

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th February 2022 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Richardson, Sutherland-Rogers and Tucker. 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 (remotely via Zoom) was two (2) members of the public and Mark Knight, Parish Clerk, Also in attendance (in person) was District Councillor David Beavan.

189/21-22 Chair's welcome.

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

190/21-22 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Sutton and Whiting. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Richard Smith and Mr. Simon Ashton, Responsible Financial Officer.

191/21-22 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

192/21-22 Open Forum

None.

193/21-22 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

194/21-22 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that East Suffolk Council has reached the end of its budget setting process and would be raising its rates by 2%. He also mentioned that there was ongoing discussions with public sector employees about a long delayed raised meant to come into effect in 2021 which could impact the amount of funds that ESC had in its budget. He discussed some of the investments that would be needed towards reducing the districts carbon footprint.

He said that he was still working to get information on the extent by which some house-owners fraudulently collected Covid-19 business payments by claiming their homes as businesses.

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Cllr. Beavan said that now that he was on the Planning Committee as well as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he hoped to have a louder voice for his constituency. The Harbour Management Committee Advisory Group had had its first meeting and it appeared that it would work better and be more of a representative local voice. Finally he mentioned that the success of the vaccination volunteer program should be harnessed to serve in other voluntary capacity going forward.

195/21-22 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 17th January 2022

The minutes of the 17th January 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.

196/21-22 Planning

Before the applications were considered it was reported that a development at Blinkers was approved under delegated officer authority at East Suffolk Council, despite the size and style of the property and the strong objection of the village. Councillors expressed their considerable frustration at the approach of ESC that showed no regard for the opinion of Parish Council or local people and appeared to make its decisions strictly in support of development.

196/21-22.1 The Council noted planning decisions that had been taken previously under delegated authority:

**196/21-22.1.1 Licence request to the Marine Management Organisation for Suffolk Seaweed Farm
MLA/2021/00154**

Refusal of the licence was recommended for reasons of lack of public consultation, inaccuracies and incomplete information on the application form itself and confusion over the potential social benefit.

**196/21-22.1.2 The Anchor Public House, The Street
DC/21/5581/FUL**

The application was not supported in full due to the location of some of the panels. A suggestion was made about how the panels could be placed more sympathetically.

196/21-22.2 Applications for consideration

196/21-22.2.1 Vine Cottage, The Green DC/22/0014/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to it being detrimental to both the property and the Conservation Area, with the visual impact of the development being in a highly sensitive location.

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196/21-22.2.2 Long Roof, Leveretts Lane DC/22/0091/FUL

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

197/21-22 Finance Matters 2021/2

197/21-22.1 Review proposed split of costs on Heritage Hut with WCLC

It was **AGREED** to accept the costs for the Heritage Hut operation. This included the 40% of the total for the Parish Council whilst the WCLC absorbed 60% of the costs. The cost, at £1200 was considerably less than initially projected, mainly due to lower than anticipated heating costs and the inevitably low level of usage due to COVID restrictions. In addition, it was now proposed that insurance costs would not be shared but that the Parish Council would pay the costs of insuring the building and the contents which it owns (e.g. AV equipment) and the WCLC paying the contents insurance for items which they own. This was in accordance with rules for local authority insurance which mandated that the WPC insure all assets on its register.

Now that Covid-19 restrictions were coming to an end, it was also agreed that the WPC would suggest to the HH Management Committee and WCLC that people be made more aware of how to make use of the renovated HH.

197/21-22.2 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.

198/21-22 To discuss a proposal regarding sustainable communities

Cllr. Turner introduced her report which sought to create actionable proposals regarding sustainable communities. This involves the social, economic and environmental aspects of the area and the relationship between the three. It was thought that this was particularly relevant to a coastal village highly likely to experience the real effects of climate change.

It was agreed that this could potentially fit in very well with the ongoing Neighbourhood Development Plan which would have a chapter on environment and sustainability. It was **AGREED** that a group should be set up to help draw up draft proposals that could be widely consulted as part of the NDP process. It was suggested that this initiative could be publicised at the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting in May 2022. Cllr Tucker was asked to work on developing a Terms of Reference to take the idea forward.

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It was also **AGREED** that a first step would be to see if a training session was available on what actions could be taken at the Parish level to address sustainability. It was thought that this could also be done in partnership with the Walberswick Common Lands Charity. It was agreed to seek out assistance in terms of expertise and grant funding from East Suffolk District Council and the Suffolk County Council. Cllr. Tucker and the Parish Clerk were tasked with follow up and to report back to the Council.

199/21-22 Grass Cutting 2022/3

It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the quote from Norse which included a cost increase of 3%. However, it was proposed that there be greater clarity on exactly the areas Norse was cutting and to insist that Norse fulfil their commitment for 5 cuts per year. It was also agreed that the Council would look into having some back up support in case the Green needed additional cutting as happened in the previous year.

200/21-22 Harbour Management Committee Stakeholder Advisory Group

Cllr. Bassinette reported that the group was proving to be effective and better value than originally thought and that her recommendation was for the WPC to remain engaged. She volunteered to continue to represent the WPC at the Advisory Group. It was **AGREED** that the Council would remain engaged in the group and that Cllr Bassinette would be the delegated representative.

201/21-22 Proposal for replacement goal nets

The proposal for a cost of £225 for the replacement of the nets was **APPROVED**. Cllr. Lewis agreed to follow up on the purchase and installation.

202/21-22 To note the date of the Annual Parish Meeting

It was **AGREED** with the date for the meeting as Wednesday 11th May 2022.

203/21-22 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.

203/21-22.1 Footpath and Highways

Cllr Sutherland-Rogers reported that a villager had worryingly seen a Cyclotricity Stealth 1000W e-bike, capable of doing 50km/h being ridden at high speed on the beach. Highly visible 'No Right to Cycle' discs provided by Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way team were now up on many Footpaths leading through the Marshes to Dunwich. Cycling on any Footpaths in the UK is prohibited.

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203/21-22.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

Nothing for this meeting.

203/21-22.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area

Nothing further for the meeting.

203/21-22.4 Safe Spaces and Car Parks

Nothing for this meeting.

203/21-22.5 Sizewell and other power related developments

Cllr. Bassinette reported that representatives from the legal team at Sizewell C had been in contact about the Deed of Covenant. She said that her initial discussions were disturbing as EDF had informed her that the WPC was being asked to sign on to an agreement for which we were not allowed any input into the governance structure already proposed by EDF. She said that she would be bringing a recommendation to the Council in March.

203/21-22.6 Neighbourhood Plan

It was stated that the grant had been approved and that the Steering Group would try to move as quickly as possible to commit the funds to the agreed consultants.

203/21-22.7 Village News

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

204/21-22 Oral Committee reports if relevant.

There were none.

205/21-22 Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that it had been a quiet month, but several members of the public had been in touch regarding a variety of matters, including allotments. Work was also still ongoing with a neighbouring Council who were seeking advice on how to change the speed limit in the area.

206/21-22 Matters arising

No matters were identified at this point.

207/21-22 To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the

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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 8.21 pm.

209/21-22 Date of next meeting was confirmed as being Monday, 14 March 2022 at 7pm.

208/21-22 To consider appointment of WCLC Trustee

In line with the policy on appointing trustees, the Councillors discussed the applications that had been received to fill a WCLC trustee vacancy. It was agreed to nominate a candidate for approval at the March meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.

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