

## WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.15pm virtually via Zoom.

Present: Councillors Bassinette (in the chair), Lewis, Richardson, Sutherland-Rogers, Sutton and Winyard.

Also in attendance was Mr. Mark Knight (Clerk), Mr Simon Ashton (Responsible Financial Officer) and one (1) member of the public.

### **022/20-21 Chairman's welcome.**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **023/20-21 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.**

None.

### **024/20-21 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.**

Cllr Winyard declared an interest in Agenda item 030/20-21 below and took no part in the discussion.

### **025/20-21 Open Forum**

The member of the public requested that the Council look into the confusion by ESC planning office regarding submission and determination dates for planning applications. Letters received by the Council and those dates published on East Suffolk Council's website seemed to be contradictory and confusing. It was also noted that after this meeting had been called, two more planning applications had been received with submission dates before the next scheduled meeting date of the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The Council discussed this issue and tentatively agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting, via Zoom, on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 or later providing that the Planning Advisory Group could meet and discuss the applications before the legal publishing date.

The Parish Clerk also committed to contacting East Suffolk Council's planning department to investigate the apparent discrepancy with dates.

### **026/20-21 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan**

The written report already circulated was noted. There were no questions. Cllr. Lewis commented that ESC were now live streaming their Council meetings.

### **027/20-21 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 for accuracy and for the Chairman to sign as a true record.**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes with a minor correction of a typographical error, and the Chair was given the authority to sign.

*Jan Bassinette*  
12/7/20



**028/20-21 Finance Matters 2020/21**

**028/20-21.1 Review Lloyds bank receipts/budget & payments/budget (as at 31 May 2020)**

It was **AGREED** to accept the figures as presented. There were no questions.

**028/20/21.2 Approve Bank Reconciliation Lloyds Account (to 31 May 2020)**

It was **AGREED** to accept the figures as presented. The Responsible Financial Officer also explained the unrepresented cheque. Cllr. Sutton was authorised to sign the necessary documents which he will do at the first opportunity where the Council meets in the presence of the RFO.

**028/20-21.3 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet**

The Chair drew the members attention to the PKF Littlejohn invoice which was presented. A brief explanation of the history of the payment and the new development of SAAA having sent the invoice to collection on the behalf of PKF and the fact that the Council had exhausted all avenues of appeal. It was noted that while SALC and NALC, as well as the NAO, all shared the frustration of the WPC with the actions that had resulted in these disproportionate costs, there was nothing further that the WPC could do given the existing contract between PKF and SAAA. The Councillors agreed that the invoice would now have to be paid even though it was with great sadness. The Council agreed to continue working with SALC, NALC and our MP to help ensure that the ongoing review of local authority regulations led to changes that would not permit such an outcome for smaller authorities in the future.

Cllr. Lewis asked whether a VAT claim could be made relatively quickly after the payment in order to recoup the substantial VAT payment associated with the PKF invoice. The Responsible Financial Officer requested authorisation to proceed with a claim to the end of June 2020 and given that this would also include this historic invoice. All were **AGREED** that the process should be started as soon as possible.

It was **APPROVED** to pay all items in the sheet, Cllrs. Bassinette and Winyard were also authorised to carry out the electronic payments.

**029/20-21 To consider a response to the East Suffolk Council consultation on the Southwold Harbour Management Committee and the Terms of Reference for its Advisory Group.**

The Chair gave a verbal report on the history of this item and the contents of the proposed response. There were no questions.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the letter previously circulated and the

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Parish Clerk was authorised to submit the letter with some minor administrative changes.

**030/20-21 Follow up on a request from a member of the public concerning light pollution resulting from commercial lighting in Southwold Harbour.**

The Parish Clerk gave a verbal report on the history of the item. A member of the public had attended the February meeting of this Council to report about the excessive commercial lighting coming from a business on the Southwold side of the harbour in black quay that was flooding the Walberswick side estuary throughout the entire night. This was having a detrimental effect on those with docks, on the wildlife and on local houses in Walberswick that face the Blyth River. Attempts made to contact the business and to contact the Harbour Master to resolve the issue had been to no avail.

The Parish Clerk circulated an action plan with recommendations concerning a joint approach with other Councils and Councillors and contacting other local residents to make a robust case to the business causing the light pollution. It was also explained that certain planning legislation needed to be looked into in more detail.

It was then **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Parish Clerk's recommendations and to proceed, keeping the Council informed, as appropriate.

**031/20-21 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant**

**031/20-21.1 Footpaths and Highways**

It was noted that the new replacement "Bun and Mac seat" had been installed.

**031/20-21.2 GDPR, SALC and Website**

Cllr. Lewis reported that there was a small update/amendment needed in the Complaints Procedure and requested that this be added to the July Agenda for this Council. This was **AGREED**.

**031/20.21.3 Litter**

Nothing for meeting.

**031/20-21.4 Playing Fields and the Green Play Area**

Cllr. Lewis reported that in accordance with central government advice concerning the ongoing Covid-19 situation the play areas remained closed. Unfortunately several signs informing local residents of this had been torn down, but were regularly being replaced.

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It was requested that the swing set which was approved earlier in the year now be ordered so this could be installed at an appropriate time. However, the Parish Clerk reported that he had already been in contact with the chosen contractor regarding this issue and the Council's order would not be put into production until at least early August, possibly later. It was **AGREED** that the order should be chased and a clearer date should be obtained and reported back to the Council.

#### **031/20-21.5 Safe Spaces and Car Park**

Cllr. Bassinette reported that the car parks had reopened in line with Government advice. The WCLC, WPC and Suffolk police had jointly agreed signs to ask people not to crab on the bridges since doing so would make it impossible for people to cross the bridge safely using social distancing. Despite the prominent signs, and obvious reason why this was against Government rules related to Covid-19, some people still chose to crab on the bridge.

#### **031/20-21.6 Heritage Hut**

Cllr. Winyard gave an update on the most recent meeting of the Heritage Hut Management Committee and plans to begin the renovation which had been delayed by the lockdown restrictions initially halting construction work and by the resultant shortfall in the Charity's income from the Covid-19 closures. The Council agreed that WPC should transfer the funds raised to date for the renovation as soon as possible. The Parish Clerk was also requested to confirm the reporting arrangements, if any, to Suffolk Coastal for the initial £6000 grant.

Cllr Winyard said that storage issues continued to be a challenge and the Council confirmed that it would need very little as it had moved all its files to Suffolk archives and put most everything else on line.


#### **031/20-21.7 Sizewell and other power related development**

Cllr. Bassinette reported that despite the request of some 50 local councils, including the WPC, that the Sizewell DCO not be submitted during the Covid-19 lockdown, EDF had submitted its DCO even though there was no way to have a proper public consultation under Government's lockdown restrictions. It was also reported that a judicial review of East Suffolk's council's decision to permit the felling of Coronation Wood to make way for the possible construction of Sizewell C, had been granted on appeal.

#### **031/20-21.8 Neighbourhood Plan**

Nothing for this meeting.

#### **032/20-21 Oral Committee reports if relevant**

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Dated...13/7/20



Nothing for this item.

**033/20-21** Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.15 pm remotely via zoom. It was also announced by the Chair that there would be an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 or later to take up urgent planning applications.

The meeting closed at 20.10 pm.

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