

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021 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), County Councillor Richard Smith, District Councillor David Beavan and two (2) members of the public.

138/20-21 Chairman's welcome.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and informed the meeting that Cllr. Richard Smith would be slightly late and his agenda item will be discussed upon his arrival.

139/20-21 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

None.

140/20-21 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

141/20-21 Open Forum

None.

143/20-21 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr. Beavan reported on the following:

- That work on vaccinations is ongoing with the aim of all those over 80 to receive their first dose before mid-February.
- Attention was drawn to the £1,000 as yet unspent from his Locality Budget which would need to be applied for as a matter of urgency.
- There was a Community Party on the Common planned for the 28th August 2021 which would be much welcomed after the current lock down is ended. The Suffolk Steel Band has already been booked. Cllr Beavan asked if the WPC would like to be involved.
- Cllr. Beavan is looking into the possibility that some homeowners may have fraudulently claimed Covid payments of £10,000 for holiday lets when, in fact, the house was being used by the owner and not as a legal business.
- Cllr. Bassinette asked a technical question regarding the precept and how this relates to business rates. Cllr. Beavan asked that this be emailed to him so it can be addressed in full.

144/20-21 To consider the minutes of the meeting of the 14th December 2020 for accuracy and for the Chairman to sign as a true record.

J Bassinette
01/2/21

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes, and the Chair was given the authority to sign.

145/20-21 Planning

Cllr. Bassinette reported that an extra-ordinary meeting would be called for Tuesday 26th January 2021 to address late planning applications and an important consultation on historic preservation.

145/20-21.1 Holly House, Stock Lane DC/20/4959/FUL

The application was discussed taking into account the report from the Planning Advisory Group. It was **agreed** that the Council **does not object** to this application.

145/20-21.2 Windmill Cottage, Millfield Road DC/20/4558/FUL

The application was discussed taking into account the report from the Planning Advisory Group. The Council **AGREED** with the PAG report and that it would recommend to ESC that the application should be **REFUSED** as it would prove harmful to the important, and historic, character of Millfield Road.

145/20-21.3 Heathwold, Palmers Lane DC/20/5050/FUL

The application was discussed taking into account the report from the Planning Advisory Group. The Council agreed with the PAG Report and that the Council **does not object** pending further scrutiny related to the light issues and with the condition that the building remain fully ancillary to the main house and not be used separately.

146/20-21 Finance Matters 2020/21

146/20-21.1 Review bank receipts/budget & payments/budget (as at 31st December 2020)

The Responsible Financial Officer gave a brief report on the documents circulated and there were no questions. It was **AGREED** to accept the figures as presented.

146/20-21.2 Approve bank reconciliation (to 31st December 2020)

It was **AGREED** to accept the figures as presented. Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers was authorised to sign the necessary documents which she will do at the first opportunity when the Council meets in the presence of the RFO.

146/20-21.3 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet

It was **APPROVED** to pay all items in the sheet. However, it was noted that there might be a second bill for the ROSPA inspection as the report received was

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Dated.....0/2/21.....

incomplete as it covered only the play equipment on the Green and not on the playing field. Cllr. Winyard also asked if the figure for the play equipment has been adjusted to show the actual amount of pads used, which it had.

The Clerk was asked to follow-up with ROSPA to have them undertake the inspection of the playing fields.

Cllrs. Winyard and Sutton were authorised to carry out the electronic payments.

County Councillor Richard Smith then entered the meeting at 7.32pm

142/20-21 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Smith reported on the following:

- COVID-19 lock down was being well observed and cases across the region were coming down. The vaccination roll out was underway.
- There was a potential problem with the Planning Inspectorate meetings on Sizewell C which could potentially begin just before the May elections. This would be difficult for the County Council as they may not be able to address the Planning Inspectorate during Purdah (the six weeks immediately before the local elections in May). Guidance has been sought from the Monitoring Officer regarding this. The County Council has asked for a delay, but the response of the Planning Inspectorate was unknown.
- The County Council budget proposal is for a 4% increase with 2% being a general increase and 2% ring-fenced for Adult Social Care which takes up around 75% of the County Council budget in total. This will be ratified at Cabinet at the end of January and will be formally adopted at the Full Council meeting of the 11th February 2021.
- The Bailey Bridge will be done and is in the budget with final estimates currently being gathered. Cllr. Smith also has monies left in his Highways Budget which he will be contributing to the project. Cllr. Smith then asked the Parish Council for a donation towards the overall cost to demonstrate local community commitment and involvement. The same was being asked of Southwold and Reydon. It was also hoped that a community body would be set up to improve consultation and communication. He said that the timing of the work, which would necessitate the closure of the bridge for several months, was difficult since the best time to do the work was also the time when it would most impact highest use.

