

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7pm.

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

130/24-25 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

131/24-25 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Watson after the meeting.

132/24-25 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

133/24-25 Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

134/24-25 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

135/24-25 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that a move to devolve powers to unitary authorities replacing the existing county and district councils was continuing. He felt that this would lead to a loss of local democracy (including that there would be no SCC elections this year) but that a restructure of local government would take time and nothing is yet certain. He thought that the most likely outcome being a joint Mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk with one or two unitary authorities in Suffolk. Elections would take place for the Mayor in 2026 with the new authorities having elections in 2027.

He also reported that a £17m retrofit programme for the council housing stock had been funded with 50% coming from a central government grant and half from East Suffolk Council reserves.

The setting of the coming year's budget was continuing with a 5% rise in the budget likely which would necessitate a dip into the Council's reserves. This is also partly funded by the second homes tax.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Finally, the essential work needed to repair the harbour was continuing and remained extremely important.

136/24-25 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 9th December 2024

The minutes of the 9th December 2024 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

137/24-25 Planning

137/24-25.1 To note responses made under delegated authority

137/24-25.1.1 The Beeches, Millfield Road DC/24/3968/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application and request that the application be withdrawn.

137/24-25.1.2 The Drift, Moorside DC/24/3928/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the application subject to East Suffolk Council planning department satisfying themselves that the noise produced by the air source heat pump not causing a nuisance.

137/24-25.3 Tower Cottage, Palmers Lane DC/24/3942/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to it not meeting the requirements of the East Suffolk Council Local Validation Guidance and should not be determined until more information has been provided.

137/24-25.4 Pebbles, The Lea DC/24/4315/FUL

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

D Cllr. Beavan then left the meeting at 7.09pm.

138/24-25 Finance Matters

138/24-25.1 Review of Receipts & Payments Budget Reports (31 December 2024)

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

138/24-25.2 Review & Approval of Bank Reconciliation (31 December 2024)

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

Signed.....

Dated.....

138/24-25.3 Review & Approval of Internal Controls Checklist (2024/5) & Lead Appointment

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the checklist with no changes and Cllr. Whiting was appointed as the lead Councillor for this process with Cllr. Dadswell assisting so as to understand the process and potentially take on the role in future. The completed document will be submitted for approval to the March meeting.

138/24-25.4 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.

139/24-25 Article 4 Consultation

It was confirmed that the consultation meeting would be going ahead on the 16th January at 7pm in the Village Hall. The Council was supportive of the extension of Article 4 to the Village Conservation Area as it would provide better historic preservation than was the current practice with East Suffolk Council planning officers.

140/24-25 Locality Grant application

It had been thought that the defibrillator at the Co-op would need to be replaced and that this would be a good use of the Locality Grant funding available through Cllr Bevan. However, the Chair said that it was unclear whether the unit did need replacing as it had been reset and replaced – further enquiries would be made by the Chair

The Responsible Financial Officer then left the meeting at 7.36pm.

141/24-25 Review of Use of Village Green Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the document with no changes. Councillors noted, however, that the shop next to Heritage Hut was in violation of the policy and that a cease and desist letter should be sent to the shop owner as well as to the landlord to end the practice of the shop using the Green and the area in front of the Heritage Hut to display their wares. It also served to remind the Council to get the “No Parking Signs” already agreed to at the edge of the Green near Leveretts Lane where Trade vans have been seen parking. This was also clearly in violation of the Village Green policy.

142/24-25 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

142/24-25.1 Village News

The Councillors discussed which news items should be submitted to the Village News for the next edition.

142/24-25.2 Sea Link Response

Signed.....

Dated.....

Councillor Bassinette briefed the Councillors on the response that had been sent to SeaLink on behalf of the Parish Council. She explained that it was particularly important that WPC involved itself now in Sea Link since NGV was trying to sneak in land for LL in its DCO for Sea Link despite refusing to coordinate the two projects with a single cable route. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Clerk would send copies of the response to District, County and National elected representatives and that the response would be included in the next Village News.

143/24-25 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

None.

144/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that non-Council business has been quiet for this month due to two weeks of annual leave at Christmas.

145/24-25 Matters Arising

There were no matters to address at this stage.

146/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 10th February 2025 at 7pm.

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

The meeting then closed at 7.48pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....