

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th October 2024 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Lewis (Chair), Bassinette, Dadswell, Richardson, Sutton and Whiting. Also present was County Cllr. Richard Smith. 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.

078/25-26 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

079/25-26 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Watson.

080/25-26 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

081/25-26 Open Forum

None.

082/25-26 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 8th September 2025

The minutes of the 8th September 2025 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

083/25-26 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith reported that Suffolk County Council had submitted its preferred outcome for the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation reforms on 26 September 2025, which ran to 320 pages. The preferred option being a single unitary authority covering Suffolk. It was likely that a decision from Whitehall would be received in March 2026. It was not known whether elections currently scheduled for May 2026 would take place, but that any electoral term would likely be for 2 years rather than 4.

C Cllr. Smith also reported that efforts were being made to control current expenditure whilst budgeting for 2026/7. A particular budget concern was the 25% increase in Educational Health and Care Plans for children with SEND which the local councils were mandated to finance. This was made more difficult by the coming SEND reforms which would be received in late November. SEND and social care costs, unless additional financing was provided or some entitlements curtailed, would put Suffolk County Council

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along with a large number of other local councils, into deficit in the coming fiscal year.

084/25-26 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

D Cllr. Beavan reported that concerns were being addressed over the lack of a five-year land supply with rules and regulations being skewed in favour of the developers.

Local Government Reorganisation was also taking up a lot of time at East Suffolk Council, with the proposal from ESC being for three unitary authorities covering broadly Lowestoft, Bury and Ipswich. D Cllr. Beavan also stated that the idea of unitary authorities are a good idea, in his opinion, but the implementation would be key.

Finally, it was reported that National Grid were not in support of the plan he proposed to route the cable up the Blyth river and providing local benefit through fixing the harbour wall. The logic they presented was that they could not maintain the harbour wall due to impact on the nature habitats, but that the habitats themselves would be destroyed if the harbour wall was to deteriorate and that their land route from Manor Field would likewise destroy protected habitat.

He also addressed recent complaints about the lack of progress in the harbour particularly in relation to the redevelopment of the static caravan site. He said that the Harbour Management Committee was well aware of this and would be making this a priority.

085/25-26 Update regarding Lion Link and Sizewell

Cllr. Bassinette referenced her written report that included new updates on the Northern Transport Forum and the B1125 Working Group which included delays on the A12, diversions, unplanned development, closures and negative impact on the natural environment.

In relation to questions, she said that whilst the closure of the B1125 at the water tower would be essential to control huge numbers of vehicles and speeding that would continue to grow as the SZC advanced, it was essential that the WPC not approve of the plan until there was a firm commitment by SZC and Suffolk Highways to upgrade the B1387 between the water tower and the A12 and that the closure not occur until all the work on the B1387 was complete. Without this, villagers and visitors might be faced with a 10 mile diversion getting in and out of the village for an unspecified period of time. C Cllr Smith said that he fully agreed with Cllr Bassinette's analysis and that he would try to help on this as lack of coordination on road closures were causing havoc across the area.

Cllr. Bassinette said that in parallel to the work on the roadways, she has proposed putting in a cycle Public Right of Way from Lodge Road to Dunwich Road which would enable cyclists to stay off the much busier B1387/B1125.

Cllr. Bassinette also gave an update on her ongoing interaction with Lionlink. Included in her report were email exchanges which broadly showed LL's ongoing refusal to acknowledge any of the negative impacts of their proposal or to seriously consider alternative possibilities. She also discussed the extremely important role that

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Walberswick Against Lion Link (WALL) was playing and that it would be impossible for the WPC to have a meaningful exchange with LL without the work that was being done by WALL including gathering information on biodiversity and use of Manor Field, active interaction with SEAS, getting legal advice, and keeping the community engaged.

Cllr Bassinette also reported that the Sea Link development was beginning Inspection Panel hearings in November and that she had registered as an Interested Party on behalf of the WPC. She would be addressing the Opening Session on 6 November on behalf of the WPC.

086/25-26 Planning

086.1/25-26 To note responses made under delegated authority

086.1.1/25-26 Toby Cottage, Leveretts Lane

DC/25/3084/FUL

It was **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the application.

086.1.2/25-26 Saltlick, Leveretts Lane

DC/25/3432/FUL

It was **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the application.

086.1.23/25-26 Shorelands, Palmers Lane

DC/25/3465/FUL

It was **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the application.

It was also **AGREED** that a delegated planning meeting was needed to discuss two upcoming applications. The Chair said he would be asking for input and involvement of other Councillors as PAG was unable to submit reports on these two applications.

D Cllr. Beavan and C Cllr. Smith then left the meeting at 7.33pm.

087/25-26 Finance Matters 2025/6

087/25-26.1 Review & Approval of mid-year virements

The following virements, proposed in the report, were **AGREED**:

- (+£25) Allotments
- (+£180) Professional Fees
- (-£25) Health and Safety
- (+£200) Insurance
- (-£20) Village Hall
- (-£65) Subscriptions
- (-£45) Community Events
- (-£130) Asset Management

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(-£130) Neighbourhood Plan
 (-£15) Bank Charges
 (+£5) Phone Kiosk

087/25-26.2 Review of Lloyds Bank Mandate arrangements

It was **AGREED** not to make any changes in the current mandate.

087/25-26.3 Approve items on the Authority to Pay Sheet

It was **AGREED** to pay all items on the sheet. Cllrs. Lewis and Bassinette were authorised to make the electronic payments.

The Responsible Financial Officer then left the meeting at 7.47pm.

088/25-26 SALC Update

Cllr. Lewis reported that the SALC board had agreed a 3% increase in membership fees for the 26/27 year. It was also reported that Cllr. Lewis was not Chair of SALC anymore (as his maximum time in office had been reached), but was elected Vice-Chair. However, the Parish Clerk Mark Knight had recently been elected onto the SALC Board.

089/25-26 Proposal on Commemorative Benches.

It was **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the proposal by the owners of the Tuck Shop to place circular benches around the tree and re-new the existing two commemorative benches. Whilst the decision was not for the WPC, the WPC agreed that they would voice their support when this was presented to the proper authority.

It was also suggested that the benches already in position could be refurbished and used to replace commemorative benches elsewhere which were in poorer condition. It was agreed Cllr Lewis would seek refurbishment and re-installation costs, with a view to the Parish Council paying initially for the refurbishment, then re-couping costs from anyone wanting to sponsor a bench

090/25-26 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

None.

091/25-26 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

No reports were given.

092/25-26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on emails and calls received over the past month.

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093/25-26 Matters Arising

There were no matters to address at this stage.

095/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 10th November 2025 at 7pm.

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

The meeting closed at 7.56pm.

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