Cllr. Bassinette again stressed that she would like to have a Council representative involved in the discussions particularly around the timing of the work. She also asked if the cost of the bridge repair could be shared once known. Cllr. Smith indicated that this would likely be in the next two months.

Cllr. Winyard also voiced his concerns over the timing of the work and that this should not occur during the summer given that this would likely be when local businesses, who had also been hit very hard by the Covid-19 lockdowns, were most likely to be reopened.

It was **AGREED** that the item would be placed on the agenda in February for a donation to

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Dated...8/2/21...

Council had been the registered owners of the Village Greens for many years and it was proposed to now formally register title with the Land Registry.

Questions were asked regarding the track around the Green and the impact of the Heritage Hut development.

It was then **AGREED** that Cllr. Lewis should be given delegated authority to go forward with the registration process with the Land Registry and to report back to the Council as progress was made. Financing for the registration and potentially legal assistance is available in the budget.

149/20-21 To consider and approve a revised allotment tenancy agreement

Cllr. Lewis gave a verbal report on the paper already circulated. The alterations in the agreement clearly now detail the permission process for putting garden huts on plots as well as expectations for their removal at the end of the tenancy.

It was then **AGREED** to adopt the updated document and to authorise the RFO to respond to a member of the public giving them permission to erect a structure on their plot if it is aligned with the new policy. Cllr. Lewis would place the updated agreement on the Council website.

150/20-21 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant

150/20-21.1 Footpaths and Highways

A large pothole along Palmers Lane on the the tarmac stretch beyond Heath House has been reported. Also, footpath 11 at the bottom of the slope of the boardwalk has 3 additional slats broken, these have also been reported.

150/20-21.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

Nothing for this meeting.

150/20-21.3 Playing Fields and the Green Play Area

It was reported that the ROSPA report is being chased for the Playing Field element, but that the report in general was good for the Village Green equipment. It was agreed that Cllrs. Lewis, Sutton and Richardson would also meet as the Safety Committee and report back to the February meeting of the Full Council.

Questions were also asked about the play areas remaining open in the current lock down. It was **AGREED** that these should remain open due to the impact on children's mental and physical health and general amenity in the village.

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Dated...8/2/21...

150/20-21.4 Safe Spaces and Car Park

Cllr. Bassinette reported that six volunteers had now been cleared by the police for the speedwatch group, but that Covid-19 has stopped training for the time being.

150/20-21.5 Heritage Hut

Cllr. Winyard gave a report on the completion of the track outside the building and that local business owners had also been contacted and supported the work.

Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers also spoke about a document which might be suitable to be framed and hung in the new building.

Cllr. Bassinette also confirmed that an external mailbox would be suitable for the Council.

150/20-21.6 Sizewell and other power related development

Cllr. Bassinette said that she had registered with the planning inspectorate to represent the views of the village at upcoming meetings as appropriate.

150/20-21.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing for this meeting.

150/20-21.8 Village News

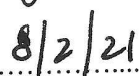
Articles suggested covered the request of the Precept which represented a decrease in tax, Cllr. Bassinette to write the article and submit. Also an article on the new allotment agreement and policy on the use of the Village Green were suggested but would depend on space and could be included in the next month. It was also agreed that advertisement for a co-opted Councillor would be placed in the next month's edition.

151/20-21 Oral Committee reports if relevant

Nothing for this item.

152/20-21 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 8th February 2021 at 7.15 pm remotely via zoom. It was also agreed that there would be an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.15pm to discuss planning matters. Further there would also be a meeting of the Employment Committee on Monday 25th January 2021 at 12pm. The Clerk to circulate and publish agendas and summons for all meetings as appropriate.

Signed..........

Dated..........

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....