

# WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the WALCOTT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 15th May 2017 in the Village Hall, Walcott

### Present:

J East, G French, C King, T Love, P McCarthy, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman), J Ransom.

In attendance: Cllr E Seward (NCC) and one member of the public

1. Mrs Porter welcomed all those present and apologies for absence were received from J Husselbee and Cllr L Walker (NNDC).

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 16th 2016 were taken as read.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Walcott Parish Council

Pauline Porter reported that in October of 2015 the new drains were installed. The drains have proved their effectiveness on several occasions when we have had heavy rain or overtopping. She, Cllr. Love and others recently attended a site meeting and it was suggested by Rob Goodliffe (NNDC) that we attempt to get additional drains installed. We are hoping to work towards this in the coming year. At this meeting it was also suggested that the Parish Council working party might want to look again at their idea to keep water away from properties in the event of a surge. This was Option 2 in the Mott McDonald report.

The search for funding for the Bacton gas site 'Sandscape' project is still ongoing. She understood that NNDC are intending to put together information on 'Sandscape' and how it will work in order to take it around to Parish Council meetings so that people have a better understanding of it.

The emergency generator has now been purchased and is on site at the Lighthouse Inn. The Parish Council received a grant of £11,000 from The Big Society to provide a generator at the Lighthouse Inn for use in emergencies. Steve Bullimore had agreed to pay half of any shortfall and the Parish Council had agreed to pay the balance.

4. Other reports

4.1 Norfolk Police – no report

### 4.2 Walcott Village Hall

Jean Miller reported that this year has flown by as usual and the hall has ticked along well, picking up some new customers on the way, but also losing some for the summer. There was the customary break from Sunday Boot Sales early in the year so that the Church could hold their services in more comfortable surroundings in the cold months. We have held fundraising events, a 60s party night, country music evening with the Walcott Warblers and our summer produce show, all of which were well received, and all raising valuable income. We have also added some improvements in the form of stage lighting and scenery backdrop, and updated the facilities in the gent's toilet.

# WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

APM 15/5/17

page 2

There seems to be a suggestion among some that the hall is so busy it must be making a lot of money. I feel it is important to point out that when I was voted in as chairman, the funds in hand were just over £10,000. At that point our customers were The Play Group, Bowls and Material girls as I remember. Now we feel much busier, and we still have the same amount in hand, which is a necessary contingency fund. This has been achieved with little outside help, just hard work by the committee finding new business, and stringent attempts to keep escalating costs down. That £10,000 is not worth what it was 10 years ago either. Any donations we may receive from outside agencies assist in maintaining this.

I am retiring from my Village Hall duties at our AGM and would like to take this opportunity to thank the hall committee, past and present members, for their work in getting the hall into a clean and welcoming state, and the community for their support, which is very important to us. Also, thank you to our groups, which have supported us through thick and thin. I'm sure that with this support it will go from strength to strength.

4.3 North Norfolk District Council – Cllr E Seward asked for any feedback on the recent digitising of planning applications.

4.4 Norfolk County Council - Cllr E Seward talked about the anticipated roadshow to allow parishioners to engage with consultant engineers and gain an understanding just how the proposed 'sand-scaping' project would work. Funding sources were discussed. He expected that NCC would now be run by the majority Conservative membership and he undertook to talk to the highways engineer about road issues in Walcott including the very bad Alexander situation this year.

4.5 Walcott Flood wardens (WEVA) -

WEVA are still going strong with 18 dedicated wardens who have good knowledge of the sea and the people who live in the areas they are responsible for. They are always on stand-by, day or night, and can be out within 10 minutes of being called. The recent flooding at the beginning of the year was not as bad as previous ones with only a few properties having water damage. Everyone was evacuated to the Lighthouse in good time. The flood wardens have been working together for many years and are not looking for praise, publicity or medals - they do it for the safety of the residents. Therefore it's sad that there are the odd one or two parishioners who are trying to give WEVA a bad name by saying that they did not get any warning until 5pm on the afternoon of the flood, when in fact, at 3.30pm they posted on Facebook and Twitter that they had just been asked to evacuate, this obviously speaks for itself and proves they were lying. In spite of this WEVA are still as dedicated as ever and will be watching the tides in case they are needed.

4.6 Walcott PCC– no report

4.7 Walcott Allotment Association– no report

4.8 Coastline Village Residents Association– no report

4.9 MOD Police– no report

5. Open meeting - there being no further business the meeting closed at 19.30.

Signed: .....

Date: July 2017

Chairman of the Parish Council