

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Richardson, Sutherland-Rogers, Sutton and Whiting. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote. No Councillors joined remotely.

Also in attendance was Cllr. Vanessa Tucker from agenda item 148/21-22 onwards.

Also in attendance (remotely via Zoom) were one (1) other member of the public, Mark Knight, Parish Clerk, D Cllr. David Beavan

146/21-22 Chair's welcome.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and those attending by Zoom.

147/21-22 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr. Simon Ashton the Responsible Financial Officer and County Councillor Richard Smith.

148/21-22 To co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr. Winyard

The Chair introduced the item and explained the circumstances and procedure for co-optation of Parish Councillors. Councillors voted by closed ballot and Mrs. Vanessa Tucker was duly elected to fill the casual vacancy caused by the recent resignation of Cllr. Jon Winyard. She signed the declaration of office form and was welcomed to join the Council with immediate effect. The Clerk was asked to inform unsuccessful candidates and thank them for stepping forward

149/21-22 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.


Cllr. Tucker declared a non-pecuniary interest as an allotment holder for the item 156/21-22. The Council concluded that being an allotment holder would not preclude Cllr Tucker from taking part in the discussion but that she would not vote on the annual rate charged.

150/21-22 Open Forum

No issues were raised.

151/21-22 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.


17th JAN 22

152/21-22 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that he had been involved in investigating a loophole regarding home owners that declared themselves as holiday lets and paid business rates, but who were having their rubbish collected as residential council tax payers. This was not allowed and Cllr Beavan suggested that Walberswick residents should be observant in this regard to houses used as holiday lets.

Cllr. Beavan said that he has spoken to the Chair of ESC's Planning Committee to explain the deep unhappiness of Walberswick with the decisions being taken by ESC with regard to planning applications and the widely held impression that ESC was not listening to the views of the local council. The effect was one of increasingly serious overdevelopment in the Village. Cllr Beavan said that ESC would be willing to meet members of the Parish Council and members of the Planning Advisory Group to discuss the problems. It was **AGREED** that this was an excellent idea and the Chair agreed to follow this up

Cllr Beavan mentioned that a proposed compromise for Hedgeley for some small scaling back. The Council said that this was welcome but was wholly insufficient to meet the serious objections to the proposed development. It was **AGREED** to send the planning response of the Parish Council to Cllr. Beavan so he could offer his support.

There was some discussion of the necessary work to the harbour walls which would cost many millions of pounds but also how improvements if made could subsequently cause additional flooding on the Walberswick side. Some money for funding such works could be gotten from CIL funds if, for example, there was new housing estate in Walberswick. The Council expressed the view that there would not be support for such a scheme.

As part of possible green initiatives in East Suffolk, Cllr Beavan said that there were very preliminary discussions beginning with a Dutch Company that specialises in tidal power turbines and whether such a unit would be suitable west of the Bailey Bridge. It was stressed that this was very preliminary but that information would be shared if/when available.

153/21-22 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 8th November 2021

The minutes of the 8th November 2021 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

154/21-22 Planning

154/21-22.1 To note the decisions made under delegated authority since the last meeting. Links to the full submissions made under the delegated authority will be available on the Parish Council website as reports on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting following their submission.

Ael.
17/1/22

154/21-22.1.1 1 Ivy Cottages, The Street DC/21/4076/FUL

The recommendation made to ESC was to **REFUSE** the application.

154/21-22.1.2 2, Manor Close, Walberswick DC/21/4567/FUL

The recommendation made to ESC was to **APPROVE** the application, subject to the new building remaining ancillary to the main house.

154/21-22.1.3 Hedgeley, The Green DC/21/4531/FUL

The recommendation was to **REFUSE** the application with a stress on the importance of prohibiting such inappropriate overdevelopment in a sensitive location on the Green.

154/21-22.1.4 10, Manor Close, Walberswick DC/21/4541/FUL

The recommendation was to **REFUSE** the application which only addressed a minor part of the extensive reasons for objection to the proposed development.

