

# WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcott Parish Council held on Monday 20th November 2017 in the Walcott Village Hall, Walcott

Present: G French, C King, T Love, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman), J Ransom  
In attendance: PC L Fitton (MODP) and 9 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from J Husselbee, P McCarthy and Cllr E Seward (NCC).
2. Declarations of interest – none.

*The meeting was adjourned to hear from Nicky Debbage, Local Housing Enabler, NNDC who briefed the Council on how Community Housing schemes are being set up to provide affordable housing. She presented statistics for Walcott which includes less than 5 such dwellings, whilst 12% of homes are holiday or second homes. Possible sites were explored and she undertook to liaise with NNDC Planning to see if a previously considered site is feasible. The Council expressed their support for this initiative as a positive move for Walcott. PP thanked her for attending and the meeting resumed.*

3. The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 11th September 2017 were approved, proposer TL, and signed.

#### 4. Matters arising

4.1 NCC; highways matters – the Clerk had been advised that carriageway rectification works would be undertaken between the Church and the Happisburgh x-roads. Whilst the verge cutting program was still unsatisfactory and it would be left to NCC for next year the Council was minded to explore the possibility of taking it over, mindful of cost implications.

4.2 NCC; footpaths – nil further

4.3 Village sign restoration – nothing to report; it was understood that Mr Fuller had withdrawn his proposal so the Clerk would remind the councillors looking at this.

4.4 Allotments – whilst Allotment No 5 had been an issue this was now resolved with it being re-let amicably.

4.5 Walcott car parking – the Clerk outlined the options for this proposal – private development, private development jointly with the Parish Council or support/leadership from NNDC (licensing/property section).

*The Chairman opened the meeting for public comment and a member of the public presented his evaluation of such a move. Sites were explored and the counter arguments for additional parking raised. It seemed that the Village Hall parking was under-resourced at times and the busy holiday season was a time of inadequate parking. The route ahead was not clear and the proposition was left on the table. The meeting resumed.*

4.6 Coast road draining scheme – initial discussions had taken place and a part-estimate provided by NNDC. Further highways costings were awaited from NCC but the Council was minded to support the scheme with a contribution being revisited when the total is known. The Clerk would communicate the Council's strong support for the scheme to NNDC.

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## 5. Planning

5.1 Farm building, The Paddocks, Coast Road (17/1298) – the Council has no objection.

## 6. Finance

6.1 Finance Report - the Clerk advised that the second half of the precept had been received and the Transparency Code grant had also been received. The Clerk had included the new seat on the insurance schedule and the additional charge will apply from next year. The NNDC precept grant reduces next year by £63 to £835. The November bank statement was initialled by the Chairman: balance £38066.

6.2 To consider any response to the 'fund raising' initiative for sandscaping – members reviewed their positions on this and the Council asked the Clerk to write to NNDC to relay the Council's support for the scheme as being beneficial to Walcott. Financial support was not required at this stage.

6.3 To review the budgets for 2017-18 and first draft 2018-19 – these had been circulated to members and after discussion were approved, proposer PP, all agreed.

6.4 To agree the parish precept for 2018-19 – subject to above the Council decided to set the precept for 2018-2019 at £7679, proposer KP, all agreed. The demand was signed.

6.5 The following payments due were approved by the Council with all in favour:

- Information Commissioner, registration renewal	£35.00	(cheque 0171)
- Norfolk ALC, training courses	£109.00	(0172)
- Walcott Village Hall, hall hire (2)	£30.00	(0173)

The cheques were signed.

## 7. Reports

7.1 Clerk's report - the Clerk reported that he had attended a training evening on GDPR\* (due to be introduced in May 2018); he was very concerned that the requirements placed on parish councils were extremely onerous and that the training at this stage did not provide a basis upon which to proceed. He read NALC's answer on his comments which are reflected all over the country; NALC have assured him that "more practical guidance will follow soon". He and the PP had attended a NALC employment seminar and the Chairman described this as very informative and directed the Council to review/update the Clerk's contract and ensure supporting policies are in place. \* [General Data Protection Regulations]

7.2 Member's reports (inc recommendations for village developments/projects)

PP relayed telephone safety issues that had been advised in Happisburgh. PC LF talked about Speedwatch (KP offered to be one of the 6 volunteers required) and he described his powers and responsibilities.

GF advised that NNDC had put a webcam on the cafe. Google - "Magic Seaweed".

JR asked about the cost road condition near Poplar Road.

TL asked that a pothole, toward Ridlington, be advised to NCC.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 20.55.

Signed: ..... Chairman

Date: ..... January 2018