

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette (Vice Chair), Richardson, Sutherland-Rogers, Sutton, Tucker and Whiting. One (1) member of the public attended in person. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote.

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

143/22-23 Chair's welcome.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and those attending by Zoom. It was also agreed that C Cllr. Smith had indicated that he would be arriving late, the Chair agreed to move item 147/22-23 to when he arrives. All were in favour.

144/22-23 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

All were in attendance.

145/22-23 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

Cllr. Tucker declared an interest as a Trustee of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity.

Cllr. Lewis declared an interest as Chair of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

146/22-23 Open Forum


One member of the public expressed their concerns regarding the recently exposed sea defences and the health and safety risk they posed to the general public. They gave a brief history on the matter. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Lewis would meet informally with the Chair of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity, and that the matter would be placed on the March agenda.

148/22-23 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan.

Cllr. Beavan was not in attendance.

149/22-23 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 16th January 2023

The minutes of the 16th January 2023 meeting were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

13th March 2023


150/22-23 Planning

150/22-23.1 The Council noted the decisions on planning applications that had been taken previously under delegated authority:

150/22-23.1.1 Admirals House, The Street DC/22/4246/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to the plan being an updated version of a previously considered application with the addition of a fence. Furthermore, as the development detailed in the plan was already constructed this application should be considered as a retrospective application. If submitted the Council would recommend refusal.

150/22-23.2 To comment on the Draft Coastal Adaption Supplementary Planning Document

The Council welcomed and **NOTED** the preparation of the document which sets out to prepare a policy about how to deal with development proposals in light of receding and eroding coastlines which is very relevant to the surrounding area. However much of the guidance appears less applicable to our specific geography as the actual built up area of the Walberswick is not immediately adjacent to the eroding coast and it was agreed that no further action on this was required by the Council at this time

151/22-23 Finance Matters 2022/3

151/22-23.3 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.

152/22-23 Memorial Benches

It was **AGREED** to offer a bench in the village for refurbishment to an interested party, and to then keep a waiting list for anybody who might like to take on responsibility of a bench. There was also discussion that on land falling in a SSSI that permission might need to be required from either the Walberswick Common Lands Charity or Natural England. Cllr. Tucker agreed to investigate further and report back also on what type of bench/ground fitting might be required for any new/refurbished benches.

A proposal was also heard to place a bench near to the newly installed Pirate Ship, due to this being on land owned by the Walberswick Common Lands Charity. Cllr. Lewis agreed to consult with the Chair of the Charity in his upcoming meeting and to confirm with the proposer if the offer of a bench still stood.

13/3/23
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153/22-23 Appointment of Nominative Trustee to the WCLC

A vote took place and it was then **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Mr. David Pelly as a Nominative Trustee to the Walberswick Common Lands Charity

154/22-23 To approve the noticeboard proofs

The proofs were **AGREED**, but it was thought that a cork board would be more appropriate for the Parish notice (magnetic board still being fine for the Council board). The Clerk was authorised to make the necessary change to the order and to get exact measurements to see if the boards can be installed where proposed and place the order once above details confirmed.

155/22-23 To consider proposals for Coronation Bank Holiday events

Cllr. Sutherland-Rogers led a discussion on the Parish Council's involvement in the upcoming celebrations. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Lewis would ask all other community groups whether they had any plans given that the involvement of the Parish Council in organising any events would be significantly impacted by "purdah" due to the upcoming elections.

C Cllr. Smith arrived at 7.49pm.

147/22-23 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith started by thanking all Members for their service over the past four years and enquired when the Annual Parish Meeting would be. It was **AGREED** to place this item on the March agenda to confirm.

C Cllr. Smith also reported on the recently agreed budget, approved on the 9th February, which represented a 3.99% increase (or £618m) for the coming year. This also included a ring-fenced 2% increase specifically for the Adult Social Care Levy. It was also reported that £25m of efficiency savings would be addressed, and that there was an expected net expenditure figure of £50m which would be able to be delivered with no cuts to services.

The proposed Sizewell C development was now entering a Judicial Review process, but if the process failed then EDF need to find at least £20m worth of funding in the next 12 to 18 months. However, it did also mean that the next two peak summer tourist seasons would probably not be significantly impacted by the development.

He further reported that should the Judicial Review fail then the focus of Suffolk County Council would move to one of gaining adequate compensation from the developers to address the impact.

There were no questions and C Cllr. Smith was thanked for his attendance.

13/3/23
All -

C Cllr. Smith then left the meeting at 8.06pm.

156/22-23 To consider whether a "Christmas Tree" should be planted on the Village Green as a substitute for installing a temporary tree each Christmas

Cllr. Sutton's report was discussed and it was **AGREED** that an article inviting views should be placed in the Village News and (once a specific proposal was available) on the village website and then to be placed on an appropriate agenda for discussion/approval.

157/22-12 Arrangements for May 2023 Local Government Elections

The Clerk reported on the requirements for ID for all voting and the need to communicate this as widely as possible so people are not disenfranchised.

Also reported was the process of filling out nomination forms and how these needed to be delivered in person to the District Council offices. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Clerk should book an appointment with the relevant office at the District Council to hand in these forms when completed. It was thought that a session could be run immediately prior to the March Council meeting where the Clerk could be in hand to advise if necessary. This process to be also advertised as widely as possible in order to give anybody in the village the opportunity to stand.

158/22-23 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.

158/22-23.1 Footpath and Highways

Nothing for this meeting.

158/22-23.2 GDPR, SALC and Website

Cllr. Lewis reported on the results of a planning survey and would be meeting with planning officers at East Suffolk District Council on Thursday 16th February.

158/22-23.3 Playing Fields and the Green play area

Cllr. Lewis reported that the seats for the toddler swing had arrived and would soon be installed. A meeting with a potential contractor would also soon be taking place regarding filling in the rabbit holes on the Playing Fields. It was also **AGREED** that Cllr. Lewis would soon be meeting with the Chair of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity to speak about the base of the former pavilion.

158/22-23.4 Safe Spaces and Harbour Management

Nothing for this meeting.

13/3/23
Acl.

158/22-23.5 Sizewell and other power related developments

Nothing for this meeting.

158/22-23.6 Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing for this meeting, although it was reported that the Steering Group would be meeting at 2pm on Friday 17th February.

158/22-23.7 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.

159/22-23 Oral Committee reports if relevant.

There were none.

160/22-23 Clerk's report

The Clerk presented the report. Questions were asked on some of the items with further explanation given by the Clerk.

161/22-23 Matters arising

It was noted that there would be a meeting of Cllrs Lewis and Tucker with allotment holders and Councillors on 25th February between 10am and 12pm. An update would be on the March agenda.

162/22-23 Date of next meeting was confirmed as being Monday, 13 March 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

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