and beyond, the Council's approval for holding the match on the playing field would include the provision of a port-a-loo.

421/19-20.6 Village News

None given

422/19-20 Oral Committee reports if relevant

None given

423/19-20 To consider the draft minutes of the Safety Committee held on 25th July 2019

The minutes already circulated were **APPROVED** as a true record and the chairman given the authority to sign the same.

Problems have been ongoing with benches, the Heritage Hut and the slide on the Village Green. Work has also been conducted on deteriorating posts around the Green more work needs to be done on identifying who is

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responsible for the remaining posts. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr. Lewis to paint the remaining two posts in this area in the same manner as the rest already done for safety reasons.

It was **RESOLVED** to change the contractor for the playground inspection to ROSPA with immediate effect and for an inspection to be carried out. The report from David Bracey also to be forwarded to ROSPA upon appointment.

424/19-20 Planning

424/19-20.1 Jove Cottage

DC/19/2866/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Planning Advisory Group report in this matter, that the application should be **APPROVED** subject to the provisos detailed in the report.

It was also **AGREED** that the Locum Clerk should contact East Suffolk District Council Planning Department to complain about their ignoring the recent extension granted to this Council by approving the application prior to receiving the Council's input.

424/19-20.2 To discuss concerns surrounding development without planning approval

The Chairman raised the problem faced by the Village of some homeowners undertaking construction without or contravening planning permission. In particular, the potential violation of the planning consent at one particular house was raised given that the ongoing work appeared to contravene the filed planning documents. **AGREED** that the Council would, through the Parish Clerk, alert the East Suffolk District Council's Planning Department when suspected violations were noted by Councillors or brought to the Council's attention by parishioners. This information would also be copied to Cllr. Beavan so that enforcement action could be requested.

425/19/20 To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of the following items in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt after the item that confirms details of the next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public at this time.

426/19-20 Consideration of employment matters

The members of the public and the Locum Clerk left the room at this point.

On the recommendation of the Employment Committee, it was **RESOLVED**

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Dated.....14/10/19.....

to appoint Mark Knight as the permanent Clerk. The Chairman was authorised to work with OPUS to release Mr. Knight from the Locum Contract according to the terms and conditions and to then sign an employment contract with Mr. Knight according to the employment policies and procedures of the Council.

427/19-20 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 14th October 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Annex of the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.22pm.

Signed.....


Dated...14/10/19.....