

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th July 2023 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Sutton, Watson and Whiting. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote.

Also in attendance (via Zoom) was (1) one member of the public and Mark Knight the Parish Clerk.

041/23-24 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

042/23-24 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Richardson and D Cllr. Beavan.

043/23-24 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

Cllr. Whiting declared a non-pecuniary interest in item **048/23-24.2.1** regarding a planning application and took no part in this discussion.

044/23-24 Open Forum

None.

045/23-24 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

046/23-24 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan was not in attendance.

047/23-24 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 19th June 2023

The minutes of the 19th June 2023 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

048/23-24 Planning

048/23-24.1 To note the decisions made under delegated authority since the last meeting

048/23-24.1.1

Shorelands, Palmers Lane

DC/22/4893/FUL

Signed.....

Dated.....^{Fr} 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to this application due to the minor amends not addressing or satisfying the comments raised in the Council's previous objection. Namely, failing to understand the existing spatial qualities of the existing property and those around it and the resulting harm to the street scene and residential amenity of these surrounding properties. The amended proposal also does not satisfy Local Plan policies relating to infill and garden development, residential amenity and design quality.

048/23-24.2 Applications for consideration

048/23-24.2.1 Box Bush, Seven Acres Lane DC/23/2257/FUL

The Council **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to the harm it would cause to the significance of a non-designated heritage asset (NDHA) and potential to cause harm within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The proposal also raises questions as to the accuracy and completeness of the submitted drawings and inaccuracies between what is shown on the plan and the submitted elevations. It was thought that a Heritage Impact Assessment should accompany the application to aid the understanding of the proposed changes.

048/23-24.2.2 Toby Cottage, Leveretts Lane DC/23/2369/FUL

The Council **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to the new 'link' from Toby Cottage to the re-modelled annexe would have a detrimental effect on the non-designated heritage asset (NDHA). It would also not preserve or enhance the Conservation Area, this relates to the elements visible from Leveretts Lane.

The design objection relates to the cladding material for the link, the board type and orientation, the windows in the link building which are distinctly modern and contract poorly with the main house and the loss of the garage doors on the existing annexe and the effect on the street scene.

One member of the public left the meeting at 7.11pm.

049/23-24 Finance Matters 2023/24

049/23-24.1 Approve items on the Authority to Pay Sheet

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

050/23-24 To review and approve the Financial Regulations

It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the document with the change for the tendering levels from £25,000 to £30,000 in line with current best practice. It was also **AGREED** to review this policy in April 2024 ahead of the Annual Parish Council

Signed.....

Dated.....

Meeting in May 2024.

051/23-24 To consider a proposal for a permanent Christmas Tree on the Village Green

The written proposal was discussed and it was **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** in principle the idea of a permanent Christmas Tree on the Village Green. It was noted that the cost of the Serbian Spruce of 1.5 to 2m in height would potentially be donated by a villager. It was agreed that if the cost could not be covered, the issue would be brought back to the Council meeting in September 2023. In approving the proposal, the Council noted that there were some villagers who were concerned about the planting on the Green. However, the Council felt that the current system of the temporary tree was no longer sustainable and that maintaining an appropriate tree in its place would enhance the Green and support the continuation of the Christmas tradition. This would be communicated in the Village News and further consultation if required would be arranged if there was significant feedback on that article

052/23-24 To consider and approve the Allotment Tenancy Agreement and plot allocation policy for 2023/4

Following an explanation by Cllr. Lewis, the Council **AGREED** to the new Allotment policy and agreement for allotment users. In particular, the following amendments were noted:

- The allotment rental year shall run from 1st October to 30th September.
- Those wishing to give up a plot must do so by 1st April, or the following year's rent will still have to be paid.
- Plot allocation is at the discretion of Walberswick Parish Council.
- All plot holders must sign a valid tenancy agreement before taking up the tenancy.
- All plot holders giving up their tenancy must return it in a suitable condition for re-letting.
- Construction, repair and maintenance of fences and paths lies with relevant plot holders and the Parish Council will hold relevant plot holders liable for any work required.
- No trees to be planted without the agreement of the Parish Council. Existing trees were "grandfathered" but branches to said trees were not to overhang any other plots and branches must be trimmed to minimise shade on any other plots.
- Use of hoses is limited to filling of water butts and not for irrigation straight from the hose pipe.

053/23-24 To consider and approve the Allotment prices for 2023/4

Signed.....

Dated.....

The following costs for renting allotment were **AGREED**:

Full plot: £24 per annum.

Half plot: £17 per annum.

Quarter plot: £11 per annum.

There would be no pro-rata rates.

054/23-24 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

054/23-24.1 Footpaths

Cllr. Bassinette reported on the repair of the Spong Bridge noting that the bridge would need to be closed for up to 6 weeks. Suffolk Highways had agreed to trim the footpaths in the area to ease use.

054/23-24.2 Highways

Nothing for meeting.

054/23-24.3 GDPR, SALC and Website

Nothing for meeting.

054/23-24.4 Playing Fields and the Green play area

Cllr. Lewis reported that a meeting of the Safety Committee would take place soon,

054/23-24.5 Harbour Management and Car Parks

Nothing for meeting.

054/23-23.6 Sizewell and other power related developments

Cllr. Bassinette reported that 8 local Councils, including Walberswick Parish Council, had sent a joint letter to EDF pointing out the extensive speeding, safety and maintenance issues that had to be addressed if Sizewell C went forward. A response was awaited.

The Judicial Review surrounding Sizewell C had been refused but was now at the appeal stage.

054/23-24.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Whiting reported that the working group was meeting later that week to address a recent report, meetings with primary authorities and the grant application for the coming year.

Signed.....

Dated.....

054/23-24.8 Village Hall and Heritage Hut

Cllr. Watson reported that fundraising for the Heritage Hut would be taking place later in the year and that a meeting was taking place the following week regarding the Village Hall.

054/23-24.9 Village News

The items to include in the Village News were discussed.

055/23-24 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

No reports were given.

056/23-24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on recent contact with representatives from Sizewell C who wished to consult with the Council, it was **AGREED** to arrange a larger meeting in the Village Hall in the first half of November, so more people can attend.

057/23-24 Matters Arising

There were no matters to address at this stage.

058/23-24 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 11th September 2023 at 7pm.

The time and date of the meeting was confirmed as above.

The meeting closed at 8.14pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....11/9/23