WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th October 2026 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Whiting (Chair), Dadswell, Lewis, Richardson, Sutton and Watson. 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 Simon Ashton the Responsible Financial Officer.

090/26-27 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

091/26-27 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Bassinette.

092/25-27 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

Cllr. Dadswell declared a pecuniary interest in item 099/26-27 pertaining to allotment charges.

093/26-27 Open Forum

No members of the public present.

094/26-27 To consider the minutes of the meeting of 14th September 2026

The minutes of 14th September 2026 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

095/26-27 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor John Matthews

C Cllr. Matthews was not in attendance.

096/26-27 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

D Cllr. Beavan was not in attendance.

097/26-27 Planning

097/26-27.1 Applications for consideration

097/26-27.1.1 White Cottage, The Street DC/26/3384/FUL

Cllr. Whiting explained the initial thoughts of PAG in absence of a full report. It was also possible that an amendment to the application may mean an

extension of time. The application was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to bring back to next meeting if there was an extension or to object to the application on the grounds discussed in the meeting if there was no extension

098/26-27 Finance Matters

098/26-27.1 Review & Approval of External Audit Report Response & Action Plan (2025/26)

The Council **APPROVED** the report and action plan, noting and approving the wording of the additional action pertaining to additional to internal controls and the AGAR statement.

098/26-27.2 Review & Approval of Virements (30 September 2026)

The Council **APPROVED** the following virements and authorised the Responsible Financial Officer to make the necessary changes.

(+£305) Allotments
(-£5) Professional Fees
(+£155) Insurance
(-£110) Subscriptions
(-£50) Village Maintenance
(-£40) Community Events
(-£200) Asset Maintenance
(-£200) Neighbourhood Plan
(+£150) Speed Indicator Device
(+£75) Bank Charges
(-£80) VAT

098/26-27.3 Review of Bank Mandate Arrangements

It was **AGREED** to make this item an annual standing item. It was **AGREED** to add Cllr. Richardson as a signatory to take into account anticipated change coming up at the elections in May 2027.

098/26-27.4 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.

099/26-27 Proposal for allotment prices

Cllr. Lewis reported that the current prices of a whole plot at £24 pa, a half-plot at £17 pa and a quarter plot at £11 had generated £439 of income in the past year. Outgoings were £281 for water and £75 for ground rent, totalling £356 pa.

It was thought prudent to assume 80% capacity in the future which would realise income of £351, meaning that income and expenditure were actually very balanced. It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** that no increases to the charges should be made this year, this was

then **AGREED**. The Parish Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer and Cllr. Lewis were delegated authority to issue and monitor receipt of invoices for the 2026/7 year.

The Responsible Financial Officer then left the meeting at 7.34pm.

100/26-27 Article 4 request for land to south of allotments

Cllr . Whiting gave an update on the evidence of harms caused as per the draft communication to ESC Local Planning authority. The draft communication was agreed with with no changes with Cllr Whiting to send on Council's behalf.

101/26-27 Review of speed calming measures

Longer standing members of Council outlined the background to the measures currently in place which include a 20mph speed limit throughout the village reinforced by signage and the Speed Indicators, Single and Double Yellow Lines and 'Dragons Teeth' at main entrance to village, all following assessment by Suffolk Highways. They also explained the Highways view on measures not taken. It was **AGREED** that that insufficient changes in traffic conditions in the village had arisen upon which to request a review of speed calming measures by Suffolk Highways, so this would not be progressed at this time

102/26-27 Fireworks as a potential fire hazard on 5th November

It was **AGREED** that, given the continued elevated fire risk and the potential for distress fireworks cause to pets, cattle and horses, along with the threat to thatched houses, the Parish Council would no longer allow the setting off of firework on land in it either owns or rents. This includes the Playing fields, all the village greens and the allotments. It was acknowledged that (of course) the Parish Council has no jurisdiction over private land or the actions of businesses, but would ask everyone to refrain from using them.

103/26-27 To consider and approve membership to the Suffolk Preservation Society

It was **AGREED** to continue with the membership and pay the £30 fee, this would be authorised at the November meeting. The Clerk was requested to write to the Society to confirm our membership.

104/26-27 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

104/26-27.1 Update on Village News editor

Cllr. Whiting reported that there had not yet been a meeting to confirm this, but a report would be forthcoming when it has taken place.

Cllr. Lewis reported that there would be a 3% increase in SALC membership charges in the coming year, and that he had also stepped down as Vice-Chair.

105/26-27 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

No reports were given.

Signed……

Dated…….....

106/26-27 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave an update on recent emails. Thanks had been passed on to the Council from outgoing website editor for the very kind article in the Village News about her contribution to the community.

107/26-27 Matters Arising

There were no matters to address at this stage.

108/26-27 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 9th November 2026 at 7pm.

The potential clash with Carols on The Green for December meeting was discussed and Cllr Sutton asked to clarify with organiser.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm.

Signed……

Dated…….....