

WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the WALCOTT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Monday 20th May 2013 in the Coastline Village Hall, Ostend, Walcott

Present: V R Gardner, J Husselbee, D Mason, P McCarthy, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman), M Rosendale, J Seber; in attendance Cllrs L Walker (NNDC) and E Foss (NCC) and 7 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on May 21st 2012 were taken as read.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Walcott Parish Council

Pauline Porter, on behalf of the Council thanked Jan Deakin for her work as Chairman for the beginning part of the year. She extended the Council's grateful thanks to Paul Morse, our outgoing County Councillor for the way that he has worked on our behalf, welcomed Ed Foss our new county councillor who she was sure will do everything he can to assist us in matters relating to County. During the past year the Parish council have erected a bus shelter on Coastline Road and we have received the full cost of this from the gas site. The Council have replaced the main Notice board and at present we have received half of the cost back from the gas site, I understand that we may receive further funding from them to cover the remaining cost.

4. Other reports

4.1 Norfolk Police – no report

4.2 Walcott Village Hall

Jean Miller told the meeting that following refurbishment of the exterior of the committee room, the interior was decorated with a new floor to make a pleasant area to hold meetings. Reduction in the furniture provides optimum space. The kitchen has a new cooker and a new more energy efficient water boiler. An indoor car boot sale caused a problem with parking, so it was decided to open up the garden and this has been useful for busy occasions. Unfortunately, the siren has been removed. Our groups have been running strongly over the year and we have added Pilates to the selection. The Patchwork and quilting courses proved popular and are continuing into a second year, and it is planned to run day courses during July and August. Our community police officer is now joining Cafe Chat once a month, on the second Tuesday, to sit and have a cup of tea with those attending, or a private chat if required. The mobile library is also in attendance at some of these sessions. The past year raised good money with the Craft Fayres, and we have the monthly quiz which is a fun night. The Hangout (our youth group) just about ticked over for a while, but recently we have started attracting more members. At present we are putting on a second night for a 'Band Skills' course which is being put on by Music East and NNDC. On May 26th Active Norfolk are coming along and spending a morning with us promoting sports which can be accommodated in our space and hopefully getting some more activities started on a regular basis. (open to everybody in the village from 10 to 1). The loss of the playgroup has not been the disaster that some predicted, in fact it seems that the community has reclaimed the hall for its own use. There are no more than 6 days a month that it is not

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in use, and despite the capital outlays we have undertaken our finances are still sound. We just had an evening with the Walcott Warblers, just about sold out both nights. The hall trustees have to raise every penny needed for the running of the hall and the maintenance and repair of an old building, so our fund raisers and regular groups are very important to us. Warm thanks to The Warblers, and everybody else that helped with the boosting of the funds and the day to day running of the hall.

4.3 North Norfolk District Council – Cllr L Walker gave a brief update on the Big society Fund and the impact of changes to Housing benefit.

4.4 Norfolk County Council – Cllr E Foss introduced himself and would try to continue to represent elector's needs to his best ability; he was asked about a highways issue.

4.5 WEVA – no report

4.6 Walcott PCC – Lesley Bone reported on another busy year for the PCC, with various events, many of them have been held in the Village Hall, including our Spring and Autumn fetes and the Cafe Chat drop-in session for adults. The 100 Club raises much needed funds. In the winter, we use the Village Hall for our Church Services and in the summer months for the Save the Children Songs of Praise and Holiday Praise in order to encourage the local community and visitors to join in. Finally, 2 charity fundraising events for LEPPA and MacMillan Cancer Care coffee afternoons were held. The Womens' World Day of Prayer was held at Barton Church in March and often joint Services are held in different Churches around the Benefice. The garden sales began again in June at various locations around the Village, selling plants, goods etc. with the final one held in August with a grand draw. The RSPCA had a pet service of praise and thanksgiving in the Churchyard and during the Open Churches week in August we had many visitors to the Church. In October the Church celebrated the Harvest Festival followed by lunch. In December we held the popular Carols at the Lighthouse Inn as well as the Carol Service again in the Village Hall, while the Crib Service and other services were held in the Church to round off another eventful year.

4.7 Walcott Allotment Society – in a written report from Peter Fuller the Walcott Allotment Association reported that only 8 of the 13 available allotments are taken and paid for, for the current year. Efforts are being made to get the remaining 5 plots occupied.

4.8 Coastline Village Residents Association – in a brief report M Rosendale told the meeting about Line Dancing sessions in the Hall and that a new management team for the Village was delivering improvements.

4.9 Walcott Civil Contingencies – Pauline Porter told the meeting that a new group was forming to improve local resilience in emergencies.

5. Open meeting – Patricia McCarthy thanked the chairman for taking on the chair of the Council. The meeting heard more about the progress made with the parish website. The recent beach closure was discussed with extensions to the steps still awaited. The impact of dredging on sand levels was explored and there was consensus that the parish Council should continue to monitor the situation. The meeting closed at 19.50.

SignedChairman

DateJuly 2013