

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Whiting (Vice-Chair), Bassinette, Dadswell (from 7.05pm following item **137/23-24**), Richardson, Sutton and Watson. No members of the public attended in person. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote.

Also in attendance (remotely via Zoom) were Mark Knight, Parish Clerk, Simon Ashton (Responsible Financial Officer). Also in attendance (remotely) was District Councillor Beavan.

135/23-24 Chair's welcome.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and those attending by Zoom.

136/23-24 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

None.

137/23-24 Confirmation of co-option of Councillor

The Councillors voted on the co-option of a new Councillor, Emilie Dadswell. After the unanimous vote, Cllr Dadswell was confirmed as being co-opted on to the Council and joined the meeting after signing her acceptance of office.

138/23-24 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

Cllr. Whiting declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 143/23-4 pertaining to planning and took no part in this discussion.

139/23-24 Open Forum

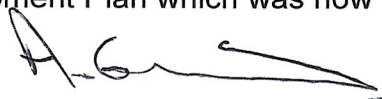
None.

140/23-24 To receive a report from County Councillor Richard Smith

Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

141/23-24 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that the Council Tax increase for East Suffolk Council would be at the maximum 4.99% allowed to cover rising costs and continued shortfall in funding received by Central Government. Cllr. Beavan also encouraged the Parish Council to push forward with it's Neighbourhood Development Plan which was now in the drafting stages.


12th FEBRUARY 2024

Cllr. Bassinette asked why, with a new Council head and Planning Committee at ESC, planning permission continued to be granted in Walberswick against the recommendation of the WPC, PAG and the local community. It seemed inconsistent to be arguing for more affordable housing at the same time that ESC continued to approve planning applications to demolish smaller homes and replace them with much larger ones. Cllr. Beavan replied that this was due to the limitations of and statutory guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework, but that the Parish Council would have more powers to object and guide development in the village once the Neighbourhood Development Plan was completed and passed at referendum.

142/23-24 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 11th December 2023

The minutes of the 11th December 2023 meeting were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

143/23-24 Planning

Cllr. Lewis gave a brief report on his attendance at East Suffolk Council's Planning Committee to speak on applications regarding Seacroft and 1 Adams Lane. It was reported as a more positive process than on previous occasions, but the determining authority still did not agree with the views and objections of the Parish Council and approved the applications.

143/23-24.1 Applications to Consider

143/23-24.1.1 Rosemary, The Street DC/23/4623/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to the current application not addressing the concerns raised regarding the previous application for the property. The proposal would detrimentally affect an 'important view' on the Conservation Area and would set an unfortunate precedent for development in advance of an established building line.

D Cllr. Beavan left the meeting at 7.26pm.

144/23-24 Finance Matters 2023/4

144/23-24.1 Review bank receipts/budget & payments against budget (as at 31st December 2023)

The figures were **ACCEPTED** as presented.

144/23-24.2 To approve the Bank Reconciliation (to 31st December 2023)

The Report was **APPROVED** as presented. Cllr. Lewis was authorised to sign the document.

144/23-24.3 Approve items on the Authorisation to Pay Sheet

It was **AGREED** to pay all items on the sheet. Cllrs. Bassinette and Lewis

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were authorised to carry out the electronic payments.

144/23-24.4 Approval of Internal Controls Checklist (2023/4) and Lead Appointment

The checklist was **APPROVED** with the addition of the new items and amendments as presented. Cllr. Whiting was **APPOINTED** as the Councillor to undertake the Checklist in conjunction with the Responsible Financial Officer and Parish Clerk. The completed checklist would be brought back to Council at the March meeting for ratification.

144/23-24.5 Confirmation of opening of Council PayPal account

Following on the decision by the Council at the January 2024 meeting, it was confirmed that the PayPal account had been opened with a nil balance. Approval to make use of the account would be subject to the rules and limits set out in the relevant amendments to the Financial Regulations be approved by the Council under agenda item 146/23-24.

145/23-24 Finance Matters 2024/5

145/23-24.1 Confirmation of 2023/4 Precept request submission

The Parish Clerk **CONFIRMED** that they had sent the precept request for £20,000 approved at the last Council meeting to East Suffolk Council in good time to meet the stated deadlines.

