

## WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Dadswell, Sutton, Watson and Whiting. Also in attendance was C Cllr. Smith and three (3) members of the public. 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) were Cllr. Richardson and Mark Knight the Parish Clerk.

### **147/25-26 Welcome by the Chair.**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **148/25-26 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.**

All were in attendance.

### **149/25-26 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.**

Cllr. Lewis declared an interest in item **155/25-26.3** pertaining to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

### **150/25-26 Open Forum**

One member of the public raised concerns about burglaries in the area and wondered if a CCTV camera could be installed on the only road in or out of the village. It was advised by C Cll.r Smith that this was a police matter. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would check and place this matter on a future agenda if/when appropriate.

Another member of the public asked what position they were on the allotment waiting list. The Parish Clerk promised to check records and respond.

### **151/25-26 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

### **152/25-26 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith**

C Cllr. Smith reported that the 2026/7 budget would be hopefully approved on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026, the proposal is for the full 4.99% increase, with 2% being specifically for social care which currently accounts for 77% of all Suffolk County Council spending.

It is also a very bad time of year for potholes which was also taking up a lot of time and money with repair. This has been exacerbated by a large increase in heavy traffic for Sizewell C construction. There was the potential for a claim being made against Sizewell

Signed.....

Dated.....

C to fund these extra repairs.

Local Government Reorganisation is also continuing with the 2026 elections being postponed until 2027 at the earliest, more likely this will be 2028. A decision is expected by mid-March on how many unitary authorities there will be in Suffolk (the current options being one or three). There is the possibility that Town and Parish Council elections, which are due in May 2027, will be for a five year term rather than the normal four-year term which will then align the elections with other local government elections and make a substantial saving.

C Cllr. Smith then left the meeting at 7.28pm.

**153/25-26 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan**

D Cllr. Beavan was not in attendance.

**154/25-26 Planning**

**154/25-26.1 Applications made under delegated authority**

**154/25-26.1.1 Jove Cottage, Lodge Road DC/25/4749/FUL**

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

**154.1/25-26.2 Applications to Consider**

**154.2.1 3 Moorside, Walberswick DC/26/0026/FUL**

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to the light spill from the dormer windows, all in favour. It was also **NOTED** that this had already been picked up by the applicant who had promised to amend the existing application.

**154.2.2 Dudley Cottage, The Street DC/26/0213/FUL**

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the application. It was also **NOTED** that this was a retrospective application.

**155/25-26 Finance Matters 2025/6**

**155/25-26.1 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.

**155/25-26.2 To approve the Financial Risk Assessment to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

The document was **APPROVED**.

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Dated.....

### **155/2526.3 To approve the Letter of Engagement from SALC**

The letter of engagement, detailing the method and process of audit, the letter was so **APPROVED**.

### **156/25-26 Approval of IT Policy**

Cllr. Lewis presented the policy and explained the need for it for audit purposes. The policy was **APPROVED**, with a single amendment to section 2.1 to make it clear that it was likely that Councillors and staff would be likely to be using their own devices to access council information

### **157/25-26 Consideration of the Safety Committee report**

Cllr. Lewis reported on behalf of the Safety Committee on the output from the last ROSPA safety audit. On the Village Green four new safety mats and chain connector bar for the toddler swing would need to be purchased. All the other items required (replacement chain links, D-links and a swing seat) had already been purchased following a previous audit and had now been fitted.

At the Playing Fields the shelter in the Toddler play area required removal and it was noted that WCLC (who own the shelter) have this in hand currently. Required repairs to a fence panel have already been carried out. Repair to the football goal surface would be done as part of hole-filling that happens routinely each year on the Playing Fields ahead of the annual cricket match. A new sign with the clerks email address would also be fitted to the entry point on the gate, having already been purchased.

All works and required purchases were **APPROVED**.

### **158/25-26 Reseeding of the Village Green**

The report, which detailed two quotes of £5,380 for first half of the green and £5,450 for the second half, was discussed. It was **AGREED** that the total cost would not be an effective use of tax payers money; but that limited seeding would take place after an inspection in September, after the August Village Fete.

### **159/25-26 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:**

#### **159/25-26.1 Village News**

It was **AGREED** to place items concerning Lionlink and the seeding of the Village Green in the next edition.

#### **159/25-26.2 NSIP update Sea Link, Lion Link and Sizewell C.**

Cllr. Bassinette reported that she had attended the Sea Link hearings in the past month which had good representation and all were against the development. Local

Signed.....

Dated.....

Government Reorganisation would impact the decision as the nature and powers of the new authorities are not yet known. A decision is expected in late 2026 or early 2027.

The consultation regarding Lion Link is due by the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026, it was **AGREED** to delegate authority to Cllr. Bassinette to compile and submit the Parish Council's response in order to ensure the deadline is met, all in favour.

**160/25-26 Oral Committee Reports if relevant**

No reports were given.

**161/25-26 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk invited questions on their monthly report, but none were forthcoming.

**162/25-26 Matters Arising.**

None.

**163/25-26 To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of the following items in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt with after the item that confirms details of the next meeting.**

This was so **RESOLVED**. Cllr. Richardson and three (3) members of the public left the meeting at 8.31pm.

**164/25-26 To discuss appointment of WCLC Trustee**

The appointment was discussed and a way forward was **AGREED**.

**165/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7pm.**

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

**The meeting closed at 8.36pm.**

Signed.....

Dated.....