

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Dadswell, Richardson, Watson and Whiting. Also present was County Councillor Richard Smith and one (1) member 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) was Simon Ashton the Responsible Financial Officer, Mark Knight the Parish Clerk and District Cllr. David Beavan.

096/24-25 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

097/24-25 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Richardson and Sutton.

098/24-25 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

099/24-25 Open Forum

None.

100/24-25 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

101/24-25 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that Flagship Housing will be selling a house on Church Lane, which will enable them to buy two more elsewhere. It was hoped that East Suffolk Council would create more social housing sites in the area what cannot be sold under the Right to Buy scheme.

An update was given on the damage in the harbour which is deemed safe at the present time. An attempt was being made to make the caravan site commercial so more money can be raised to maintain the harbour.

It was confirmed that Lion Link had permission to carry out surveys in the area, but a borehole had been abandoned as the company could not access Walberswick as this would damage the shingle and equipment had become stuck.

Cllr. Lewis asked if Reydon was in a similar position which was not confirmed. But it was

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stated that buildings would soon be put in underwater to monitor progress.

Cllr. Lewis also stated that the house which is for sale with Flagship Housing had damp and subsidence.

102/24-25 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 14th October 2024

The minutes of the 14th October 2024 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

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

103/24-25 Finance Matters

103/24-25.1 Review of Receipts & Payments Budget Reports (31 October 2024)

It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the figures as presented, all in favour.

103/24-25.2 Review & Approval of Bank Reconciliation (31 October 2024)

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

103/24-25.3 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.

103/24-25.4 Review & Approval of Budget, Precept and Reserves

The document was discussed and it was explained that consideration of proposed expenditures making up the 2025/6 budget was the first step in the Council's agreed budget making process. The starting point for the draft budget was that the precept would remain unchanged due to there being no significant projects planned for the coming financial year.

The Council would also continue to commit to having 6 months of contingency reserves as appropriate.

The status of the CIL monies was noted included amounts that should be spend in each of the coming years. There has been monies totalling £17,250 spent on playground upgrades which had also been topped up with CIL monies. Remaining CIL monies stood at £10,672.

In terms of the Precept, although it was noted that the Council was not proposing to increase the precept from £20,000, the exact impact on individual tax bills was not yet known as it was based on the number of Council tax payers in the village which

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would be known in the next month.

After discussion, the Council **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the individual items in the draft budget as presented and to support, in principle, the £20,000 precept. It was further **AGREED** that the Council would take the step of formally approving the finalised budget at the December Council meeting based on clarification expected by the Responsible Financial Officer in November about the tax base.

103/24-25.5 Approval of implementation of Local Government Service Pay Agreement 2024/5

It was **AGREED** to **ADOPT** the new salary scales for the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. The Responsible Financial Officer was asked to submit the necessary information to SALC payroll and the new pay rates and appropriate back pay would be reflected in the December payroll.

103/24-25.6 Switch of Lloyds Treasurers bank account to Community Account

Cllr. Lewis explained that Lloyds Bank were changing the type of account the Parish Council holds with them. The changes now incur a charge of £4.25 per month, or around £50 per annum. Barring a complete change in the Council's banking provider there is little that can be done about this.

The Responsible Financial Officer then left the meeting at 7.22pm.

104/24-25 To appoint a Trustee to the Walberswick Common Lands Charity

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr. Richard Leiper to the position of Trustee for the charity, all in favour. Cllr. Lewis to formally approach Mr. Leiper.

105/24-25 Consultation: Licensing of Jet Ski/Water Scooter Commercial Operations

Much discussion took place regarding the consultation. It was thought that any license arrangement which may put in place for commercial operators in the area would attract more users despite any associated restrictions, enforcement action and limitations to hours or zones. Furthermore, the increase in these vehicles would not be in the public interest. Therefore, the only action the Council could support is a blanket ban with no specifications or limitations being discussed or approved as a result.

106/24-25 EV Charging in Walberswick

The approach to install electric vehicle charging points in the village was discussed and **NOTED**. It was thought that the Village Hall, Car Park and the Walberswick Common Lands Charity would be better options seeing as the Parish Council owned limited land which is accessible for vehicles.

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107/24-25 Trek26 for Alzheimer's Society – Event Notification

The event and date of August 2025 was **NOTED**.

108/24-25 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

108/24-25.1 Lion Link

Cllr. Bassinette reported that the borehole which had been attempted on the beach had been denied due to an improper process being followed, this also meant that any information that needs to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate would be lacking in detail and short on data. The process would continue, despite the site being inaccessible.

108/24-25.2 B1125 Working Group

Cllr. Bassinette reported that a walk had taken place along the relevant stretch of the B1387 to the water tower and a turn off in both directions by the A12 had been agreed, but unfortunately problems with obtaining the land necessary would be a challenge as it is not currently owned.

108/24-25.3 Village News

It was **AGREED** to contribute items concerning the Siewell C update and an update from the B1125 Working Group

109/24-25 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

109/24-25.1 Safety Committee

It was reported that the safety inspection had now been received which had given confusing messages regarding risk factors effecting the basket swing and monkey bars. Minor maintenance was needed and a meeting needed to take place in the near future.

110/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that non-Council business has been quiet for this month.

111/24-25 Matters Arising

There were no matters to address at this stage.

112/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 9th December 2024 at 7pm.

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

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