

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th December 2024 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Richardson, and Whiting (Vice-Chair). Also present was District Councillor David Beavan. 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.

113/24-25 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

114/24-25 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Dadswell, Sutton and Watson.

115/24-25 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

116/24-25 Open Forum

None.

117/24-25 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

118/24-25 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported on a social housing proposal for Westleton, the status of addressing damage to pylons on the north side of the harbour mouth, and the availability of some locality funding for Walberswick for which he was awaiting WPC's suggestion (see later agenda item **122/24-25**). He also mentioned that the Government was seeking recognition of a World Heritage Site for the East Atlantic Flyway which included RSPB Minsmere. Councillors, however, questioned how the Government could seek such status at the same time that they were promoting Sizewell C which would cause irreparable disruption to this route for migrating birds and to RSPB Minsmere..

119/24-25 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 11th November 2024

The minutes of the 11th November 2024 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

Signed.....

13th JANUARY 2025

120/24-25 Planning

120/24-25.1 Applications considered under delegated authority

120/24-25.1.1 Box Bush, Seven Acres Lane DC/24/3894/VOC

It was noted that the Council had **OBJECTED** to the application due to the current application reverting back to a cat slide dormers as had been proposed and subsequently withdrawn as part of the original application DC/23/2257/FUL.

120/24-25.2 Application to consider

120/24.5.2.1 Removal of Pay Phone, Telephone Call Box, The Green DC/24/4284/CON

The Council noted that BT had decided to remove the payphone and was not opposed to this action. However, the Council **RESOLVED** to write to BT to request that the phone box itself be retained as it was an essential aesthetic element of Green and had historic value. Further, the Council agreed, subsequent to BT decommissioning the phone box, to seek views in the village on how the box might be used.

121/24-25 Finance Matters

121/24-25.1 Review & Approval of Budget, Precept & Reserves

The report and documents were discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to make no further changes to the budget, precept request or reserve allocations as set out in the report and discussed, in draft, at the November meeting. Therefore:

The precept was **APPROVED** at £20,000, unchanged from 2023/24. It was noted, however, that many residents would see an actual decrease in the amount that they would have to pay in the Parish Council element of their Council Tax because of the decision of ESC to double the Council tax on second homes which would see an increase in the amount of precept paid by those homes. Also, overall in 2023/24, there was a decrease in the number of homes registered as businesses and therefore paying no precept.

The budget and the individual line items were **APPROVED** and £13,059 held in general and earmarked reserves, in line with best practice (i.e. between 6 and 12 months of anticipated expenditure).

121/24-25.2 Completed Precept Request Form Submission Arrangements

It was **AGREED** to authorise the Parish Clerk to complete and submit the precept request form immediately.

Signed.....

13/1/25

121/24-25.3 Approve items on the Authority to Pay Sheet

It was **AGREED** to pay all items on the sheet. Cllrs. Bassinette and Sutton were authorised to make the electronic payments.

122/24-25 To consider an application for Locality Funding

It was **RESOLVED** to take this item to the January meeting with the possibility of asking for approval to use the funds to replace the outdated defibrillator located at the village shop. See agenda item **125/24-25** below.

123/24-25 Potential meeting with Suffolk Coastal MP

Cllr Bassinette said that members of WALL had raised the idea of the WPC hosting a meeting with our MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter with a view to establishing a closer relationship with her and to inform her of the many concerns and issues being experienced in the village, particularly concerning NSIPs. This follows on meetings that the MP has had with other villages including at Reydon. It was **AGREED** that an approach should be made to the MP's office by Cllr. Bassinette to check her availability and discuss possible formats. The Council considered a format by which specific village organisations and business representatives could be invited to speak and exchange views with the MP.

It was also **NOTED** that the Article 4 consultation public meeting was being held on the 16th January.

124/24-25 Safety Committee Report

The ROSPA safety report was discussed and the recommendations of the Safety Committee noted. This included that some mats needed to be replaced around the slide as well as chains, D-shackles and seat for the swing on the Village Green. The Council **AGREED** with the proposal for these minor repairs to be handled by Cllrs Lewis and Sutton due to the nature of the tasks. The Council expressed their gratitude to Cllrs Lewis and Sutton for taking on this work.

It was also noted that there were some minor safety work needed to the fence at the Playing Fields which the current fence contractor could undertake. It was also noted that the shelter at the toddler area was unsafe and that WPC had already spoken to the owner, WCLC, to remove it. WCLC had agreed to this and Cllr. Lewis would chase this up with WCLC again. It was also noted that the Sheep Rocker possibly needed to be resecured. The current contractor would be consulted on this and any work needed undertaken.

125/24-25 Defibrillator at the Co-op

It was reported that the current unit was at the end of its useful life and needed to be replaced. It was **AGREED** to request the Parish Clerk to produce a report for quotes and that Cllr Bevan would be approached to use the locality funding (see agenda item above) for this purpose.

Signed.....

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13/1/25

126/24-25 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:**126/24-25.1 Village News**

Items for the January edition of the Village News were discussed and agreed.

127/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented the report and there were no questions.

128/24-25 Matters Arising

There were no matters to address at this stage.

129/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 13th January 2025 at 7pm.

The meeting then ended at 7.55pm.

Signed.....

Ael
13/1/25