154/21-22.1.5 Seacroft, Millfield DC/21/4657/FUL

The recommendation was not to object to the application subject to the decision of East Suffolk Council's Tree Officer.

154/21-22.1.6 Blinkers, Seven Acres Lane DC/21/5112/FUL

The recommendation was to **REFUSE** the application which was deemed one of the most serious cases of overdevelopment proposed for the Village. Refusal was particularly important given the sites impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the setting of a precedent for future inappropriate development, the loss of visual amenity for neighbouring properties and being out of character with the street scene.

154/21-22.17 Creek Cottage, The Green DC/21/4932.FUL

The recommendation was to **APPROVE** the application.

154/21-22.1.8 10, Manor Close, Walberswick DC/21/4541/FUL (rev)

The recommendation was to **REFUSE** the application due to the fact that, again, the proposal was a minor amendment to initial application and did not address the key concerns.

154/21-22.2 Applications for consideration

154/21-22.2.1 The Parish Lantern, The Green DC/21/5076/VOC

It was **RESOLVED** not to comment on the application due to the fact that the variation was extremely minor.

Aed
17/1/22

154/21-22.2

Bell Cottage, Ferry Road

DC/21/5305/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **REFUSE** the application due to it being detrimental to the Conservation Area and to the house's listed building status and designation as a heritage asset. It was also noted that the application also fell within a part of the village which was already overcrowded.

D Cllr. Beavan left the meeting at 7.31pm.

155/21-22 Finance Matters 2021/2

155/21-22.1 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet

It was **AGREED** to pay all items in the sheet. Cllrs. Bassinette and Sutton were authorised to carry out the electronic payments.

156/21-22 Finance Matters 2022/3

156/21-22.1 To consider the 2022/3 allotment charges proposal

As set out in the Reports, it was **RESOLVED** to increase the annual charges as of April 2022 as set out below. It was noted that this was the first time that water charges were being incorporated into annual rent and that this would be reviewed each year to reflect the amount of water used by allotment holders.

A quarter plot: £11, an increase of £4, from £7.

A half plot: £17, an increase of £7, from £10.

Full plot: £24, an increase of £10, from £14.

It was also **RESOLVED** to amend the Allotment Policy to reflect the new charges.

156/21-22.2 To consider and approve the 2022/3 budget and precept request.

There was a full discussion of the proposed budget including income sources and planned expenditures which had been refined following the initial budget discussion in November. Three small amendments were noted: the grants received under receipts should be marked as for the Jubilee including that £1000 of this was for the Notice Board. Under Reserves, the Play Equipment ring-fenced item was for Replacement of the Pirate Ship, not its removal. The Council thanked the Responsible Financial Officer for his work in completing the document which was clear and easily understood.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the proposed budget and to request a precept of **£20,000** for the 2022/23 financial year, noting that this was unchanged from the previous year.

Aed
17/1/22

157/21-22 Update regarding the Sizewell C and other Suffolk coastal power development proposals

Cllr. Bassinette informed the meeting that a written report would be presented at the January meeting, but gave a short verbal report on the most recent events. The planning inspectorate were due to submit their response to the Sizewell DCO on 12 January 2022. She said that the BEIS Secretary of State Kwarteng had attended an event in Ipswich recently and heard directly from the Suffolk business community of their opposition to Sizewell. She also mentioned that a senior civil servant from BEIS was due to meet with local Council representatives, including from Walberswick, this month.

She mentioned that EDF were already trying to amend their planning permission at Hinkley so as to remove acoustic protection equipment for fish despite this being an important part of the environmental protections and were similar to what EDF was promising at Sizewell to lower the fish kill caused by the plant's operation.

The Scottish Power windfarm decision had been postponed and additional consultations were expected. There was some frustration that the local MP Therese Coffey had objections to the Friston sub-station being built because of the impact on the AONB, but that she was a strong advocate of Sizewell C which was even more deeply seated in the AONB, the SSSI and the fragile coast.

158/21-22 To consider a response to the consultation on the Draft East Suffolk Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule and Draft East Suffolk CIL Instalment Policy

The Chair explained the consultation and it was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Chair and the Vice Chair to respond on behalf of the Council. A copy of the response will be included as a report for the next Parish Council meeting.

