

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th April 2022 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Sutherland-Rogers, Sutton, Tucker and Whiting. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote. No Parish Councillors joined remotely; District Councillor David Beavan attended in person.

Also in attendance (remotely via Zoom) were two (2) members of the public and Mark Knight, Parish Clerk.

232/21-22 Chair's welcome.

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

233/21-22 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr. Richardson.

234/21-22 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

235/21-22 Open Forum

None.

236/21-22 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

237/21-22 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that the District Council continued to be concerned about the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and this would be discussed at the upcoming Cabinet meeting.

The Harbour Management Committee was progressing well with a new Strategic Director at East Suffolk Council having recently joined. Recommendations included the renovation of the South Pier which would include repairs and maintenance to the south wall and new banks. Discussions were ongoing on the various options and, thereafter, financing would need to be agreed. It was expected that the costs would exceed £10 million. Severe flooding still remained a possibility at Tinkers Marsh and in the event of a tidal surge the problem could be much worse.

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Affordable housing also continued to be a problem in the district with very few local properties being under the £250,000 figure which would classify them as affordable.

Finally, it was reported that the ongoing planning reforms, including a suggested request for the return of the 'calling in' procedure, would be discussed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the end of the year with any resolutions being expected in 2023.

238/21-22 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 14th March 2022

The minutes of the 14th March 2022 meeting were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the amended minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

239/21-22 Planning

239/21-22.2 Applications for consideration

239/21-22.2.1 Dutch House, The Street DC/22/1018/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** this application.

Cllr. David Beavan left the meeting at 7.19pm.

240/21-22 Finance Matters 2022/3

240/21-22.1 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet

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

241/21-22 To discuss the maintenance and repair of Memorial Benches

Cllr. Lewis introduced the item and explained that it was important that records be kept regarding the ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the families who initially requested and installed the benches in line with the agreed policy. This had come up again in relation to a bench that was in very bad repair and would need to be removed if an appropriate caretaker could not be identified.

It was **AGREED** that effort would be made to find family members or friends to repair the bench in line with the memorials policy, otherwise it would need to be removed. An article would be included in the Village News.

242/21-22 To consider allowing the use of the Village Green and a maypole for Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The use of the Village Green and maypole was **APPROVED** for the celebrations.

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243/21-22 Update on Queen's Platinum Jubilee planning

It was **AGREED** that Cllrs. Lewis and Sutherland-Rogers would continue to represent the Parish Council in the planning for events on the day along with the Village Hall Committee, PCC and WCLC. It was expected that there would be a church service at 10am, followed by a picnic on the Village Green to include races, competitions, local art work displays and an exhibition in the Heritage Hut by the History Society on previous jubilees.

244/21-22 To receive an update from Cllr. Bassinette regarding Sizewell C and the B1125 Working Group

Cllr. Bassinette gave an oral report on the first meeting of the B1125 Working Group and its planned future work program. The Working Group was one of many agreed to in the Deed of Obligation with EDF and Suffolk County and East Suffolk Councils should Sizewell C be approved. These working groups had been arranged because of the huge increase in traffic and other extremely negative impacts that the project will bring to the area during the 10-15 year construction period. It was agreed that Cllr Bassinette's report would be written up and included as an attachment to the approved minutes.

245/21-22 To consider a proposal from EDF to meet and discuss the Deed of Obligation

The Council agreed with the recommendation made by Cllr. Bassinette to wait for any meeting with EDF until after it was known whether Government would approve the project and what constraints may be put on such an approval. The Council agreed that Cllr Bassinette should work out any future meeting timing under her delegated authority. If a meeting were to take place, it would be well publicised and likely held in the Village Hall so that villagers could attend.

Cllr Bassinette updated the Council on how the recently released Energy Strategy would impact our area. She mentioned that the apparent hypocrisy of the policy in that it precluded on shore wind because local communities thought them 'unslightly' when the Government had no compunction of forcing much more destructive nuclear plants to be built in an AONB and in the face of County and community objection.

It was agreed to include a written version of the oral report with the approved minutes.

