

WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Present:

Cllrs. B Landale (Chairman), L Acton, B Beckham, Mrs S Landale, Mrs E Meath Baker, Mrs K Richardson, D Simmons, J Woodhouse (Vice-Chairman) and: District Councillor T Fitzpatrick, County Councillor Dr M Strong (and her husband) and one member of the public

Meeting of the Parish Council on
Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 7.15 for 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

A member of the public raised concern about the trees on the embankment on Wells Road which block the light from the street lights, damage the pavement outside the houses and create lots of leaf debris making the pavement slippery. She explained that she had written to Victory Housing and Highways (cc to the County Councillor and Parish Council) requesting a site visit to find a suitable solution for keeping the trees under control (e.g. crown pruning) and keeping the area both safe and tidy. She suggested that at least one more street light in the middle would be useful. She also pointed out that the hedge on the corner of Wells Road / St Peter's Road was in need of attention as it was getting very overgrown.

NNDClr T Fitzpatrick said that he would raise the matter of the trees again with the Chief Executive of Victory Housing as he had been assured that they had been pruned about five years ago.

MINUTES

Welcome and Happy New Year

- 1) **Apologies** from G Brooks, Mrs E Carter and N Morter, were accepted.
- 2) **Declarations of interest** by the Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below. None.
- 3) **Items of urgent business.** None.
- 4) **Police matters**
 - a) K Richardson reported that her allotment shed had been broken into between Saturday and Sunday but nothing appeared to have been taken. She had warned other allotment holders.
- 5) **Minutes of the Meeting** of 29 November were approved and signed as a true record.
- 6) **Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda**
 - a) Thanks for donations from St Peter's, St Mary's, Citizens Advice Bureau, Airfield Memorial Project, Heritage House.

7) Report from the County Councillor

The County Council Budget consultation ended on 2 January, but the final budget was yet to be confirmed. The funding of Adult Social Services was a continual problem and the County Council was lobbying for more funding and writing to local MPs for support. She encouraged people to report road traffic incidents to police so that the incidents could be logged in order to build up a record to highlight dangerous areas. The Digital, Innovation and Efficiency Committee was in talks with mobile phone providers and a survey of coverage / not – spots was to be carried out. The County Council is looking into setting up more re-use shops (and some with PAT certificates to take electrical goods) to encourage more recycling.

8) Report from the District Councillor

The District Councillor announced that he would stand down as Leader of the District Council on 21 February. The Chairman thanked him for all that he had done while Leader). He passed on a request from a parishioner for more dog bins e.g. on Mount Pleasant triangle and in Great Walsingham. He reported that the District Council budget had a current under-spend of £200,000 but this was counter-set by the fact that there would be no grant from Central Government in 2020. There was also a suggestion that money could be used to fund more police officers for North Norfolk. There was lobbying for a review of local government finances and extra funding for services e.g. adult social care which cost more to deliver in rural areas especially those like North Norfolk with a high elderly population. Business rates were gradually coming to the District and County Councils but this was not

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the panacea it was claimed to be, as more services were also being handed down. Following a pay review there was a 2% increase for staff (plus a spinal increase at lower levels). The District Council had agreed to remove the second homes discount on council tax (starting in April 2018). The lobbying from both the District Council and a Town and Parish Forum for retention of second homes council tax at local level has lead the County Council to say that it is 'theirs'. However the Big Society was still open for applications but the fund might stop in the future if the second homes tax was distributed in a different way e.g. directly to the parishes or retained completely at County level. He also noted that the District Council continued to use its enforcement powers with regard to empty buildings.

9) Highways

- a) **The response** from the Highways engineer regarding the request for a mirror at the junction of Church Street / Fakenham Road was noted: *'While I understand their concerns there is very little I can do at this moment in time. The policy is quite clear regarding mirrors so it is not something NCC can provide, nor give permission for. If one was placed on top of the wall opposite, it would be outside my jurisdiction but would obviously require the owner's permission. Please note, I have also checked our records and while considered dangerous by locals, we do not have any records of accidents where injury has occurred.'*
- b) **Steps jutting on to pavement on High Street.** It was reported that at least three people had fallen over the step at the Bake House in the last few months now that there was no longer a lamp at the entrance. It was decided that the Clerk should write to the present owners highlighting the problem and offering suggestions for mitigating the risk. The Vice-Chairman offered to spray luminous paint on the edge of the step.
- c) **Items to report**
- i) Loose paving slabs outside Dowry House, High Street

10) Traffic Management

- a) **SAM2:** It was noted that the sign does not work in Bridewell Street.

11) Finances

- a) **The following quotes for grass cutting were considered:** verges, grounds maintenance, War Memorial. The Clerk was asked to find out if there would be any penalties for breaking the contract with Norse for the grounds maintenance and hedge cutting at the playing field and to request a quote for the hedge cutting from CGM before a final decision was made.

Quotes per annum	Playing field	Verges, play area, war memorial (incl. herbicide)	Total + VAT
CGM			£2,520.00
Norse	(and hedge cutting) £1,161.69	£2,431.61	£3,593.30

- a) The **Statement of accounts** was presented and confirmed.
- b) There were no cheques to sign.

