

# WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the annex of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009

## PRESENT

Councillors Mr A E Hunt (Chairman), Mr D C B Webb (Vice Chairman), Mr R G Buncombe, Mr B Tibbles, Mrs M V Dabbs, Mrs A Aldridge, and, Miss M Verneti (Clerk). District Cllr Mr P Austin.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Mr K G Webb and County Cllr Mr R Leighton
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** for the 5<sup>th</sup> October were **approved** and were signed as a true record by the Chairman
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - There were no interests declared
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
  - a. **Emergency Phone** It was established that the phone was in fact operational but you need to press the button marked “1” to be connected to the emergency operator – it was agreed that the Clerk would ask WDC to provide some instructions on the phone.
  - b. It was also reported that the **lifebelts** had disappeared from one of the posts – the Clerk was asked to chase this as well.
  - c. A response had been received from Suffolk Constabulary with regard to our letter about the mobile police unit. The letter raised more questions than it answered and it was agreed that Cllr M Dabbs would respond on behalf of the Parish Council.
  - d. An email had been received from the Enforcement Officer regarding the works at Anchorlea. The Council felt the response went against all know planning policies and asked the Clerk to write back to ask Suffolk Coastal to justify their response.
  - e. It was agreed that the Replacement of the Thatched Roof on the Bus Shelter had been outstanding for a long time – The clerk was asked to try and get it sorted.
  - f. The Flag Pole had been damaged by, it was believed, a lorry. Cllr K Webb had taken the pole down for Health and Safety reasons, and it was agreed to contact the company who supplied it to come and assess the damage. It was also agreed to claim on the village insurance for any required repairs.
  - g. The ROSPA report was received for all the play equipment in the village. There was concern that the new equipment on the sports field was marked up as “low risk” when it had only just been installed and the Clerk was asked to contact Playquip Leisure for their comment. It was also agreed that Cllr D Webb would obtain a quote for any essential repairs and required maintenance. The Clerk was also asked to obtain a quote for rubber matting on the village green and to check how much Section 106 money may still be available.
5. **PLANNING**
  - a. **Planning Notifications Received:**
    1. **2 Valley Farm, Ferry Road (C09/1171)** Listed Building consent was approved.
    2. **Redmay, Lodge Road, (C09/1279)** Erection of extensions and garage was approved.
    3. **Redmay, Lodge Road (C09/1284)** Erection of Detached Dwelling - approved.
  - b. **Planning Applications Received:**

- a. **Land at Rear of Alexandra Cottage, The Street (C09/1575)** New scheme for erection of detached two-storey dwelling with detached double garage. The Council could find no Planning objections to the revised application, and considered it to be much better and in keeping with the surrounding properties, but again wrote to the planners with concerns about the access onto the narrowest part of the street.
- b. Applications were received for both **Saltings, Seven Acres Land, and Westwood, The Street**, but as they had been received after the Agenda had been published a new planning meeting was arranged for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm to discuss the plans.
- c. **Tree Works:**
  - a. **Springfield, The Lea C09/00140** The Cllrs had no objection to a Eucalyptus being reduced by 40%.
  - b. **Long Roof, Leveretts Lane, C09/00143/TCA** The council had received representations from residents in the public section of the meeting, and had concerns themselves about the number, type and status of trees that it was being proposed were removed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Suffolk Coastal and Natural England and obtain further information about nesting and the impact of removing these trees. It was also agreed to object in principal to the Tree works Notice while further information was obtained.

## 6. ACCOUNTS

- a. **Receipts**
  - i. Bank Interest for all accounts May to Sept - £2.05
  - ii. Refund for Fireworks Insurance from Fireworks Cttee - £90
  - iii. British Crabbing Federation donation for 2009 to play equipment - £500
  - iv. SCC Recycling Credits - £16.31
- b. **Payments**
  - i. Village Hall Hire Costs – Aug to Oct 09 - £62
  - ii. Miss M. Verneti – Extra Hours worked for New Clerks Day - £61.95
  - iii. Miss M Verneti – Expenses for New Clerks Day - £36.80
  - iv. SALC – Cost of New Clerks Day - £51.75
  - v. Viking Direct – Office Requisites - £80.10
  - vi. Cllr A Aldridge – Affordable Housing Seminar expenses - £32.80
  - vii. ROSPA Report on Play Equipment – annual fee - £89.70

It was unanimously supported that the above accounts should be paid.

