

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th October 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.

075/24-25 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. The Chair then proposed that item 084/24-25 pertaining to the proposed Southwold Half-Marathon is discussed immediately after item 080/24-25 District Councillor Report, so that the District Councillor could be involved in the discussions. All were in agreement.

076/24-25 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

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

077/24-25 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

078/24-25 Open Forum

A representative from the company responsible for planning and delivering the event clarified the proposals for the event which would take place over both Southwold and Walberswick on Sunday 2nd March 2025.

All residents in the village would be written to five weeks ahead of the event and the appropriate road closures would be put in place by Network Assurance at Suffolk County Council.

079/24-25 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith reported that the proposed Lion Link energy development was quiet at the moment but he remained worried at the possible impact it would have on Walberswick, but stressed that no more could have been done by the Council or residents who put in detailed and comprehensive objections. The decision would now be made by the Secretary of State for Energy. C Cllr. Smith continues to have concerns over Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects across the area, but residents should not give up.

It was also reported that the second quarter financial position of the County Council was on track and these half-year positions would now be used to start to formulate the 2025/6

Signed: 

11th November 2024

budget which would eventually be signed off at a Full Council meeting on the 13th February 2024.

Cllr. Lewis asked whether C. Cllr Smith felt he had grounds to be worried about Walberswick specifically re. Lionlink. C Cllr. Smith replied that several other energy projects were in the pipeline across the area and Walberswick was a preferred location along with Reydon, but as he represented Walberswick and not Reydon his primary concern in this regard was on behalf of Walberswick.

Cllr. Watson asked if the exporting of energy would be possible after the infrastructure was in place to allow for cheaper energy bills. This was unknown at this stage.

080/24-25 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan reported that he was glad that it had been identified that Lion Link had "jumped the gun" with exploratory drilling activity in the village. He was also disappointed that both options for the development were in his ward and with so many cables coming in for all the projects across the area. However, it was reported that the new Member of Parliament for the area was aware of this and was pushing for a favourable outcome.

The new national government had also agreed a target for 1.5m new homes and for East Suffolk this has been raised from 900 to 1700 houses. In D Cllr. Beavan's opinion this needed to be controlled with affordable housing being badly needed in Walberswick. The next year may see the new government bring in compulsory purchase orders for housing development to speed up the process.

084/24-25 To discuss a proposal regarding the Southwold Half-Marathon

Much discussion took place on the proposals submitted by the representative and the written report previously published.

It was **AGREED** to support the event in principle subject to concerns around road closures, entry to the village on the sole access road, the impact on access around the village (including for the emergency services) and on the bailey bridge being suitably addressed. Concerns were also raised about traffic management, access to car parks and the Church parking as well as enforcement issues.

It was also thought important for the event to be out of the village and all roads fully re-opened by 11.30am as planned.

081/24-25 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 9th September 2024

The minutes of the 9th September 2024 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

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082/24-25 Planning

082.1/24-25 Applications to consider

082.1.1/24-25 Admiral House, The Street

DC/24/4246/VOC

It was **AGREED** to forward the concerns of the Parish Council to the Planning Department of East Suffolk Council which included the noise impact from two pumps to neighbours and the street scene and the location of an ancillary building being too close to a retained tree on the south boundary.

082.1.2/24-25 Long Roof, Leveretts Lane

DC/24/3186/VOC

It was **AGREED** not to comment on this application.

082.2/24-25 To note responses made under delegated authority

082.2.1/24-25 Lorne Cottages, The Green

DC/24/3069/FUL

It was **AGREED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to an issue surrounding and a loss of residential amenity to a neighbouring property.

082.2.2/24-25 Herons, Church Field

DC/24/1242/FUL

It was **AGREED** to **OBJECT** to the application due to points raised in the original application about residential and visual amenity not being addressed in this amended application.

082.3/24-25 Possible Article 4 direction for Walberswick

It was **AGREED** to **NOTE** the report detailing how the consultation would impact the planning process in the area and specifically how applications would be needed and examined in a conservation area. The Council was also fully supportive of the principle of an Article 4 direction for Walberswick and would help enable the consultation over the next few months

D Cllr. Beavan then left the meeting at 7.23pm.

083/24-25 Finance Matters

083/24-25.1 Review & Approval of mid-year virements

The proposed virements outlined in the associated meeting paper were **AGREED**, all in favour.

In addition, the following amount were **AGREED** to be taken from earmarked reserves, following the completion of the associated projects:

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Adel
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(+£1,498.46) CIL Receipts
 (+£8,264.00) Toddler Play Area
 (+£3,500) Playing Field

083/24-25.2 Review of Lloyds Bank Mandate arrangements

The mandate was discussed and it was **AGREED** not to make any changes at the current time. It was also **AGREED** not to place the Parish Clerk on the mandate due to this being unnecessary at the current time.

083/24-25.3 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.

The Responsible Financial Officer then left the meeting at 8.31pm.

085/24-25 To consider a response the Revised Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005

It was **RESOLVED** not to comment on the proposals, all in favour.

086/24-25 To review the Financial Regulations

It was **AGREED** to make the amendments detailed in the attached reports. Where choices had been made by the Council in the meeting (e.g. spending limits) these were recorded and would be reflected in the final document published. All in favour.

087/24-25 Potential uses for locality funds available in 2024/5

It was **AGREED** to place this item on the December agenda of the Parish Council

088/24-25 Consideration of allotment water costs for 2025/6

In the light of the recent water bill it was **AGREED** it was appropriate to keep the prices the same for the coming year.

089/24-25 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

089/24-25.1 Village News

It was **AGREED** to contribute items concerning the Southwold Half Marathon and the Clerk of the Year award concerning the Parish Clerk to the next edition.

Signed.....

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089/24-25.2 Health and Safety

It was reported that the ROSPA inspections had been received and that a meeting of the Safety Committee would hopefully take place before the next meeting of the Parish Council, after which the proposed action plan would be published

090/24-25 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

No reports were given.

091/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on emails and calls received over the past month, the Chair also reported that the Parish Clerk had recently won the Suffolk Clerk of the Year award at the Suffolk Community Awards and had also been nominated as the Suffolk representative at the National Clerk of the Year Award. The Parish Clerk was congratulated by all present.

092/24-25 Matters Arising

There were no matters to address at this stage.

093/24-25 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 the details of the next meeting.

This was so **RESOLVED**. All in favour.

095/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 11th November 2024 at 7pm.

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

094/24-25 To discuss a nomination for a Trustee for the Walberswick Common Lands Charity

The candidates were discussed and a nomination would be made to the November meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm.

Signed.....

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