

WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the WALCOTT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Monday 21st May 2012 in the Coastline Village Hall, Ostend, Walcott

Present: J Deakin (Chairman), V R Gardner, P I Howard, D Mason, P McCarthy,
K Porter, P Porter, M Rosendale, J Seber;
in attendance: Cllr P Morse (NCC) and 3 members of the public

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting; apologies were received from PCSO E Dack.

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting in 2011 were taken as read.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Walcott Parish Council

Jan Deakin reported on a year when the Council began at full strength and whilst Colin Mead did resign he was replaced recently by the co-option by Pauline Porter. WEVA's interest in the Parish Council augurs well for working closely with them and other authorities in the coming year. Seven planning applications have been reviewed and the Council had representation on allotments, the Village Hall, the Happing partnership and the Gas Site Liaison Committee. On finance all statutory returns were completed including the introduction of PAYE (new to all parish councils in 2011); the precept was increased to improved services – a new noticeboard, bus shelter and allotments gateway and fence - have stretched the budget. The Council supports the N Walsham CAB and NWACTA. We have on-going dialogue with NCC Highways as Council seeks to achieve improvements with the sea front road. The Council purchased a new dog-bin and the annual report was delivered to all households. Footpaths are monitored by the Council now NCC have reduced their maintenance schedule and we have maintained liaison with the Coastal access project, the round-Britain coastal footpath. We are ever watchful on the flooding risk attending meetings and hosting the Environment Agency at a parish council meeting. The Council is keen to support a Community Speedwatch group. She thanked her fellow councillors and including K Porter and the Clerk for their work on the parish council website. She looked forward to future meetings which would probably be at the Coastline Village Hall.

4. Other reports

4.1 Norfolk Police – the Clerk read a short written report from PCSO E Dack giving details of eight offences in Walcott in the past year.

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4.2 Walcott Village Hall – in a written report Jean Miller advised of the main changes in the Hall's users as well as the building improvements which has allowed separate letting of the Committee Room. Fund-raising and one-off hires have kept the finances in balances and the management look forward to further improvements including resurfacing of the car park for which they would seek support from the Parish Council. She commended the work of a small number of people who maintain this amenity.

4.3 North Norfolk District Council – no report

4.4 Norfolk County Council

In his report Cllr P Morse was pleased to have attended all the parish council meetings and reflected on his parish involvement chiefly focussing on the flooding issues and his liaison with all the agencies involved, suggesting that the Parish Council might like to consider drawing up a Community Emergency Plan. He has maintained a watching brief on highways and footpaths matters as well as the proposed car park for the Bacton gas site whilst dealing with six individual issues for Walcott parishioners. He remains available as our County Councillor at least until the next elections in 2013.

4.5 WEVA – no report

4.6 Walcott PCC – Lesley Bone reported on a busy year with fetes, the informal Cafe Chat, the Womens World Day of Prayer and joint services around the benefice. There was an Open Church week in August and September saw the start of a 100 Club to boost funds. Later in the year saw the Harvest Festival and carols at the Lighthouse Inn in December. Some Services in the winter are held in the Village Hall.

4.7 Walcott Allotment Society

In a written report the Society advised of two spare allotments of the thirteen on the site. The Society appreciates the new gate and fencing at the entrance to the allotments provided by Walcott Parish Council and in keeping with the governments Big Society philosophy, the Allotments Society is going to attend to the common areas within allotments boundary itself and not expect the WPC to do this.

4.8 Coastline Village Residents Association – in a brief report M Rosendale reported falling membership and asked for guidance as the positioning of the new bus shelter.

5. Open meeting – Yellow lines on the seafront were raised as an issue to be addressed. This is a subject that the Parish Council is addressing recognizing that the original layout had to be replaced recently whilst a long process of consultation has been programmed with NCC. The meeting closed at 19.30.

SignedChairman Date 2012