## 7. Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework Consultation

It was agreed that Cllrs A Hunt and R Buncombe would look at this and respond on behalf of the Parish Council by the closing date. Their response to be reported back to the Council.

## 8. New Clerks Day Report

The Clerk had previously distributed a report of the outcome of the New Clerks Day. The following points were agreed:

- The Clerk would order an updated copy of Arnold Baker “Local Council Administration” and the SALC “Clerks Guide”
- Some cosmetic changes needed to be made to the Agenda, to begin with the December meeting
- It was agreed that greater effort needed to be made to ensure items to be discussed and decisions made were added to the Agenda in good time.

## **9. Affordable Housing Seminar**

Cllr A Aldridge reported on the Seminar as follows:

“The Introduction was by Mike Eaton, Head of Housing for SCCC. Other presentations were given by different people, Suffolk Acre, Housing Associations, Tenants and Architects. There is a political commitment by all local councils in Suffolk to give high priority to affordable housing. 2,722 affordable houses are needed in Suffolk annually. A lot of the presentations were on how to get affordable housing in your community. There is a housing enabling team for advice and Suffolk Acre can also help with the local needs housing survey.

There is a procedure called Rural Exception which enables affordable housing sites to be approved outside the boundary for local needs only, and this can never be bought out. Rural Exception sites do not have the value of an open market site. The cost needs to be between £5 and £10k per plot for the scheme to be viable.

They recommended that Parish Councils do not get involved as it can be difficult if several people are after one house.

There is a bigger demand from elderly people wanting to downsize. Design criteria is now of a higher standard than Building Regulations, and they are building greener homes so that they can be more affordable to live in.

Walberswick officially has the highest percentage of 2<sup>nd</sup> homes in Suffolk Coastal. There is a desperate plea from Aldeburgh for affordable housing but because it is in the flood risk zone there is no land available.

## **10. Extension to Car Park Operations**

As no members of the public attended the meeting with any objections, nor had any written objections been received by the Clerk it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the formal procedure to extend the operations to 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Suffolk Coast and Heaths – Connect Grant:** Last year this grant paid for the Maram grass – Cllrs M Dabbs and A Aldridge agreed to look into what it could be claimed for next year.
- b.** A Letter had been received from someone regarding housing in Walberswick. The Clerk agreed to write back and explain the current process to the individual.
- c.** The letter from a concerned resident regarding Suffolk Coastal Planning issues was circulated to the Cllrs for reading.
- d.** The Power of Well Being Handouts and Training: The Clerk of Henham had emailed the Clerk to Cllr M Dabbs explained the benefits of this power and it was agreed that as many councillors would attend the course on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## **12. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCES**

The Chairman reported on the meeting at the Sailing Club organised by the Prospective Southwold Harbour Lands Trustees which was organised to discuss the updated H R Wallingford report for the repair/replacement of the North Dock Wall. He reported that it had been unanimously agreed that Option 5b would be the preferred option. It was also

explained that some members of the SHLT would be co-opted onto a WDC Management Board in order to assist the smooth handover of the Harbour operations.

Work was starting rebuilding the walls between the ferry and the Bailey bridge.

Peter Boggis lost his appeal in the UK Appeal Court who ruled in favour of Natural England, which means that any future challenge to Environment Agency Strategy regarding the River Blyth will most likely fail.

### **13. CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS**

Cllr A Aldridge will organise the Christmas Tree for the green and it was agreed that Carols round the tree would be Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

*The Meeting was suspended to receive external reports:*

### **14. MATTERS RAISED BY THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE.**

Cllr Leighton had sent his apologies and Cllr Austin had nothing to report. The clerk read a report from PCSO Newson:

“There was a single reported crime for the month of October 2009 which is a criminal damage which occurred outside the village, this involved a fence being cut. The crime is at present undetected. Shop owners were invited to attend a meeting concerning security and crime reduction on 20<sup>th</sup> October, there was a good turn out and together we hope to progress a shop watch type scheme in Walberswick. My thanks to Annie Kiff Wood who hosted this meeting and who assisted in organising it also.”

*The meeting was re-convened.*

### **15. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

- a. Cllr M Dabbs reported that there was rubbish dumped at the caravan site and there had been some fly tipping at Bennets Drift – both had been reported.

### **16. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr J Harris raised the question of Section 106 money and asked if it was definite that the money was “ring-fenced” for Walberswick. The Clerk was asked to ring Suffolk Coastal and find out.

### **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Extra Planning meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2009

Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2009

The Meeting was closed at 9.15 pm

Signed.....

Date.....