

WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council

held on Monday 15th July 2013 in the Coastline Village Hall, Ostend, Walcott

Present: T Love, D Mason, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman), M Rosendale;
In attendance Cllr L Walker (NNDC) (p/time), PCSO E Dack (p/time)
and 8 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present including the members of the public, with apologies received from P McCarthy, J Seber.

2. Declarations of interest – TL for highways/footpaths matters

The meeting was adjourned to hear from PCSO E Dack who reported a single assault since last reporting and indicated that one of the local priorities over the next six weeks would be speeding traffic in Walcott. Cllr L Walker reported on planned changes to the refuse collection system in 2014 and lamented the impact of recent Housing Benefit changes. PP thanked both attendees for coming to Walcott, and the meeting resumed.

3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Monday 20th May 2013 were approved, proposer KP, all in favour, and signed.

4. Matters arising

4.1 NCC; highways matters – nil further

4.2 NCC; footpaths matters – TL commented on the generally poor state of Norfolk footpaths, which received much reduced maintenance; the Clerk encouraged members to report specific cases of inaccessibility so he could alert NCC.

4.3 Walcott seafront – nil further to report but a further improvement was identified so the Clerk would check with the Coastal Engineer to see if the Council can place one or two seats along the Walcott Gap-Ostend Gap section.

5. Planning – no planning business

6. Finance

6.1 Finance report - the Clerk confirmed that the internal audit had been completed satisfactorily and that he had submitted the Annual Return to the external auditor. The Fun Day costs of £945 had been offset by income of £162, which the Clerk had banked and grants of £600 from gas site companies; this gives a nett cost to the Parish Council of £183.

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6.2 The following payments due were approved, proposer KP, all in favour:

- The Lighthouse Inn, Fun Day	£945.00	(cheque 0091)*
- K Benford, internal audit	£25.00	(0092)
- NNDC, annual report printing	£40.80	(0093)
- Broker Network, annual premium	£285.16	(0094)
- NNDC, dog bin emptying	£561.60	(0095)

The cheques were signed (* signed outside the meeting).

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and the Council heard about the poor condition of the footway between the Village Hall and Walcott Gap; the Clerk would bring this to the attention of NCC. There was general concern that access to the sandy area of beach is becoming very difficult, particularly as the holiday season approaches; safety issues associated with this were voiced and the Chairman explained that NNDC had to balance the need to maintain what is a sea defence with the general wish to use the beach. There would be opportunities to raise the issues with NNDC at future meetings. The Council heard about significant dog fouling along the path by The Crescent and those present were encouraged to report offenders to NNDC.

7. Reports

7.1 Allotments – no report

7.2 Walcott Civil Contingencies Co-ordination – no report

7.3 Clerk's report – in his report the Clerk advised that the Annual Report had been distributed to all villagers with the help of PMcC. He had been in touch with NNDC about a senior officer and member attending a future meeting of the Council; this was now set for the November meeting, so the Clerk encouraged members to consider the priorities of the Council which a discussion with NNDC should concentrate on and would place an item on the September agenda to crystallise those issues. He read the latest brief from Shell about unusual equipment deliveries. He would place on circulation a copy of a letter to NNDC from a visitor to Walcott about access to the beach.

7.4 Members' reports (inc village developments and projects)

PP reported on her attendance at a Coastal Tour with NNDC and said that NNDC were carrying out some potentially useful studies, which she hoped the team would tell the Council about at a future meeting.

KP reported on the Fun Day and had prepared a report which would be circulated to members and placed on the Council website.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.15

Signed: Chairman Date:September 2013