

# WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the WALCOTT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 21st May 2018 in the Village Hall, Walcott

### Present:

G French, J Husselbee, C King, T Love, P McCarthy, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman)

In attendance: Cllr E Seward (NCC) and 29 members of the public

1. Welcome and apologies for absence were received from J Ransom.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 15th 2017 were taken as read
3. Report from the Chairman of the Walcott Parish Council

**Walcott Drains** - The drains that were installed in October 2015 have proved their worth so the Parish Council contacted Rob Goodliffe and requested that he set up a meeting with NCC, WPC and NNDC to discuss additional drains. Cllr. Love and I attended the meeting and it was agreed that five additional drains would be built. It is hoped that they will be completed this year.

**Bacton Gas Sandscapes** - The Sandscapes project is still ongoing, funding is in place and NNDC are currently applying for the necessary permissions. Members of the Coastal Forum have been invited to make a site visit to Lincolnshire on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to see a 'sandscapes' project actually happening. I have agreed to go on this visit.

**Bench in memory of Neville Amis** - The bench in memory of Neville is now in place on the sea front. A small ceremony was arranged by Maurice Grey and was attended by Neville's brother, Parish Councillors and colleagues from Royal Mail.

### 4. Other reports

4.1 Norfolk Police – no report

4.2 Walcott Village Hall – no report

4.3 North Norfolk District Council – Cllr ES in attendance

4.4 Norfolk County Council – Cllr E Seward talked briefly about key issues– the drainage project, sandscaping, council tax, the NCC budget of £350m, children's services, councillor allowances, and recycling charges.

4.5 Walcott Flood wardens (WEVA) – no report

### 4.6 Walcott PCC - Secretary's Report

2017 has been another eventful year for the PCC of All Saints Church. The year started with our Church Services being held in the Village Hall as the Church is too cold and often the ground is too wet to be walked on safely. Cafe Chat started again in January in the Village Hall, offering a drop-in session and a cup of tea and chat for anyone from 2-30 to 4pm, every Tuesday throughout the year. It has continued to thrive together with the 100 Club which raises much needed funds.

February is usually a quiet month, though we did have our first charity fundraising event for LEPR Cookies for cures with a coffee morning in the Village Hall. There was also a reminder that the Coastal Group also has a Prayer chain for anyone who requests a prayer. In March, Bacton held The Womens' World Day of Prayer and the Lent group sessions focusing on the Communion Service started. A joint Service with Bacton for Mothering Sunday was held at the Village Hall. April was a busy month with Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday back in our Church, there was also the chance to make Easter Bonnets at Café chat. The Spring Fair was busy with lots of people staying to enjoy tea and cakes. The end of the month saw a United Service at Happisburgh led by John Prince as part of his Reader training.

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The joy of Easter was followed by a great sense of sadness as we learnt of the death of Ray Sanders in May. He was a lovely man and we always had a quick chat whenever I saw him. He had often been at Walcott Church and it was hard to believe that only in July 2016 a Service to celebrate his long Ministry was held at Walcott Church, led by Bishop Graham. A Service of Thanksgiving for Ray was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Happisburgh Church. A letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury wanted all Churches to join others across the country to be part of a wave of prayer for our communities to take place between Ascension and Pentecost, (25<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June).

June saw the start of the garden sales, the first being at Beverley's house. Walcott House open garden raised money for the Bell Fund, the Save the Children Songs of Praise was held in the Village Hall and on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June there was a Trinity Praise Service in the Church. Norfolk strawberry teas and a raffle started July off with a lovely community day and nice weather. The Churchyard was looking sorry for itself, so a request for volunteers to help with a general tidy up was made. While the Salvation Army Band played on Walcott Sea front on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and a walk from Bacton Church along the Coastal Path to Sea Palling was organised for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

The Open Churches weekend in August held a flower festival with a difference. This time the theme was Flowers in Song and visitors had the chance to guess the name of the song that the flowers represented. They were all very clever and I was stuck for an answer on a few, but I still enjoyed having a go and really liked wandering around the Church looking at the displays. We had quite a few visitors and they all seemed to enjoy the challenge too. There were also 2 final garden sales one at Sam's, the other at Eiler's, together with the Grand Draw, where we managed to get cleared up before the threatened rains came. The Holiday Praise was held in the Village Hall at 6pm as we were hoping to encourage the local community and holiday visitors to join in too.

In September a United Service was held at Happisburgh on the 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate John Prince's Licensing as a Reader. The afternoon Pet Service on the 17<sup>th</sup> had well behaved dogs in attendance and the second charity fundraiser for MacMillan Cancer care coffee/tea afternoon was on 29<sup>th</sup> September in the Village Hall. In October the members of All Saints Church knitted woollen hats for seafarers and launched the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for Blythswood Care. We also celebrated The Harvest Festival, followed by lunch. On the 13<sup>th</sup> October we had a Quiz and Fish Supper at the Lighthouse Inn. A very enjoyable evening, it was well attended and Steve gave us some lovely food.

November is usually a quieter month, but not this time. Our annual Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall was certainly busy with visitors and locals. There was an All Saints Praise candle lit service on the 5<sup>th</sup> with our favourite hymns and praise, followed by lovely refreshments and The Remembrance Service on the 12<sup>th</sup> was also well attended. Janet and I proudly wore our knitted poppies to the Service and we thought it would be lovely for handmade poppies to decorate our War Memorial next year to mark the end of World War One. It was decided that this was the ideal time to make our appeal to anyone in Walcott or the Coastal Group who would be willing to help us. Finally, one joyous occasion was the Special United Service on the 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Eiler's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, with a lovely cake and card.

With the year nearly at an end, December is always a joyous, busy month. Sixteen shoeboxes were sent off as well as the woolly hats for the seafarers. Our evening of Carols at the Lighthouse Inn was well attended and there were quite a few people who were not locals. This was followed on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> by a Service of Lessons and Carols in the Village Hall and Christmas Eve was the Crib Service in the Church which again was well attended with a lot of children to join in helping Eiler put the

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figures into the Crib and finally a Family Holy Communion Service on Christmas Day. The Parish Share for Walcott Church was £11,369 which is now fully paid for 2017. Another busy year.

4.7 Walcott Allotment Association - We have managed to bring a 13<sup>th</sup> allotment into use and all are being cultivated. All allotment rents have been collected and passed to the Parish Council and we have one allotment holder who has half an allotment wanting to increase to a full allotment so have a waiting list.

4.8 Coastline Village Residents Association – no report

4.9 MOD Police – no report

4.10 Community First Responders - The Stalham and Smallburgh group which covers Walcott has increased to 12 responders with others undergoing training. April 17 – April 18 saw me responding to 21 - 999 calls in Walcott which can be doubled when my colleagues have responded when I have not been available. 2 cardiac arrests and a significant diabetic incident are of note otherwise shortness of breath, suspect stroke, collapses through blood pressure loss etc.

5. *Open meeting - the meeting was addressed by Nicky Debbage, Local Housing Enabler, NNDC who briefed the village 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. A possible site had been identified and would need to satisfy NNDC Planning guidelines. She offered to run a walk-in session for villagers on a summer evening. The Chairman thanked her for attending and there was no other business. The meeting closed at 20.00.*

Signed: .....  
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date: July 2018