

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.15pm.

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

Also in attendance (remotely via Zoom) were one (1) member of the public and Mr. Mark Knight – Parish Clerk.

160/20-21 Chairman's welcome.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. It was also proposed that item 174 concerning use of the Village Green to be considered directly after item 170 which also considered use of the Village Green. All were in favour.

161/20-21 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

None.

162/20-21 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

163/20-21 Open Forum

None.

164/20-21 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

165/20-21 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan was not in attendance.

166/20-21 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 18th and 26th January 2021

The minutes of the 18th and 26th January 2021 were **APPROVED** with the Chairman to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

167/20-21 Finance Matters 2020/21

167/20-21.1 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet

Signed...



Dated... 8/3/21.

The items detailed on the sheet were **APPROVED** and Cllrs. Bassinette and Winyard were authorised to make the electronic payments.

168/20-21.2 Confirmation of the receipt of the WCLC grass cutting payment

The payment of £223.17 was noted and confirmed. It was further confirmed that it would appear formally in the appropriate place in the March Council meeting.

169/20-21 Planning

169/20-21.1 Bittern House, Millfield DC/21/0195/FUL

The report was considered and it was **AGREED** that the Council would **SUPPORT** this application provided that the dwelling would not be occupied separately from the main house.

170/20-21 To grant approval for use of the Village Green for the Summer Fete.

Cllr. Bassinette introduced the item and the use of the Village Green for the Summer Fete on the 28th August 2021 was **APPROVED**. This was conditional upon all activities taking place in accordance with whatever Covid-19 restrictions may in place at that time.

174/20-21 To consider a proposal for use of the Village Green and assets for Red Nose Day activities.

The use of the Village Green and other Council assets for decorative purposes was **APPROVED** for this purpose provided all activities were confirmed as Covid-19 safe by the organiser.

171/20-21 Consideration of the ROSPA safety report on the Village Green play equipment.

Cllr. Lewis reported that the ROSPA report identified three areas of concern, two of which had already been rectified since the report was conducted. It was also noted the Parish Clerk was also chasing ROSPA for the other half of the report which would detail the Playing Field equipment.

The item concerning the swings was noted, but as the entire set had been replaced this was no longer a problem.

The slide was reported to be in good condition, which was to be expected considering the recent installation.

The baby swing did have some corrosion on the D-links, but this could be easily rectified with some replacement shackles which Cllrs. Lewis and Sutton would source and fit.

Signed... 

Dated.. 8/3/21...

It was also reported that the holes on the Village Green would need to be filled in as they had reappeared since last being filled in. This was probably due to dogs and/or rabbits.

The memorial benches were also considered as it had been three years since the last survey. It was **AGREED** that Cllrs. Lewis and Richardson would conduct a re-survey this calendar year and report back to the council with a view to any required remedial work taking place in 2021.

It was also **NOTED** that the state of the road outside the water tower, which is not inside the Village boundary, but was the primary route out of the village, remained very prone to flooding to the point of being unsafe and should be reported to Suffolk County Council Highways. The Clerk would do this after receiving the exact location from Cllr. Bassinette. Councillor Lewis volunteered to also reach out to Blythburgh Parish Council with a view to possibly making a joint approach to Suffolk Highways on the matter

172/20-21 Consideration of use of grant from District Councillor Beavan's Locality Budget and possible contribution to complete renovation of the Bailey Bridge.

Cllr. Bassinette introduced the item and the possible uses for the grant were discussed. It was agreed that the most appropriate use at this time would be to apply for the grant of £1,000 to be put towards a contribution to the much larger cost of the Bailey bridge renovation. This was agreed on the basis that it was essential for the Bailey bridge to remain in use for the long term and that by making a contribution to the overall cost, as requested by Suffolk County Council (SCC), Walberswick Parish Council would have a seat at the table with SCC when discussions surrounding logistics and timing of the renovation were agreed. It was expected that Southwold and Reydon would likewise be making a contribution to the renovation project.

