

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Dadswell, 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 Mark Knight the Parish Clerk and District Cllr. David Beavan.

147/24-25 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

148/24-25 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Richardson and Sutton along with Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

149/24-25 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

150/24-25 Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

151/24-25 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith was not in attendance but had sent a brief report which was read out by Cllr. Lewis as Chair. In this they reported that a decision on Lion Link was imminent. A meeting would take place when this decision was made public.

152/24-25 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported the devolution and local government reorganisation deal was still ongoing and no clarity had yet been received on what form this would take. It was possible that a Mayoral authority for Norfolk and Suffolk would be created by election in 2026 with elections for first a shadow authority and then Unitary Authorities by election in 2027. It was stressed, however, that much work still had to be done before this was decided.

ESC was due to meet on the 11th February 2025 to set the budget. It was expected that balancing the budget would request a substantial drawdown of reserves as well as an increase in Council tax.

Finally, Cllr. Beavan confirmed that he would be attending the planning meeting concerning Herons as ward member as requested.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Cllr. Lewis asked if any of Cllr. Beavan's Locality Budget was still available as a possible use would be to improve the capability of the Speed Indicator Signs to keep a record of speeds and numbers of cars. Unfortunately, there was no monies available this year. The Council agreed to pursue possible other sources of financing including CIL Monies and the Walberswick Common Lands Charity who were the original financiers of the indicators. Cllr Lewis agreed that he would look into this and come back with options at a future meeting.

153/24-25 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 13th January 2025

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

154/24-25 Planning

154/24-25.1 To note responses made under delegated authority

154/24-25.1.1 The Pumphouse, Ferry Road DC/24/4489/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the application subject to concerns about maintenance access being addressed.

D Cllr. Beavan then left the meeting at 7.08pm.

155/24-25 Finance Matters

155/24-25.1 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.

155/24-25.2 Confirmation & Reduction of Band D Property Charge (2025/6)

It was **CONFIRMED** that on the basis that the Precept requirement is to be £20,000, and based on the latest information from East Suffolk Council, this would result in a charge of £36.19 for a Band D property and would show as -32.20% change on the Council Tax bills against the Parish element.

156/24-25 To discuss the grass cutting contract for 2025

It was **AGREED** to ask the Parish Clerk to reach out to the contractors to ensure that the service was confirmed ahead of the growing season, and to report back to the March meeting. This contract should include all the areas that were cut in 2024.

157/24-25 Article 4 consultation response and update on NDP progress

The Council discussed the large and engaged turnout of villagers to the Article 4 meeting held at the Village Hall on 16 January with ESC Heritage officers. The Council was

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pleased by the wide spread report for Article 4 as this aligned well with the approach in the draft NDP. It was also noted that villagers at the meeting expressed the view not to limit the Article 4 to a small portion of the current Conservation Area, but to include all of it. The Council also had before it input from PAG proposing support for Article 4 but arguing for it to include the entire Conservation Area. Councillor Lewis said that ESC would like to receive formal feedback from the Council on its proposals and that this would need to be submitted by 11 February. It was **AGREED** therefore to delegate authority to Cllr. Bassinette to draft the response along the lines discussed and making use of the excellent report from PAG. This would then be submitted to ESC, in consultation with Cllr Lewis, ensuring that this be submitted the next day.

158/24-25 Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Cllr Lewis explained that Suffolk County had been allocated two spaces for Parish Councillors to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. The Council **AGREED** to nominate Cllr. Lewis as Walberswick Chair and as the Chair of SALC as a potential attendee for the event. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk and Cllr. Lewis would work on the nomination and submit it for consideration.

159/24-25 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

159/24-25.1 Energy Projects

Cllr. Bassinette reported that the news concerning a decision on Lion Link was due to be received and that this could have serious implications for the village. She also mentioned that the Northern Transport Forum had met and that Cllr Watson had kindly attended in her place to represent Walberswick. She also mentioned that a meeting for the B1125 Working Group was due to be held week commencing 17th February 2025 and that it was expected the nearly finalised plans for closing the B1125 going north at the Water Tower junction and improvements to the B1387 between the Water Tower and the A12 should be ready.

159/24-25.2 Village News

The Councillors agreed on the items that should be submitted for the next edition.

160/24-25 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

None.

161/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that a letter to the shop and the landlord which were using public space as a sales area in contravention of the Village Green policy had been sent. A co-operative response from the landlord had been received and it was hoped that the ongoing problem would now be addressed. It was also reported that the Responsible Financial Officer could not attend the meeting on the 9th June and as this was a critical financial meeting, the Council **AGREED** to take this into consideration when the annual schedule of meetings

Signed.....

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is submitted to the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2025, with a provisionally agreed date for this particular meeting of Wednesday 11th June

162/24-25 Matters Arising

It was **AGREED** to add an item concerning signs for the Village Green and the river path to the matters arising.

163/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 10th March 2025 at 7pm.

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

The meeting then closed at 7.44pm.

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