

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Dadswell, 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 Simon Ashton the Responsible Financial Officer and Mark Knight the Parish Clerk.

095/25-26 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

096/25-26 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Richardson.

097/25-26 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

098/25-26 Open Forum

None.

099/25-26 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

100/25-26 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

D Cllr. Beavan was not in attendance.

101/25-26 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 13th October 2025

The minutes of the 13th October 2025 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

102/25-26 Update on Energy Project Impacts on Walberswick: B1125 Closure Proposal and Sealink DCO Process

Cllr. Bassinette reported that the Oper Floor Hearings for the Sealink DCO held at Snape Maltings on the 6th November was well attended with five people from Walberswick speaking during the 5 sessions over 3 days. Cllr. Bassinette referred Councillors to her statement, made on behalf of the WPC, which raised three areas of key concern. These were: (i) our objection to including land for the LionLink substation when the LL project was

Signed.....

Dated.....

not part of this DCO and had every chance of not going forward, (ii) concerns about the cumulative impact of the project on traffic, the tourism-focused economy of the area and the impact on the health and well-being of people in the community who had to deal with the onslaught of so many NSIPS one after the others and (iii) the environmental impact of SeaLink on protected areas particularly given that there was no compelling reason to put it here when other options including offshore and brownfield sites, were available.

In terms of SZC, Cllr Bassinette announced that SZC and Suffolk Highways had agreed, in writing, that the closure of the B1125 at Blythburgh would not happen until the upgrading of the B1387 between the A12 and the Watertower junction was complete. This would avoid Walberswick losing the ability to exit to the A12 without a 10 mile diversion to the Yoxford. She said that on this basis, she would be bringing the final proposal for the closure to the December meeting of the WPC.

Cllr. Bassinette was thanked for all her work representing Walberswick on the NSIPs.

103/25-26 Planning

103.1/25-26 To note responses made under delegated authority

103.1.1/25-26 Herons, Church Field

DC/25/3655/FUL

It was **AGREED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to conflicts with the conservation area, detrimental impact to the character of the footpath, impact on the stock of smaller dwellings in the village, an inadequate ecological assessment, the size of the proposed development, loss of residential amenity, the application being in contravention of local policies 11.1 (Design Quality) and 11.2 (Amenity) and not being in keeping with the street scene.

103.1.2/25-26 14 Adams Lane, Walberswick

DC/25/3685/FUL

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

103.1.3/25-26 The Tuck Shop, The Street

DC/25/3719/FUL

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

103.1.4/25-26 The Coach House, Palmers Lane

DC/25/3725/FUL

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

It was also **NOTED** that a further delegated planning meeting needed to be held before the 30th November to address the proposed development at the Camp Site.

Signed.....

Dated.....

104/25-26 Finance Matters 2025/6

104/25-26.1 Review of Receipts & Payments Budget Reports (31 October 2025)

It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the figures as presented.

104/25-26.2 Review & Approval of Bank Reconciliation (31 October 2025)

The report was discussed and then **APPROVED**. Cllr. Whiting signed the appropriate document.

104/25-26.3 Approve items on the Authority to Pay Sheet

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

104/25-26.4 Review & Approval of Budget, Precept and Reserves

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

The precept was **APPROVED** at £20,000, unchanged from 2024/25. It was noted with satisfaction that WPC had now been able to avoid raising the precept for 6 consecutive budgets. The exact amount per Band D property to be known when the tax base is released in the near future.

The budget and the individual line items were **APPROVED** and £18,098 held in general and earmarked reserves, in line with best practice (i.e. between 6 and 12 months of anticipated expenditure).

The Responsible Financial Officer then left the meeting at 7.38pm.

105/25-26 To discuss Commemorative Benches

Cllr. Lewis reported that due to new benches being procured and installed by the Tuck Shop, the two original benches had been made available to the Parish Council. A quote has been received for £392 to refurbish these benches and one other, with all three benches then being used as commemorative benches at locations on the Common. This refurbishment was a considerable saving compared to the cost of new benches. It was **AGREED** to progress with this project.

106/25-26 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

None.

107/25-26 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

Signed.....

Dated.....

No reports were given. It was **AGREED** that a Safety Committee meeting was needed as soon as possible to discuss the ROSPA reports.

108/25-26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on emails and calls received over the past month. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Whiting would chase the cost/processing for dressing for the Village Green (as opposed to a full re-grassing) in advance of this being an agenda item at the Parish Council meeting in January

109/25-26 Matters Arising

It was **AGREED** to address the B1125 Working Group reports at the December meeting. It was further **AGREED** to place items regarding the agreed precept and B1125 in the Village News.

110/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 8th December 2025 at 7pm.

The time and date of the meeting was confirmed as above. Cllr. Lewis gave his apologies and said that he would attend the meeting by Zoom but that the Vice Chair would chair the meeting from the HH on the night.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....