246/21-22 To approve the Terms of Reference for the Foreshore Working Group

The document was discussed and **APPROVED** but with the need to improve the definition of what would be included with the term

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“foreshore”. This new working group would be included in the list of working groups that would be ratified during the annual Council meeting.

247/21-22 To resolve to apply for the 2022/3 NDP Grant, to delegate to the Steering Group use of the grant in line with the grant’s requirements and to delegate Cllr. Bassinette to submit the grant on behalf of the Council

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate this responsibility to Cllr. Bassinette and the Steering Group.

248/21-22 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.

Cllr. Lewis reported on an issue with the Heritage Hut where the existing radiators had been identified as not suitably effective. It was **AGREED** to delegate authority to Cllr. Lewis to source replacement radiators with a single controller to be purchased by the Parish Council and managed as an additional asset.

248/21-22.1 Footpath and Highways

Cllr Sutherland-Rogers reported that problems persisted with bicycles using the footpaths through Dunwich Marsh despite the posting of no cycling discs. Cllr Sutherlands-Rogers recommended that the Council put up much more visible signs on the entrances to the footpaths in question along the Lodge Road and at the gate on the end of the Dunwich gravel road to discourage cyclists from taking this path.

Cllr Lewis added that cyclists were also riding over the Bailey Bridge rather than walking the bikes across which was necessary for pedestrian safety. During a recent race event, cyclists refused to dismount when asked.

It was **AGREED** that Suffolk County Council Rights of Way department should be contacted to get specific wording for additional signs which would be of a regular format and could possibly quote relevant legislation. Similarly, more prominent signage for cyclists to dismount over the Bailey Bridge would be sought. It was also agreed that the organisers of the cycling event would be contacted to inform their participants to dismount at the Bailey Bridge.

It was reported that a potential Tree Warden had been identified who would be willing to take on the volunteer role after some training, which Cllr. Lewis would source.

248/21-22.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

Cllr. Lewis reported that the new national Code of Conduct had now been completed and recommended that WPC should adopt it at the Annual meeting of the Council in May. Briefings/trainings would be offered by SALC at no

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further cost to all local councils in the area. It was noted that once adopted, all Councillors would be bound by it automatically by attending a meeting or acting as a Councillor.

248/21-22.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area

Cllr. Sutton reported that fundraising for the Multi Use Games Area was ongoing and a proposal would be submitted to a later meeting.

248/21-22.4 Safe Spaces and Harbour Management

Nothing further for the meeting given that Cllr Beaven had already provided an updated during his report.

248/21-22.5 Sizewell and other power related developments

Nothing further for the meeting given that there had already been Sizewell specific items earlier in the agenda.

248/21-22.6 Neighbourhood Plan

The Council discussed and agreed on a means of identifying the number of households in the Village which would be taking place in the Housing Assessment Survey as part of the NDP.

It was also reported that Parish Online, a software allowing for mapping of boundaries and assets in a specific area, was being trialled and an overview for Councillors and the Clerk would be arranged on request.

248/21-22.7 Village News

The items to include in the Village News were discussed and agreed with follow up by Cllr Sutherland-Rogers with the Chair and Vice-Chair as usual.

249/21-22 Oral Committee reports if relevant.

There were none.

250/21-22 Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that he had been involved with a resident who had concerns over maintenance of the play areas, training on environmental issues with East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council and frustrations over obtaining information from East Suffolk Council pertaining to both training and the Neighbourhood Plan process.

There had also been questions from a member of the public with regard to Sizewell C which Cllr. Bassinette agreed to take on.

It was also **AGREED** to refer a potential grant application opportunity

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regarding the Queen's Green Canopy to the Walberswick Common Lands Charity.

251/21-22 Matters arising

No matters were identified at this point.

252/21-22 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 8.25 pm.

254/21-22 Date of next meeting was confirmed as being Monday, 9 May 2022 at 7pm.

253/21-22 To consider appointment of a nominative Trustee to fill a vacancy on the Walberswick Common Lands Charity.

In line with the policy on appointing trustees, the Councillors discussed the applications that had been received to fill the vacancy created.

The meeting closed at 8.44pm.

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