2) Planning

a) Applications since last meeting

- i) **7 Guild Street** replacement windows in rear elevation ref: LA/17/1857. Link circulated. No objection submitted 13/12/17.
- ii) **Robin Hood Cottage** 1 Egmore Road erection of single storey rear extension ref: PF/17/1946 and LA/17/1947. Link circulated. E Carter declared an interest (she owns the property). Comments submitted on 22 December 2017. Walsingham Parish Council has no objection to replacing the pergola with a more substantial building but concern has been raised regarding the design of the windows. It is thought that the windows should be more sympathetic to the listed building. Furthermore the lantern is too big and obtrusive – a better design should be made for the top/over head light.

- iii) **35 Wells Road** single storey rear extension ref: PF/17/2084. Link circulated. No objection submitted 22 December 2017.

- b) **Decisions received from NNDC:** none.

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- 3) **New General Data Protection Regulations** (and implications for the Parish Council).
- a) A report from the Clerk had been circulated along with a draft policy and terms of reference for a committee
 - b) It was agreed that a Working Group to programme the requirements would be set up in due course.
- 4) **Maintenance**
- a) 'Fakenham Road' sign has been welded, the black has been repainted, and the gold will be done in due course.
 - b) To replace car park sign on finger signpost Common Place. The Clerk and the Chairman would see what was required and make the necessary arrangements.
 - c) Work to entrance of the bus shelter so that electric wheelchairs etc can enter the bus shelter – at the moment there is a 2/3 inch ridge. L Acton would do the work in due course.
- 5) **Street Lighting**
- a) Electrical Testing to be carried out by K&M Lighting (electrical test) 58 units £579.50 plus VAT.
 - b) A request from one or two residents for more **street lighting on the High Street** between Common Place and the Oxford Stores (particularly as there are steps protruding onto the pavement which are trip hazards) as well as the additional request above for another light on Wells Road was noted. A quote from K&M Lighting to supply, fit wall bracket and wire and fit Victorian style lantern with 100 watt Son lamp to match existing (permission required from property owner): £1,617.67 + VAT (plus approx £1,398 to UK Power Network and any costs for Traffic Management). It was decided that as this was such a huge cost, the Parish Council would review the street lighting provision and clarify the purpose of the lighting bearing in mind light pollution and cost.
 - c) **Light in the bus shelter:** quotes from K&M Lighting (similar to above) and from Westcotec (for solar light) had not as yet been received.
- 6) **Walsingham Development Group**
- a) **'Walsingham – Open Spaces for All'** to encourage walkers. The grant is for way markers for five permissive walks, and signage (including Keep Walsingham litter free).
 - b) It was noted that a meeting of the WDG and Green Pilgrimages had included representation from Barsham Parish Council for prohibition of coaches through the villages. Subsequently the Catholic Shrine had put forward a proposal but this was not acceptable to the Barshams so further work on a solution was in progress.
- 7) **Litter bins**
- a) Locations at the ford and Walnut Corner have been confirmed with NCC.
 - b) It was noted that various people had complained about dog fouling in the village. It was suggested that once the bins had been installed this would help, but anecdotal evidence indicated that dog bins have no effect on those who refused to abide by the law.
- 8) **Correspondence:** circulated as usual.
- 9) **Items for report or future agenda**
- a) K Richardson reported that she had heard a number of complaints about the recent shoots. The Chairman said that he had raised the matter with the shoot manager.
- 10) The next Parish Council meeting at 7.15 for 7.30 pm on **Wed 28 Feb. 2018** in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm



18.4.18

Joanna Otte, Clerk to Walsingham Parish Council, e-mail: walsinghampc@googlemail.com Tel. 01328 822366
Little Manor Thursford Road, Little Snoring, Fakenham, NR21 0JN *Agenda prepared by JO 10/01/18*


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Meeting of Walsingham Recreation Trust

Following the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 17 January 2018

- 1) **Minutes of the Meeting** of 29 November were approved and signed as a true record.
- 2) **Village Hall**
 - a) **Maintenance**
 - i) The release mechanism on the fire door (snooker room) no longer works and a replacement is required. The Walsingham Estate will investigate and mend if possible.
 - ii) New lock on the door from the bar area to the playing field: in hand.
- 3) **Recreation Ground**
 - a) To report on **regular checks** of apparatus: in order
 - i) Annual inspection report has identified a few areas that require repairs:
 - (1) Further work on train to replace rotten wood
 - (2) Swing hangers
 - (3) Gyro spiral seat
 - (4) 35 countersunk screws on skate part
 - Quote from NGF for the for gyro spiral seat, replacement caps and collars for loose fittings and labour including removal of rough / sharp edges on Activity Equipment (excluding swing hangers): £424.91 + VAT. To be carried out when slide installed.
 - b) Slide for younger children. NGF have visited site. Cost £3,490.75 + VAT. Work to be ordered (down payment required).
 - c) **Moles:** It was agreed to accept the quote from Acorn Pest Control of £150 to deal with the problem.
- 4) **Finances**
 - a) **No cheques to approve**
- 5) To note forthcoming **Bookings**
 - a) **Regular bookings**
 - i) **Tuesday and Wednesday evenings** January: Bible Reading Class
 - ii) **Wednesday evenings:** Carpet Bowls
 - iii) **Thursday evenings** (first in the month: March, April, May) History Society
 - iv) **Thursday evenings** Swing and Lindy Hop Dance Class
 - b) Wed 17 Jan: Parish Council
 - c) Sat 17 Feb: 10 am (all day, use of bar) 21st Birthday Party
 - d) Wed 28 Feb: Carpet Bowls
 - e) Wed 28 Feb: Parish Council
 - f) Wed 18 April: Parish Council
 - g) Sat 26 May 2018: Wedding Reception
- 6) Any other business

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

 16.4.18