146/23-24 Approval of amended Financial Regulations

Cllr. Lewis highlighted that the amendments to the Financial Regulations included those necessary to prudently use and manage the PayPal account. They also included updates required to better reflect the Council's practice of using electronic payments and banking rather than cheque payments. The amendments was **APPROVED** as presented.

147/23-24 To approve the use of the Parish Council Pay Pal account as a payment method

In light of the establish of the PayPal account and the amended Financial Regulations, it was **RESOLVED** to begin to use the Pay Pay account as a method of payment in specific circumstances.

The Responsible Financial Officer left the meeting at 7.40pm.

148/23-24 B1125 plans for mitigation of Sizewell C traffic

Cllr. Bassinette gave a detailed oral report on the traffic mitigation measures set out in the Report. She explained that whilst the Council remained opposed to Sizewell C and that the changes in the roads would undoubtedly cause inconvenience and make travel more difficult than it was today, if the project went forward the impact on our roads would be extraordinarily negative and therefore means of trying to mitigate

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the impact had to implemented.

Councillors asked questions about the design of the closure of the B1125, how traffic would move to the A12 and about the condition of the B1387 by the water tower. Cllr Bassinette provided additional explanation and confirmed that the closure of the B1125 to the north of the B1387 would only work with the improvement of the turning at the A12 and the improvement of the quality of the B1387 from the B1125 to the A12.

The Parish Council **SUPPORTED** the proposals and for Cllr Bassinette, as the WPC delegate to the B1125 Working Group, to move forward with the plans. It was also agreed that these plans will be shared more widely with the village including through a piece in the Village News and also at the next Parish meeting. Cllr. Bassinette was thanked for all her work in this regard.

149/23-24 Approval of updated Deed of Covenant related to Sizewell C

Cllr. Bassinette gave a brief summary of the report on this process which was necessitated by several minor variations in the Deed of Obligation agreed between Sizewell C and Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council.

The Council **APPROVED** the amended Deed and Cllrs. Lewis and Bassinette were **AUTHORIZED** to sign the documents, witnessed by the Parish Clerk via Zoom. The Parish Clerk was also authorised to sign and return the completed document to Herbert Smith Freehills LLP who would retain the documents pending completion. A copy of the fully executed versions would be forwarded to the Parish Council after completion.

150/23-24 Oral Updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant.

150/23-24.1 Footpaths

Nothing for this meeting.

150/23-24.2 Highways

Nothing for this meeting.

150/23-24.3 GDPR, SALC and Website

Cllr. Lewis reported that SALC had been invited to join the Sizewell C oversight group which will initially meet twice a year. The first meeting being on the 11th March 2024. Cllr. Lewis will represent the organisation.

150/23-24.4 Playing Fields and the Green play area

Cllr. Lewis gave an update on the progress being made on the play area remedial works. Both Locality Grants had been applied for, but it was agreed

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to use reserves if, for any reason, the grants are not successful. The gorse clearance had been delayed for two weeks, but was still going ahead.

150/23-24.5 Harbour Management and Car Park

Nothing for meeting.

150/23-24.6 Sizewell and other power related developments

Nothing further for meeting.

150/23-24.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing for meeting.

150/23-24.8 Village Hall

Cllr. Watson reported that a meeting would be taking place in the next few weeks. It was also requested that the Heritage Hut also be placed back on the oral updates section of the agenda so matters could be discussed. The Parish Clerk stated that this would be on the February agenda.

150/23-24.9 Village News

The items to include in the Village News were discussed and agreed.

151/23-24 Oral Committee reports if relevant.

None.

152/23-24 Clerk's report

The Clerk presented the report. Questions were asked on some of the items with further explanation given by the Clerk. It was requested that the meeting with East Suffolk Council Planning Officers take place as soon as possible.

153/23-24 Matters arising

None. But the meeting with Planning Officers would hopefully take place before the next meeting.

154/23-24 Date of next meeting was confirmed as being Monday, 12 February 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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