

WALCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcott Parish Council held on Monday 21st September 2015 in the Coastline Village Hall, Walcott

Present: J East, G French, J Husselbee, T Love, K Porter, P Porter (Chairman), J Ransom.
In attendance: Cllrs E Seward (NCC) [part-time], and 3 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from P McCarthy. M Rosendale had resigned from the Council and members expressed their sincere thanks for all his hard work in the early years of the Council; the Notice of Vacancy had been posted on notice boards.
2. Declarations of interest – PP and KP as Helena Road residents re item 6.3
3. The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th July 2015 were approved, and signed, proposer KP, all in favour.
4. Matters arising
 - 4.1 NCC - highways matters – nil further but the Clerk had circulated the proposals to traffic control on the sea front, first considered in November 2013 (see 6.3).
 - 4.2 NCC - footpaths matters – the Clerk had posted notices for the gas site indicating where the coast path is re-routed until the middle of 2016.
 - 4.3 NNDC – Environmental Health – the Clerk had referred the verge on Seaview Crescent to NNDC and awaited their response.
 - 4.4 Community Resilience – Generator Project – The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Big Society fund had awarded the project £11,000.00. She and Clerk signed the form of acceptance.

The meeting was adjourned for Cllr ES to tell the Council about NCC and NNDC matters – he explained the absence of Cllr LW (NNDC). A coastal report is imminent and coast road work is expected to resume shortly. Further funding is now available for protection work at Ostend. The CAB is undergoing a tendering process. The Worstead Recycling centre will remain open 7-days-a-week. Shell are undertaking ramp repairs at the gas site. The meeting resumed.

5. Planning

- 5.1 Extensions, Sealand, Coast Road, Walcott (15/1096) – the Council has no objection.
- 5.2 Mrs E Mitchell, log cabin, Malthouse Cottage, Ostend Road (15/1202) – the Council has no objection.
- 5.3 D & J Love, barn conversion to six dwellings, Walcott Hall (15/0386) – development permitted.
- 5.4 NNDC – new Local Plan – the Clerk had been advised of work at NNDC to prepare the Local Plan until 2036; PP reported on the preliminary meeting at NNDC and the Clerk would keep members advised of further info. and consultation periods. It was felt that was very important to stress that Walcott should be given exceptional status to address the ‘fall-back’ issues associated with coastal erosion.

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6. Council business for decisions

6.1 Refurbishment of the Village Sign – the Clerk had circulated a recently obtained quote and the Council, after discussion, decided to defer any decision, preferring to reflect on producing a new sign, with a new design and using materials more resilient on the coast.

6.2 To review the provision of dog bin emptying – the Clerk had circulated the current schedule and the Council reviewed the existing provision. It was thought that as the season was ending the situation should be monitored and members record any instances of 'overflow'. It was suggested that an additional bin could be installed at Coastline Village.

6.3 Coast Road traffic control – the Council reviewed the proposal maps from 2013 and focussed on access to Helena Road and St Helen's Road. PP read letters of concern from residents, particularly in respect of access by emergency vehicles. The other issues associated with the coast road were recognised – passing, tourism, bus stops etc. The Council agreed to defer the item for further consideration by members.

7. Finance

7.1 Finance report – (Pensions Regulator) – the Council had to ensure that it had a pension scheme for automatic enrolment; however it seemed from their 'help desk' that this was not necessary in the present circumstances; but the Council would need to write to the Clerk, formally, in March 2016 to ensure that they can complete a Declaration of Compliance thereafter. (Internal Audit Report) – this was discussed with members, who concurred that agreed work from this should be incorporated gradually into future meetings. (External Audit) – the Annual Return had been signed off; the only item for consideration was the reordering of the completion of sections 2 and 4. The Clerk had posted the Notice of Completion.

7.2 The following payments due were approved, en bloc, proposer JE, all in favour:

- NNDC, dog bin emptying	£561.60	(cheque 0129) *
- Coastline Village, hall hire	£50.00	(130) *
- Walcott Village Hall contribution	£437.00	(131)
- Clerk's expenses (March – August)	£208.27	(132)

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

8. Reports

8.1 Allotments, Village Hall – no reports

8.2 Clerk's report - the Clerk had received a letter of praise from a resident referring to councillors efforts during the flooding episode; he confirmed his holiday dates.

8.3 Chairman's and Members' reports -

PP asked the Clerk to invite NNDD officer Mark Ashwell to a future meeting to hear more about the Local Plan and to further the Walcott case.

GF asked about a 'dis-appearing' verge on the coast road.

JR and TL asked the Clerk to refer the potholes near Poplar Drive, Chimney's Farm and The Rookery to NCC.

The meeting closed at 21.00.

Signed: Chairman

Date: November 2015