

WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcott Parish Council held on Monday 21st November 2016 in the Village Hall, Walcott

Present: J East, C King, P McCarthy, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman), J Ransom, T Love;
in attendance: Cllrs E Seward (NCC), two police officers and 10 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from G French, J Husselbee and Cllr L Walker (NNDC).

2. Declarations of interest – PP and KP re item 6.6 (payments)

3. The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on September 19th 2016 were approved, proposer PP, and signed; the minutes of the extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council on October 31st 2016 were approved, proposer CK, and signed.

4. Matters arising

4.1 NCC - highways matters – the Clerk had passed an item to NCC for their attention following the last meeting and this had been acknowledged.

4.2 NNDC – it is understood that the ‘Reed Way’ street name change is to be progressed.

The Clerk was asked to report the damaged fencing by the toilets to NNDC.

The meeting was adjourned to allow Cllr ES (NCC) to talk about the withdrawal of the devolution plan, the resignation of the Director of Children’s Services, the shared role of CEO at NNDC, the NNDC £500k towards the sandscaping project, the CAB and the Town and Parish Council Forum. The meeting resumed.

5. Planning

5.1 Mr Mrs Grey, extension, Fir Tree Cottage, Walcott Green (16/0883) - permitted

5.2 Extensions, Sealand, Coast road, Walcott (16/1248) – still on circulation

5.3 In other planning business, Clerk’s briefed the Council over changes at NNDC for new procedures, from 1/4/17, in the processing and consultation for planning applications following the digitising of the service. The Clerk asked the Council to be thinking about how a protocol can be developed for the Council to comment as effectively as hitherto.

6. Finance

6.1 Finance report – the Clerk advised that the second half of the precept had been received and that the Council’s application for a grant under the Transparency Code had been successful. The Clerk advised that there is no ‘external audit’ fee this year. The protocol to address any staff complaints had been circulated to members at the previous meeting and, as it was appropriate that the Council should have a policy, it was adopted and signed.

6.2 To review the budgets for 2016-17 and first draft 2017-18 - an update had been circulated to Members along with a projection for 2017-18. Following discussion the budget was approved.

6.3 To agree the Parish Precept for 2017-18 - the Clerk had been advised that the Walcott pc grant next year would be £898 (down from £1009); in order to keep the income at the same level the Council decided to set the precept at £6842, proposer PP, all in favour.

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6.4 Support for the local organisations; following three requests, the Council agreed grants: First Responder £100; CAB £100; NNCT £100, proposed en bloc by PP, all agreed.

6.5 Purchase of the emergency generator to be located at the Lighthouse PH – PP referred to concern about the purchase from a member of the public and set out the background to the decision to purchase a generator.

The meeting was adjourned to allow a short exchange of views from the public particularly about the expenditure of this large amount of money, and the meeting resumed.

Since the generator originally selected is no longer available this item was referred back to the working group, to address the issues associated with the location.

6.6 The following payments due were approved, proposer TL, carried:

- Information Commissioner, registration renewal	£35.00	(cheque 0148)
- Norfolk ALC, councillor's guides	£25.00	(0149)
- Chairman's travel expenses	£83.25	(0150)

The cheques were signed.

7. Council business

7.1 To resolve, or otherwise, to support the aims of the N Norfolk Town and Parish Council Forum - further to the briefing at the September meeting the Council resolved to support the Forum's aims and asked the Clerk to relay the Council's support.

7.2 To consider placing seat(s) on the seafront – the Council asked the Clerk to follow up on the original plan for a commemorative seat on the 'hatched area' by securing appropriate permission.

7.3 To further review 'passing places on the coast road'- the Council asked the Clerk to enquire of NCC about the suitability of a 'white H bar' on the coast road. JE intended to survey the village to establish if there was a wish for 'yellow lines'.

7.4 To further review the replacement of the village sign – the Council asked the Clerk to follow up on the possibility of a sign restorer/maker in Gimingham, whilst JE agreed to add the wish for a village sign in his survey.

8. Reports

8.1 Allotments, Village Hall - none

8.2 Clerk's report - the Clerk advised that BT were reviewing the viability of many rural payphones but none in Walcott had been selected for removal. He issued the 2016 edition of the "The good councillor's guide" to all members.

8.3 Chairman's and Members' reports –

JE asked the Clerk to arrange for his Council documents to be delivered.

JE offered to take on the role of liaison between the Parish Council and WEVA.

JR reported that the storm drains needed to be cleared which the Clerk would action.

JR asked the Clerk to refer again to NCC the subsidence near Poplar Drive.

JR advised that the Monitoring Officer was enquiring into her conduct. KP and PP indicated that they were in the same position.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 20.40.

Signed: Chairman

Date: January 2017