

## WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Richardson 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 (in person and remotely via Zoom) four (4) members of the public, Mark Knight, Parish Clerk, County Cllr. Richard Smith (from 7.38pm) and Simon Ashton, Responsible Financial Officer.

### **103/21-22 Chair's welcome.**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and those attending by Zoom. The Chair also announced that item 112 would be brought forward to directly after the adoption of the minutes from the last meeting.

### **104/21-22 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Sutton and Sutherland-Rogers and District Councillor David Beavan.

### **105/21-22 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.**

None.

### **106/21-22 Open Forum**

One member of the public requested help on the weeds surrounding one side of his property which he found very difficult to maintain. The Council agreed to follow up with the parishioner to understand what agency or homeowner was responsible for the land in question.

One member of the public then left at 7.11pm.

### **108/21-22 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan**

Cllr Beavan was not in attendance.

### **109/21-22 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

A.G.L.  
8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

**112/21-22 Consultation on the Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC) Proposal on becoming a Corporate Trustee**

The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 7.15pm to allow the Chairman of the WCLC to present and speak on this matter.

The WCLC Chair gave a short oral report on the changes being proposed to change the structure of the Charity into a Corporate Trustee. This followed on from earlier consultations across Stakeholders, most recently at the Parish Meeting in September. He highlighted other changes that were being proposed including the introduction of a variable number of Directors and the possible dilution in the number and percentage of Directors nominated by the Parish Council.

Councillors said that they understood and supported the proposed change in the structure to a Corporate Trustee. However, questions were raised about the logic of creating a variable number of Directors and why it was suggested that there be a reduction in the number of Directors nominated by the WPC and an increase in the number selected by the existing Directors. There was also some discussion about the term of Directors.

Following the discussion, it was **AGREED** that, as part of the consultation process being undertaken by the WCLC, the WPC Chair would provide a written response on behalf of the WPC for further consideration by the WCLC trustees.

The Chair reinstated Standing Orders at 7.38pm.

**County Cllr. Richard Smith entered the meeting at 7.38pm.**

**107/21-22 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith**

Cllr. Smith reported on the ongoing Sizewell C planning process which had reached the stage when the planning inspectorate had completed its review and now had 3 months to submit its findings to the Secretary of State. He said he hoped that the Planning Inspectorate would recommend against the development. However, if the Secretary of State did decide to go forward, he and Suffolk County Council would work to try to get the changes necessary to lessen the negative impacts that the development would have on the County.

Cllr Smith invited Cllr Bassinette, who has been attending most of the Inspection Panel hearings and making written submissions on behalf of the Council, to comment. Cllr Bassinette provided an update on the situation with particular reference to the helpful role SCC's representatives had played in trying to hold EDF to account. She explained that the latest issue was that EDF had no known source of potable water with which to operate the plant and that all interested parties, with the exception of East Suffolk Council, expressed alarm and suggested that the development should not be considered for approval under such conditions.

*Acl*  
*8/11/21*

Cllr Smith announced that a review of HGV routes was being undertaken and the Clerk would be notified in due course of the consultation period. This process was expected to run for 8 weeks from the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021. Given that Walberswick had only one road into the village, it was assumed that this route would remain one designated for HGVs.

Cllr Smith noted that it was good news that the Bailey Bridge renovation had been completed on schedule and was reopened.

Cllr. Smith and two (2) members of the public left the meeting at 7.52pm.

## **110/21-22 Finance Matters 2021/2**

### **110/21-22.1 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. It was noted that Cllr. Lewis was expected to be confirmed as the third authorised signatory by the November meeting.

### **110/21-22.2 To receive the External Audit Report & Certificate (2020/21)**

The Council **NOTED** the document with a brief explanation from the Responsible Financial Officer. The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Responsible Financial Officer for helping obtain a completely clean audit.

### **110/21-22.3 To receive the Notice of Conclusion of External Audit (2020/21)**

The Council **NOTED** the document with a brief explanation from the Responsible Financial Officer.

### **110/21-22.4 To discuss the Budget Setting Review & Authorisation of Virements**

The Chair gave a short explanation on the budget setting process for 2022/23 which was beginning at this meeting through a review of the current year's budget and expenditures. The Council discussed the document and agreed that it would be necessary to make several virements. The main virement was to use £2,500 in additional funding from reserves towards the cost of running the Heritage Hut. There were also smaller virements in various categories. It was agreed that these proposed virements would be presented at the November meeting along with proposals for next year's expenditures.

The Responsible Financial Officer then left the meeting at 8.05pm.

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## 111/21-22 Planning

### 111/21-22.1 The Thatched Cottage, The Street DC/21/4153/FUL

The Council supported the PAG Report and **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to the works being detrimental to the existing property (a non-designated heritage asset), the Conservation Area (a designated heritage asset) and the setting of Listed Buildings. All in favour.

