

WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 19th January 2009 in the Village Hall, Walcott

Present: J Deakin, V R Gardner, P I Howard, P McCarthy, T Love (Chairman), K Porter, K Reades, D Sanderson, R Teece; in attendance (p/time) Cllr P Morse(NCC), S Hems and B Hannah (NNDC), a PCSO; and 8 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting with apologies from Cllr L Walker (NNDC).
2. Declarations of interest – TL for item 5.1.

In an adjournment of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Steve Hems, Environmental Health Manager, NNDC and Brian Hannah; SH explained the role and relationship of the agencies involved in flood emergency co-ordination (NNDC, NCC, Environment Agency and Police). The plans had been reviewed recently and he described the three levels of alert – flood watch, flood warning and severe flood warning. Police would have primacy and order any evacuation. The forward control area is usually with the local flood wardens. Post event management is by NNDC in the recovery stage including re-housing. A question session covered future plans, the sirens consultation with the community and the role of the police. BH stressed that local knowledge and volunteers were key to the process. There was a request for the Walcott siren to be controlled in Walcott. The Chairman thanked the speakers for attending the meeting and KP proposed that the Council write to the police requesting joint control of the Walcott siren with the flood wardens, all in favour. Copies would go to the flood wardens, NCC and Cllr PM.

Cllr PM would follow up a request for the re-instatement of a lay-by on the Stalham Road. The 'Unitary' decision will be taken by March 27th and the NCC Council Tax increase is expected to be 2.95%.

The PCSO attending advised that there were four crimes in Walcott since September 2008 (criminal damage, domestic, theft from m/cycle, burglary) and that there would be an initiative to help residents protect better their outbuildings and sheds.

The meeting resumed.

3. The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 8th December 2008 were approved, proposer PMcC, all in favour. The minutes were signed.

4. Matters arising

4.1 NCC, Highways matters - nil further.

4.2 Noticeboard realignment – expected completion in March.

4.3 Walcott sea front issues – the Clerk read the detailed reply from NNDC and he would respond requesting a sign at 'Walcott Gap' and ask NNDC to lead on keeping Ostend Place fully accessible. A leaflet for householders to advise about flooding issues was in production at NNDC. The Chairman envisaged a working party to draw up a checklist of 'post-flood' useful information which parish councillors could use to reassure anyone affected.

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5. Planning

5.1 Mr S Kinsey, removal of condition, Whites Farm (20081662) – the Council had no objection; the application would go to the planning committee.

5.2 Other business – members discussed the Tesco development at Stalham.

6. Review of the provision of dog bins in Walcott – the Council agreed to purchase one ‘doggybin’ for installation at ‘Walcott Gap’, proposer PMcC, all in favour. The Clerk would write to NNDC to agree the location, ideally on the ramp; also the NNDC Environmental Health would be advised of a problem of non-use of existing dog bins.

7. Finance

7.1 Up-date on funding – the Clerk confirmed that Happisburgh pc had forwarded both elements of the transfer package and that NNDC had forwarded the well-being payment. There would be a payment due to NNDC in due course arising from monies owed.

7.2 Payments – the following payment was approved, proposer TL, all in favour

- Clerk's account (Dec)	£290.18	(cheque 0004)
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The cheque was signed.

8. Contract of Employment for the Clerk – the contract had been seen by KP, JD and the Chairman. Following a proposal by the Chairman, that the contract be signed, all in favour, he signed for the Council. One copy was retained by the Chairman.

9. Reports

9.1 Clerk's report - he had placed some high tide leaflets in the village hall; there would be a police presence at Bacton Village Hall (KIN) on the afternoon of March 4th. The Clerk passed a disk of computer files from 2008 to the Chairman. The July meeting would be at the Coastline Village Hall.

9.2 Members' reports -

PMcC advised that she was attending the police (KIN) meetings for the Stalham/Happing area, which covered Walcott.

JD asked that the village sign move be progressed and the Clerk would liaise with her to get the NCC Highways views on three possible locations.

VG asked the Clerk to check with the Happing partnership on future meeting dates.

VG asked about the possibility of Walcott allotments which the Council would consider at a future meeting.

In open session, Tony Andrews advised that the flood wardens were investigating the possibility of providing an independent village siren. The Council was asked about the missing lifebelt on the ramp at ‘Walcott Gap’ which the Clerk would raise with NNDC.

The meeting closed at 21.45.

Signed: Chairman

Date: