

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th July 2024 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Sutton, Watson and Whiting. 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 (1) one member of the public and Mark Knight the Parish Clerk.

041/24-25 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

042/24-25 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Dadswell and D Cllr. Beavan.

043/24-25 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

Cllr. Whiting declared a non-pecuniary interest in item **048/23-24.2.1** regarding a planning application and also a pecuniary interest in **048/24-25.1.2**, so took no part in either discussion

044/24-25 Open Forum

None.

045/24-25 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith said that he was personally very humbled after the national result for the Conservative Party at the General Election held on 4 July.

C Cllr. Smith said that he retained his finance portfolio and a new budget was now being prepared to be presented and ratified in February of 2025. The Purdah period had led to a backlog of meetings which were now being addressed.

Suffolk County Council also continued to experience severe financial challenges particularly across Adult and Children's Social Care. However, a campaign that has been going on for ten years to rebalance of the amount allocated to each pupil from the central government fund to local authority-maintained schools was finally having some success and that this might ease the situation slightly.

046/24-25 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

Cllr Beavan was not in attendance.

Signed.....

Dated.....

047/24-25 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 10th June 2024

The minutes of the 10th June 2024 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

048/24-25 Planning**048/24-25.1 Applications for consideration****048/24-25.1.1 Shorelands, Palmers Lane DC/24/1935/FUL**

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to this application on the grounds of design quality and the scheme detrimentally affecting the residential amenity of neighbouring properties.

048/24-25.1.2 Longshore, The Street DC/24/2031/FUL

The Council **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the application subject to the repositioning of the garage and clarity being given over the specific use of the Garden Studio and location of the PV solar panels. A flood risk assessment should also be considered. Support was also subject to a condition upon the approval of the development remaining ancillary to the main dwelling.

049/24-25 Finance Matters 2024/25**049/24-25.1 Review of Receipts & Payments Budget Reports (30 June 2024)**

It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the figures but **NOTED** that the distinction between play equipment expenditures on the Green and the Playing Fields should be adjusted to show where the various reserves had been used for expenditure on the Play Area and Village Green in the correct column. This would be adjusted along with the virements from the Responsible Financial Officer that would be proposed at the regular half-yearly review in October.

049/24-25.2 Review & Approval of Bank Reconciliation (30 June 2024)

It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the report as presented. Cllr. Whiting was authorised to sign the document.

049/24-25.3 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.

C Cllr. Smith then left the meeting at 7.22pm.

050/24-25 To discuss and approve the Grass Cutting contract

It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the quotes for both one-off cutting sand the annual contract as presented. Cllr. Lewis was thanked for his work in providing new maps

Signed.....

Dated.....

and helping put in place the new contract with the new company.

051/24-25 To discuss the Article 4 direction for the Walberswick Quay area public consultation

The Council supported the report prepared by Cllr Bassinette and **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to Cllr. Bassinette to formulate a response on behalf of the Council before the closing date of 23 August 2024.

052/24-25 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

052/24-25.1 Footpaths

It was **AGREED** that extra cuts might well be needed in order to get in control of the footpaths, subject to price. This would be investigated by the Clerk to see if a similar arrangement to that for the grass cutting contract could be agreed.

053/24-25 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

No reports were given.

054/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that another response had been received from East Suffolk Council Planning Department which again refused to commit to an in person meeting. It was **AGREED** that this issue would need to be escalated by Cllr. Lewis as Chair to Cllr Beavan and others as needed as no progress had been made despite the many attempts by the Clerk.

There was a discussion about ongoing issues with unsightly "overspill" of goods from a retail unit on the Green and it was **AGREED** that a formal letter will now be sent to both the operator and landlord of the unit

There is a new model set of both Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for the Parish Council to consider adopting and it was **AGREED** that Cllrs Lewis & Whiting would produce proposal for consideration at a future meeting of the Council

55/24-25 Matters Arising

There were no matters to address at this stage.

056/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 9th September 2024 at 7pm.

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

The meeting closed at 7.52pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....