159/21-22 To consider the quotes regarding the removal of the Pirate Ship and Boat at the Playing Field Playground.

Further to the discussion held at the November WPC the Chair reported that the contractor appointed to take down the Pavilion has quoted a total of £1,250 (+VAT) to remove the Pirate Ship & Boat. It was believed that this was a good price, achievable because the men & equipment were already on site for the removal of the Pavilion. On this basis it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Financial regulations and accept the one quote received. It was further noted that permission from the Walberswick Common Lands Charity for removal of the Pirate Ship & Boat had been requested and received.

160/21-22 To consider and approve a proposal for making a grant application to support NDP development

Ael
17/1/22

Cllr. Bassinette introduced the item and explained the process of applying for the £10,000 grant to fund some of the consultant and other support needed to develop the NDP. The NDP Steering Group was asking for the Council's approval to submit the application and for Cllr Bassinette to be delegated to submit the grant application. The proposal was unanimously **APPROVED**.

161/21-22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Update

The document from the Walberswick Common Lands Charity was discussed and the following was **NOTED**:

Tree planting was historically difficult due to the Sites of Special Scientific Interest, so would be unlikely to be possible in large numbers.

The Charity would be producing some commemorative mugs for the Jubilee, as for the Golden Jubilee in 2002.

The Charity will be commissioning two commemorate plaques for the Walberswick village signs.

The Charity would also support the initiative of the replacement of the Stocks Lane noticeboard which the Parish Council was proposing to support in recognition of the Jubilee with some financing coming from Cllr Beavan and Cllr Smith.

Separate from the Jubilee, WCLC said that they would be supportive of efforts to refurbish the Village Green, as well as the improvement of the footpath which runs past the shops on the Village Green.

162/21-22 Policy Review (3-year review)

162/21-22.1 Reporting of Meetings Policy

The policy was considered and **READOPTED** with no changes.

162/21-22.2 Records Retention and Management Policy

The policy was considered and **READOPTED** with no changes.

162/21-22.3 Equal Opportunity and Diversity Policy

The policy was considered and **READOPTED** with no changes.

163/21-22 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.

163/21-22.1 Footpath and Highways

Nothing for this meeting.

Ael.
17/1/22

163/21-22.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

Nothing for this meeting.

163/21-22.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area

Nothing for this meeting.

163/21-22.4 Safe Spaces and Car Parks

Nothing for this meeting.

163/21-22.5 Heritage Hut

It was suggested that this standing item be dropped due to the completion of the works. This to be confirmed under this agenda item at the January 2022 meeting.

163/21-22.6 Sizewell and other power related developments

Already covered in a previous agenda item.

163/21-22.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Already covered under a previous agenda item.

163/21-22.8 Village News

It was agreed that items on the Neighbourhood Plan grant and the new Councillor would be submitted for the next issue.

164/21-22 Oral Committee reports if relevant

164/21-22.1 To accept the Safety Committee minutes

The minutes already circulated were noted and accepted with no alterations.

165/21-22 Clerk's report

The Clerk reported on correspondence associated with a boundary dispute between neighbours. It was agreed that the Chair would look into the question of whether a local authority actually owned the verge in question. The Clerk informed the Council that he would be on leave from 20th December 2021 to 4th January 2022.

166/21-22 Matters arising

There were no new matters.

Aed
17/1/22

167/21-22 To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration for the following items in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt with after the item that confirms details of the next meeting.

This was so **RESOLVED**. One member of the public left the meeting at 8.34pm.

169/21-22 Date of next meeting was confirmed as being Monday, 17 January 2022 at 7pm.

168/21-22 To consider appointment of Trustees

Candidates for the WCLC Trustee opening were discussed. It was determined that two of the three candidates were unsuccessful. It was also agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would speak with the third candidate to ascertain additional information. The Clerk was asked to inform the unsuccessful candidates and thank them for their willingness to step forward.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Ael
17/1/22