

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Dadswell, Richardson, Sutton, Watson and Whiting. Also present was District Councillor Cllr. 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 Simon Ashton the Responsible Financial Officer and Mark Knight the Parish Clerk.

057/24-25 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

058/24-25 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

All Members were in attendance.

059/24-25 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

Cllr. Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item **067/24-25** regarding allotments and took no part in this discussion.

060/24-25 Open Forum

None.

061/24-25 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith was not in attendance.

062/24-25 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

D Cllr Beavan reported that the exploratory drilling works concerning Lion Link were not a planning application per se so would not go through the standard planning process or to committee. According to ESDC Planning Department, the only statutory consultee was Natural England. The process, which involved drilling a number of boreholes would take up to four months. He asked that a letter of concern could be forwarded to himself and he would ensure this got to the relevant person. In his opinion NGV had jumped the gun in announcing the works as no permission had yet been granted

He said that central Government had told ESC that they had to build 1700 homes, rather than 900 as currently reflected in ESC plans. He did not believe that ESC had that number of builders and tradespeople in the area to do this. Furthermore he felt that this target was meaningless unless the housing built was affordable.

D Cllr. Beavan also reported that he had up to £1,000 of Locality Budget funding for projects in Walberswick available. It was **AGREED** to discuss this in the October meeting.

Signed...

[Signature]
14 OCTOBER 2024

Finally, it was reported that the pharmacy located at the Sole Bay Health Centre in Reydon was in danger of closing but had not been confirmed as yet. Councillors pointed out that the Co-op shop in Walberswick was also for sale.

Councillors raised several points in reaction to Cllr Beavan's update. On LL, they expressed huge disappointment that ESDC Planning Department's own practices made it extraordinarily difficult to get meaningful feedback on LL's proposals because they limited responses to only 2000 characters including spaces. This makes it impossible to actually fully address the environmental issues raised by the proposed drilling. The Council explained to Cllr Beavan that this 2000 character decision was not a legal issue but was an administrative choice made by ESDC planning department to limit input.

The Council also argued that it made a mockery of local government not to make the WPC a statutory consultee to a large and destructive energy project, located in the very heart of Walberswick. Residents were dismayed at the dismissive attitude shown in relation to this project and that expectations were that ESDC would hold NGV to account.

063/24-25 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 8th July 2024

The minutes of the 8th July 2024 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

064/24-25 To note Consultation Responses under delegated authority

064/24-25.1 Lion Link

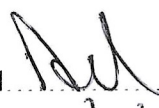
The Council noted the delegated response to the LL proposal that had been submitted both in full and in a hugely truncated version on the website to meet the 2000 character limit set by ESDC planning department. It was **AGREED** to send the Council's full letter in response to the exploratory drilling works to D Cllr. Beavan (noting that the original had also been copied to him). Furthermore the Council expressed its frustration at the limit of 2,000 characters, not words, to any planning application (see discussion in the item above). D Cllr. Beavan promised to raise this with the appropriate officers. The Council delegated to Cllr Bassinette the writing of a follow up letter to the ESDC planning department officials responsible for LL to express their disappointment, to inform them of steps being taken by NGV to pre-judge approval, and to ask that ESDC ensure that NGV is held to account.

064/24-25.2 Article 4 Delegation in Walberswick Quay

The Council noted the delegated consultation response that was submitted in August as posted on the Council website.

065/24-25 Planning

065/24-25.1 To note responses made under delegated authority

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14/10/24

065/24-25.1.1**Millside, The Street****DC/24/2745/FUL**

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the application subject to the submission of satisfactory surface water runoff calculations to Building Control.

065/24-25.1.2**Shorelands, Palmers Lane****DC/24/2031/FUL**

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application on the grounds of design quality, specifically that the scheme would detrimentally affect the residential amenity of a number of neighbouring properties.

065/24-25.1.3**Lane Corner, Palmers Lane****DC/24/2031/FUL**

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** as the application fails to preserve or enhance the Conservation Area, and consequently the application should be withdrawn and the location of the proposed shed reconsidered.

D Cllr. Beavan then left the meeting at 7.38pm.

066/24-25 Finance Matters

066/24-25.1 Review & Approval of External Audit Report & Certificate (2023/4)

The Council **NOTED** the document with a brief explanation from the Responsible Financial Officer. The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Responsible Financial Officer for obtaining another completely clean audit.

