

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th December 2022 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Tucker and Whiting. One member of the public also attended in person. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote. Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers joined remotely.

Also in attendance (remotely via Zoom) was one (1) member of the public and Mark Knight, Parish Clerk, Also in attendance (remotely) was District Councillor David Beavan.

106/22-23 Chair's welcome.

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

107/22-23 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Richardson and Sutton.

108/22-23 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

109/22-23 Open Forum

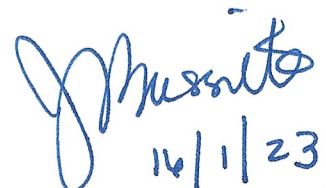
One member of the public shared their support for the report on allotment management and maintenance policy adding that membership in an allotment holders' group should be voluntary. The Chair confirmed that the topic would be discussed during the appropriate agenda item.

110/22-23 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

111/22-23 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that the cost of living crisis was worsening but East Suffolk Council were offering support via grants and the Warm Rooms and Field to Fork initiatives. He said he was disappointed that in the current environment the Council had rejected a motion to accept an offer by Warwick University to help the district council to insulate homes. He mentioned that the scarcity of affordable housing was worsening and adding to homeless and a housing crisis amongst lower income families.


14/1/23

The Eurolink exhibition in Southwold was well attended and issues such as the capacity of the proposed cables were discussed as well as many others.

More work was also ongoing regarding the planning referral panel after the results of a survey conducted by SALC showed dissatisfaction with the performance of ESC planning. There was a proposal that an application should have to go to committee if the ward member, Parish Council and one other Member wanted the application to be heard by the committee and not be delegated to officers.

112/22-23 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 14th November 2022

The minutes of the 14th November 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.

113/22-23 Planning

113/22-23.1 The Council noted the decisions on planning applications that had been taken previously under delegated authority:

113/22-23.1.1 Byways, Stocks Lane DC/22/4128/FUL

It was recommended that the application be **rejected** due to an overdevelopment of the site, being not in keeping with the street scene and a loss of amenity for neighbouring properties.

113/22-23.1.2 Admiral House, The Street DC/22/4246/FUL

It was recommended that the application be **rejected** due to the noise and resulting impact on neighbouring properties. The location of the development being next to the road was also a concern due to the effect on the 'dark sky' aesthetic of the village.

113/22-23.2 Applications for consideration

113/22-23.2.1 Manor House, The Street DC/22/3802/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council was not in a position to comment on the application due to a lack of information on whether the building was already being used as a self-catering unit and whether earlier planning applications had been adhered to properly by the owner.

114/22-23 Finance Matters 2022/3

114/22-23.3 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet

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

115/22-23 Finance Matters 2023/4

115/22-23.1 To review the draft budget, precept and reserves

The report and documents were discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to make no further changes to the budget, precept request or reserve allocations as set out in the Report. Therefore:

The draft budget was **APPROVED** at £25,470.

The precept was **APPROVED** at £20,000, which represented a 0% increase on the 2022/3 and the 2021/22 precepts.

The ring-fenced reserves were **APPROVED** at £39,999 with net reserves of £14,740.

The Parish Clerk and Chair were **AUTHORISED** to sign the precept request in time for the January deadline; and for the budget and reserves to be approved at the January meeting. All in favour.

116/22-23 Proposed WPC response to Eurolink Consultation

Cllr. Bassinette gave a summary of her report and draft response to the ongoing consultation process. She noted that the only section that may need updating was that which referred to the input of the WCLC as that had not yet been finalised.

It was **AGREED** to delegate authority to Cllrs. Bassinette and Lewis to make changes to paragraph C following the input of the WCLC.

It was also **AGREED** to **submit** the consultation response as written (following the update noted above) as the official response of the Parish Council, and for the Parish Clerk to submit this to the appropriate authorities. Thereafter, it would be sent for information to the district, county and national representatives of Walberswick.

117/22-23 To discuss allotment responsibilities

Cllr. Lewis introduced the item as a follow up to the initial discussion at the November meeting. It was agreed that the report from the Parish Clerk provided a very good basis for looking at the issues and for sorting out the current policy ambiguities. To move the process forward, it was **AGREED** to undertake the following:

- To try to locate the original lease for the site if possible.
- To promote the formation and structure of an Allotment Holder

Association. This would be discussed at a meeting that the Chair would call for all existing allotment holders and those interested in renting an allotment. This meeting would be scheduled for a date in February.

- To work with current allotment holders to improve the accuracy of the allotment map and records.
- Following the February meeting, to review the tenancy agreement, fees and policy. Thereafter, the policy and fees would be reviewed annually in October ahead of the budget setting process, and for the allotment tenancy year to run from October to September.

118/22-23 Traffic Order response

The Council **APPROVED** the report and its recommendations and expressed their appreciation for the improved parking and speeding control as a result of the traffic order.

119/22-23 Noticeboard Quote approval

The quotes were discussed noting recent price rises. It was **AGREED** to appoint contractor 1 at a cost of £3,300. Prior to accepting a contract, Contractor 1 should do a mock-up of the boards including design, wood colour, confirmation of sustainability of wood source and wording on each of the two boards. This final design would be shared with and accepted by the Councillors before the final order was taken forward.

120/22-23 Proposed amendment to the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk

Cllr. Lewis explained the change to include the Vice-Chair to the document in the eventuality that the Chair was not available. The proposed changes were **APPROVED**.

121/22-23 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.

121/22-23.1 Footpath and Highways

Nothing for this meeting.

121/22-23.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

Cllr. Lewis reported that he had again been elected Chair of SALC for the coming year. The Council congratulated Cllr Lewis on his selection.

121/22-23.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area

It was reported that quotes had now been received for the swing set

renovation at the playing field. It was **AGREED** to go forward with the work and that in this case the Financial Regulations requiring 3 bids was not appropriate given that the original supplier had to be the one to supply the replacement parts.

121/22-23.4 Safe Spaces and Car Parks

Nothing for this meeting.

121/22-23.5 Sizewell and other power related developments

Nothing for this meeting beyond the earlier agenda item.

121/22-23.6 Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation displays were presented as a paper to the meeting, it was also reported that the recent consultation event on the 3rd December was very well attended with 55 in attendance.

121/22-23.7 Village News

The items to include in the Village News were discussed and agreed. Cllr Sutherland-Rogers agreed that she would discuss with the editor and follow-up with Cllrs Lewis and Bassinette via text as usual.

122/22-23 Oral Committee reports if relevant.

There were none.

123/22-23 Clerk's report

The Clerk presented the report. It was confirmed that Cllr. Whiting would attend the January Police Locality meeting with Cllr. Bassinette as a back-up.

124/22-23 Matters arising

It was reported that matters concerning memorial benches and trustee appointment would be on the February agenda.

125/22-23 Date of next meeting was confirmed as being Monday, 16 January 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