### 111/21-22.2 Elphiston Corner, Stocks Lane DC/21/4317/FUL

The Council supported the PAG report and it was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the application.

### 111/21-22.3 The Parish Lantern, The Green DC/21/4226/LBC

The Council supported the PAG Report and it was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the application.

## 113/21-22 To discuss events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022

The Council discussed ideas for using funds that were being donated to commemorate the Queen's jubilee. Following on a point raised during the Open Forum, it was **AGREED** that the Council would keep the WCLC informed of any proposals as it was likely that the organisations could work together in support of the commemoration.

One set of proposals were related to a physical object which could use £500 in funding offered from County Cllr Smith's locality budget. One Councillor proposed that the Parish Notice Board at Stock's Green could be replaced with one marking the Jubilee. As a new board was needed and some money already allocated by the Council, this would be a good and visible use of the commemoration funds. Another suggestion was that, in coordination with the WCLC (probably using WCLC lands) a 'trail' of native fruit trees could be planted. In addition, if members of the public were willing to take on the planning, a street party could be organised using a £500 donation from District Councillor Beavan and another £500 donated from a member of the public.

It was **AGREED** that the idea of the Commemorative Parish Notice Board and the native fruit tree plantings be further researched and discussed with the WCLC and that members of the public who may want to run a street party be approached via the Village News.

## 114/21-22 To consider and adopt the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference

The Chair introduced the item and it was **AGREED** to **ADOPT** the terms of reference.

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**115/21-22 To consider the draft emergency plan for Southwold, Reydon & Walberswick**

The Chair introduced the item and it was that a "Marked up" copy reflecting input from Councillors would be discussed at the November meeting.

**116/21-22 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.**

**116/21-22.1 Footpath and Highways**

The Chair reported on another village where Suffolk County Council had trained a group of volunteers to be able to maintain their own footpaths. The feasibility and applicability of this to Walberswick was currently under investigation by Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers.

**116/21-22.2 GDPR, SALC and Website**

It was reported that Cllr. Lewis had recently been elected Chair of SALC. The Council congratulated Cllr Lewis on this position.

**116/21-22.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area**

It was reported that the ROSPA inspection had now been received for The Green and Playing Field and that a meeting of the Safety Committee would be called for the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to discuss and make recommendations to the Council. In particular, it was highlighted that there were significant issues with the safety of the pirate ships on the Common and that these would need to be addressed urgently.

It was also reported that the Chair had gathered four quotes for the demolition of the pavilion including handling of the asbestos and to cap off the services. It was agreed that the WPC would formally request the approval of the WCLC, as required under the terms of the lease between the two organisations, to remove the pavilion. A proposal would be tabled at the November meeting to approve one of the quotations and to authorise the demolition.

**116/21-22.4 Safe Spaces and Car Parks**

Nothing for this meeting.

**116/21-22.5 Heritage Hut**

Nothing for this meeting.

**116/21-22.6 Sizewell and other power related developments**

It was noted that there had already been a discussion of this topic during Cllr Smith's report.

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### **116/21-22.7 Neighbourhood Plan**

It was noted that the NDP had already been discussed under a previous agenda item.

### **116/21-22.8 Village News**

It was agreed that items on the co-option of a councillor, Sizewell C and the Platinum Jubilee Street party should go into the next addition.

### **117/21-22 Oral Committee reports if relevant.**

There were none.

### **118/21-22 Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported that as no election had been called with no members of the public putting themselves forward for nomination, it was now appropriate to advertise this casual vacancy to allow any member of the public to express an interest and be co-opted by the Parish Council. This was **AGREED**.

The Clerk reported on follow-up to the red phone box adoption. Surprisingly, BT had determined that the service was still being used and therefore there could be no change in purpose. If this changed the expression of interest for adoption by the Parish Council which had been officially lodged would mean that we would be approached in the first instance.

A member of the public had approached the Clerk to site a memorial bench on the Village Green. Whilst that option had been refused due to existing policies the Council were asked for alternatives. It was **AGREED** that the member of the public could not be offered a place on The Green, but maybe offered the opportunity to replace a bench elsewhere that was in disrepair and which had no known owner. The member of the public would be responsible for the purchase of a replacement and the maintenance if agreed in line with the memorial bench policy. The Clerk was asked to approach the person and report back.

### **119/21-22 Matters arising**

No matters were identified at this point.

### **120/21-22 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**. All members of the public left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

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**122/21-22** Date of next meeting was confirmed as being Monday, 8 November 2021 at 7pm.

**121/21-22** To consider nominative Trustee candidates for the WCLC

The Councillors discussed the applications that had been received in light of the needs of the Charity and the skills and statements of interest of the applicants. It was agreed that after further confirmation, the Council would be prepared to resolve on the appointment of nominative trustee at the November meeting.

**The meeting closed at 9.00pm.**

All  
8/11/21