

WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcott Parish Council held on Monday 16th November 2015 in the Coastline Village Hall, Walcott

Present: G French, C King, T Love, P McCarthy, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman), J Ransom.
In attendance: Cllrs E Seward (NCC) [part-time], and 2 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from J East and J Husselbee.
2. Declarations of interest – none

The meeting was adjourned to hear from Mr Mark Ashwell, NNDC about the Local Plan; he outlined the rationale of the next local plan, to encompass planning policies from 2016-2036. He explained how NNDC addresses the need to develop 1000 new dwellings over the next 10 years, which would equate to an additional 400 new homes. He fielded questions about any roll-back plan, which is of paramount interest to Walcott, and how rural exception schemes are managed. After a Q & A session PP thanked Mr Ashwell for attending and he left the meeting. There then followed a discussion about policies to defend the coastline, after which the meeting resumed.

3. The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st September 2015 were approved, and signed, proposer GF, all in favour.

4. Matters arising

4.1 NCC Highways matters, inc coast road – the Clerk referred to his recent contacts with NCC and the Chairman explained how the new coast road drainage scheme is being installed.

4.2 NCC Footpath matters – nil further

4.3 NNDC – dog bins, environmental health – nil further

The meeting was adjourned to allow Cllr E Seward to talk to the Council about NCC matters; he referred to the variation in the Parish Partnership schemes for highway work which now includes potholes. The NNC consultation on the way forward was now under way in the climate of significant 'cuts'. The CAB service had been awarded to Mid-Norfolk CAB from 1/1/16. Cllr ES departed and the meeting resumed.

4.4 Village sign – the Clerk had received a second quote for a new sign; the Council would like to encourage a volunteer to restore the existing sign so the Clerk would arrange for notices and a magazine item on this.

5. Co-option of a member to fill the Council vacancy – the Clerk had been advised that there had been no claim for a by-election so the Council co-opted **Caroline King**; she signed her Declaration of Acceptance and joined the Council.

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6. Planning

6.1 Extensions, Sealand, Coast Road, Walcott (15/1096) – application permitted.

6.2 Mrs E Mitchell, log cabin, Malthouse Cottage, Ostend Road (15/1202) – application permitted.

6.3 New vehicle access, Lighthouse PH (15/1473) – the Council has no objection.

7. Finance

7.1 Finance report – the Clerk reported that the External Audit had been completed satisfactorily and the Notice of Completion had been posted. The Council needed to decide how to obtain the Internal Auditor's report before Section 2 is signed off. The second half precept had been received.

7.2 Review of the budgets for 2015-16 and first draft 2016-17 - the Clerk had circulated details of both and the Council discussed the financial position, and there was a request to include historical expenditure.

7.3 Parish precept for 2016-17 - the grant allocated by NNDC will be reduced to £1009 and TL proposed that the precept remain unchanged at £6580, which was defeated; a counter proposal by PP to increase the precept to maintain the income at the same level was carried and the precept was set therefore at £6731 for 2016-17. The demand was signed and the Clerk would advise NNDC.

7.4 The following payments due were approved and the cheques were signed.

- Mazars, audit fee	£120.00	(cheque 0133)
- Info Commissioner, registration renewal	£35.00	(0134)

8. To review the Council's Standing Orders – the current Standing Orders (March 2012) had been circulated to members and the Council were content to continue with the existing Standing Orders. Formal confirmation would be at the next meeting.

9. Reports

9.1 Allotments, Village Hall – no reports

9.2 Clerk's report - the Clerk reported on the loss of internet service which had lasted about three months; TalkTalk had only very recently advised that they cannot provide a service so the Clerk had made arrangements for BT to take over the business which, hopefully, will be completed later this month. He advised the revised date for the next Coastal Forum.

9.3 Chairman's and Members' reports (inc village developments and projects)

PP gave a summary of the aims of the Generator Project and her report would be posted on notice boards and the website. A working party meeting was arranged for 19/11.

GF asked about the progress of the Mott MacDonald coast protection report – the Council awaits its publication.

The meeting closed at 21.10.

Signed: Chairman

Date: January 2016