066/24-25.2 Review & Approval of Notice of Conclusion of External Audit (2023/4)

The Council **NOTED** the document with a brief explanation from the Responsible Financial Officer.

066/24-25.3 Review of Receipts & Payments Budget Reports (31 August 2024)

It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the figures as presented. It was also clarified that the second half of the Precept would be received later in September.

066/24-25.4 Review & Approval of Bank Reconciliation (31 August 2024)

Council **APPROVED** the report as presented. Cllr. Whiting was authorised to sign the document after the meeting having had full view of the document and information in the meeting.

066/24-25.5 Review & Approval of Annual Insurance Cover (1 October 2024)

The quote of £1,901.19 was discussed. The increase of £200 year-on-year was accepted and the Responsible Financial Officer was authorised to pursue the quote bearing in mind the estimated £10,000 of assets which had been added to the Asset Register and the removal of the two seat swing.

Signed

Ael -
14/10/24

066/24-25.6 Approve items on the Authority to Pay Sheet

It was **AGREED** to pay all items on the sheet. Cllrs. Bassinette and Lewis were authorised to make the electronic payments. The pre-approval payment for the grass cutting and portaloo were also explained.

It was **AGREED** in principle to approve a payment of £476.82 for an extra grass cut in 2023 subject to the appropriate invoice and paperwork being sent.

The Responsible Financial Officer then left the meeting at 7.53pm.

067/24-25 To agree the Allotment renewal prices, terms and conditions

It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the terms and conditions with no changes, however the Council reserved a decision on the prices until the October meeting. This was because the Council policy was to ensure that the water costs for the previous year were reflected in the coming year's prices. If the water use remained steady, it was not expected that prices would change but that this would be agreed once the water charges were obtained prior to the October meeting.

068/24-25 To agree a response to the East Suffolk Council Street Trading Consultation

The consultation was discussed and it was **AGREED** that the Parish Council did not want to add any street or location to the current proposal. It was **AGREED** that a short response would be submitted to ESDC to confirm this by the Clerk.

069/24-25 Upcoming vacancies for WCLC Nominative Trustees

Cllr. Lewis reported that two WCLC Trustees were due to come to the end of their term but that only one of these was nominative. It was **NOTED** that the current incumbent was willing to stand again. It was **AGREED** that an advertisement would be put into the Village News, with an indication that the incumbent would be standing so as to be fully transparent. Any applications would be discussed in a closed session in the October meeting ahead of approving the selection in the November meeting per standard procedures.

Cllr. Dadswell then left the meeting at 8.05pm.

070/24-25 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

070/24-25.1 Sizewell C

Cllr. Bassinette reported that several transport forums had taken place in the past month. The B1125 Forum had agreed that the B1387 to the water tower was not fit for purpose. The A12/B1387 junction going north needed a right hand turn lane and it may be possible to use the layby as a passing lane. WPS, Sizewell's transport consultant, was working with Walberswick and Blythburgh Council representatives on revised plans.

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14/10/24

The Northern Transport Forum had been more positive than previous meetings with an agreement, in principle, to move the current Darsham station car park to the western side so that travellers did not have to cross the dangerous and high speed A12. This would be alongside the park and ride planned north of the station for thousands of Sizewell workers. At the same time, the Forum expressed anger at the high-handed way Sizewell C had over-ridden the views of local people and its own transport advisory group to try to take potable water from the Sternfield area to tamp down construction dust. This was just the start of the problems that the lack of water at the Sizewell C site was causing and demonstrated again why Sizewell C was inappropriate. Following the Northern Transport Forum meeting, the Southern Transport Forum also expressed outrage at Sizewell's decision making and the company had finally backed down and was looking for water sources elsewhere.

070/24-25.2 Village News

Cllr. Whiting reported that the AGM took place earlier in the month, unfortunately she could not attend.

071/24-25 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

No reports were given.

072/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on a recent conversation with a company who wished to run a half-marathon in Southwold and Walberswick. It was **AGREED** to request a proposal to be submitted to the October meeting for approval before this is sent to Licensing at East Suffolk Council who would be the determining authority.

073/24-25 Matters Arising

Cllr. Whiting asked if any progress had been made concerning a meeting with East Suffolk Council Planning Department. It was reported that no in-person meeting had been agreed. It was pointed out that the signs for the footpath and the green agreed in July had not been done yet and that this should be added to the Clerk's report.

074/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 14th October 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Ael.
14/10/24

Signed.....