It was then **RESOLVED** to apply for the grant of £1,000 from District Councillor Beavan's Locality Budget for the purposes of donating it to the renovation of the Bailey Bridge. The Parish Clerk (and the Chairman, if required) were given the authority to complete and sign the application form.

173/20-21 To consider erecting two signs to help with litter in the Parish.

Cllr. Bassinette introduced the item and stated that the two proposed sites for the signs would be on the main road into the Parish and the route out to Blythburgh as proposed by the villagers who had been voluntarily litter picking the roadway over many years. Councillors wondered if permission would be needed from before signs were erected.

Cllr. Winyard suggested that local children could be approached to design the signs and give them more impact. Cllr. Richardson also suggested that a local artist be approached to design the signs which could also increase the impact.

Signed..........

Dated...8/3/21.....

It was the **AGREED** that in principle two signs should be designed and acquired. The Parish Clerk would investigate the requirements for permission after the exact locations have been established and conveyed to the Clerk by Cllr. Bassinette.

It was further proposed that additional problems in the village related to dog poo at the playing fields and other areas of the village and that extra dog bins and litter bins be investigated regards costs and locations.

175/20-21 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.

175/20-21.1 Footpath and Highways

Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers reported that there were no current problems in this area but that considering the current severe weather Councillors should be more vigilant when this is over and report any issues or repairs needed via the usual channels.

175/20-21.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

No report was given.

175/20-21.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area

The issue regarding allotments and a recent request to install a shed on a plot was discussed relating to the policy adopted at the January meeting. It was **AGREED** that permission could be granted to a building with limited windows, but that it still must not exceed the maximum size allowed in the policy and that windows or glass panes must not form a substantial part of the structure. The RFO was asked to inform the villager who had requested this exception. Furthermore, it was agreed that the policy would be updated along these same lines at the March meeting.

It was also **AGREED** that Cllrs. Lewis & Winyard would follow up the offer from a local contractor pertaining to small jobs on the Village Green and Playing Fields and would present to the next meeting in March.

175/20-21.4 Safe Spaces and Car Parks

No report was given.

175/20-21.5 Heritage Hut

Cllr. Winyard reported that the driveway contractors would be returning to address the grit as the shingle above the membrane does not appear to be thick enough. This would be addressed by WCLC as part of the Heritage Hut renovation. In addition, the WCLC planned to firm up the Green along the track and possibly reseed it. Cllr Winyard asked if the Council would approve the fencing off of this area during the work and for time for the grass to grow.

Signed... 

Dated.. 8/3/21

It was then **RESOLVED** to grant permission for the area to be fenced off for the purposes of addressing the shingle membrane problem and also to reseed the area. The Council further agreed that other work on reseeding the Green, as previously planned, could piggy-back on the work that WCLC was undertaking. This would include reseeding the area that abuts Leveretts Lane and which had been damaged by the parking of contractors working on houses near the Green. It was agreed that Councillor Winyard be delegated to go forward with a budget of up to £200 to finance the additional seeding of the Green to be done at the same time as the WCLC work around the HH. If the amount exceeded the currently budgeted £200, then Cllr Winyard would come back to the Council for approval in March.

Cllr. Winyard also requested that the insurance and value of the building after the works should be reconsidered. Cllr. Winyard agreed to email the Council's Responsible Financial Officer and Mr. Matthew Wetmore of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity to progress this. The Council thanked Cllr Winyard for his work on this.

175/20-21.6 Sizewell and other power related developments

No report was given.

175/20-21.7 Neighbourhood Plan

No report was given

175/20-21.8 Village News

It was agreed on items to include in the next monthly report through Cllr Sutherland-Rogers.

176/20.21 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

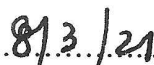
This was covered under an earlier item.

177/20-21 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 8th March 2021 at 6pm. There would also be an extraordinary meeting to address a planning application on the 16th February 2021.

The time and date of the meeting was confirmed as above. It was also **NOTED** that for the period of Covid-19 whilst meetings are taking place via Zoom that all Council meetings would now commence at 6pm instead of 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.

Signed..........

Dated........

