

WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcott Parish Council held on Monday 19th September 2016 in the Coastline Village Hall, Walcott

Present: J East, G French, J Husselbee, C King, P McCarthy, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman), J Ransom, T Love; in attendance: Cllrs E Seward (NCC), L Walker (NNDC), 2 police officers and 11 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from PCSO E Biglin.
2. Declarations of interest – TL, KP re item 6.3 (payments); PP, KP, GF and JH re item 7.1

The meeting was adjourned and then the Council heard from the NN Parish and Town Council Forum (Julie Chance/Liz Boatman). This was briefing about a new organisation, of Town and Parish Councils, set up to further the interests of the sector in North Norfolk. As a first issue the group was aiming to achieve a fairer distribution of the second homes council tax, of which the great majority is held back by NCC and NNDC so not available to Town and Parish Councils. The initial target is that 50% should be passed back to the parish. PP thanked the speakers for their attendance and the Clerk would add an item on the next agenda to allow the Council to take a view about the Forum's aims. The meeting resumed.

3. The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on July 18th 2016 were approved, and signed, proposer GF, all in favour.

4. Matters arising

4.1 NCC - highways matters; the Clerk had been advised that the gully drains on the coast road would be cleaned out in early October. The Ranger team were to be in Walcott shortly so members can pass items to the Clerk for them, including potholes by the Rookery care Home.

4.2 NNDC – nil further

4.3 Village sign – JE felt that this was beyond repair and the Clerk was asked to include further discussion on this for the next meeting.

4.4 Generator at Lighthouse PH – the working party had met on 5/9 and finalised the purchase details so an order is about to be placed when a revised proforma invoice can be obtained.

5. Planning

5.1 Mr Mrs Peatfield, extensions, Sealand, Coast Road (16/0829) – application permitted

5.2 Extension, Fir Tree Cottage, Walcott Green (16/0883) – on circulation

5.3 Other planning matters -prior notification to resite grain silos at Baldwin's Farm – no further notification necessary. The Clerk would be attending a NNDC meeting in October about further automation of the planning process.

6. Finance

6.1 Finance Report – the Annual Return had been completed with no items to bring to the Council's attention and the Completion Certificate had been posted.

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(6.1) HSBC Bank had advised the closure of the N Walsham branch (Cromer remains available). The Big Society grant (£11000) to assist with the generator purchase had been received. The Clerk issued a draft protocol for dealing with staff grievances to be considered by members, for further consideration at the next meeting. An appeal letter from the CAB had been received. The litter picking equipment had been received and acknowledged by 'Beachwatch'. The Clerk had submitted a grant application to NALC under the Transparency Code grant scheme.

6.2 To consider the support for the local First Responder - the Council asked the Clerk to bring grant applications to the next meeting to be considered together.

6.3 The following payments due were approved, proposer PP, all in favour:

- Clerk's expenses (Mar-Aug)	£254.43	(cheque 0145)
- K Porter, domain name renewals	£25.98	(0146)
- T Love, allotments rent	£60.00	(0147)

The cheques were signed. The generator purchase would be made by bank instruction.

7. Council business

7.1 To review the bus stop location on the sea front – the Council discussed the issues around this and heard proposals to increase the number of bus stops and more extensive yellow lines; it was felt that Council could not come to a strong preferred view so the item was deferred.

7.2 To lend support to the re-naming of Back Lane to 'REED WAY' – the Council supported the proposal, proposer PP, all in favour.

8. Reports

8.1 Allotments, Village Hall – no reports

8.2 Clerk's report – the Clerk read the Shell UK report from and advised his holiday dates.

8.3 Chairman's and Members' reports (inc village developments and projects)

PP advised all present about the new **105** number for use in power cuts.

In open session Cllr ES advised about the NNDC officers moving to Gt Yarmouth, that the Mott MacDonald report would lead to a public meeting, and that the gas site Seascape project was progressing. From the public the Mott MacDonald report was raised and a heated discussion ensued resulting in a member of the public being asked to leave. Steps to the beach need to be reopened, the generator was confirmed as Parish Council property. The need for passing places on the coast road was revisited so this would go to a future agenda.

9. Part 2 business (meeting conducted in the absence of the public)

Review of the Clerk's hours. This was the first review of the Clerk's hours since 2008 and reflected the changes to Parish Council administration, in respect of the Internet, website, Information Commissioner, PAYE, Pensions Regulator and Transparency Code. The Council accepted that the workload had increased and following a proposal by JE, the Clerk's weekly hours, (currently 4½) were increased to 5½ hours per week from September 1st 2016, all agreed. A bank standing order mandate change was agreed and signed. The meeting closed at 20.45.

Signed: Chairman

Date: November 2016