

# WALSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Present:

Cllrs. B Landale (Chairman), L Acton, Mrs S Landale, Mrs J Marozzi, Mrs E Meath Baker, Ms V Waller, Mrs C Williams, J Woodhouse (Vice-Chairman)

and: District Councillor T Fitzpatrick, County Councillor Dr M Strong, and a member of the public

## Meeting of the Parish Council

**on Wednesday 14 April 2021 following the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7pm**  
(in accordance with the Coronavirus Regulations this meeting was via Zoom)

Before the meeting started the Chairman asked for a few moments silence to contemplate the life of the Duke of Edinburgh and to give prayers and thoughts for our Sovereign Lady the Queen who must be suffering at this time.

## MINUTES

1. **Apologies** from Mrs E Carter, N Morter, Mrs K Richardson were accepted.
2. **Declarations of interest** by the Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below
3. **Minutes of the Meeting** on 24 February were approved for the Chairman to sign at a later date.
4. **Matters arising:** none
5. **Police Report:** the general report from the police had been circulated via email.
6. **Report from County Councillor:** 'It has been a privilege and pleasure to be your county councillor for these past 12 years and I must confess I am sad it comes to an end. Residents of this division, as you did, joined me in many tasks whether related or not specifically to their parish. I have not yet completed the list but it includes: Flood Sirens, Better Broadband for Norfolk, Mobile phone reception, DAB, the Coasthopper, Shoreline Management Plan, Marine Conservation Zone, Wells Field Study Centre; And the innumerable less publicised projects but all important to residents. Mike and I remain in Wells and will continue to visit the lovely parishes which constitute what I will always think of as my division. Looking forward to 'bumping' into you.' She said that it was with regret that she was not standing again in the forthcoming elections. The Chairman thanked her very much for all that she had done over the years.
7. **Report from District Councillor:** He said that he was sorry to see that the County Councillor was not standing again, despite being of different parties they had worked well together. He noted that the District Council had received a record number of requests for postal votes for the forthcoming elections. Extra measures were being put in place to ensure Covid safety including asking voters to bring their own pens and pencils to the polling station. Support was being given to help businesses open safely and a public protection scheme was in place to encourage best practice. There was cross-party support for the Gigabit Project which would vastly improve internet speeds by June 2022 in Norfolk. The Sustainable Communities Fund was open for applications. He noted that there had been issues with the planning department (which was short-staffed) and the new system.
8. **Finances**
  - a. The **Statement of accounts** was presented and confirmed.
  - b. The following **payments were approved.**

Joanna Otte	expenses (carry forward)		
Fenland Leisure Products	repairs to Rec Ground	101431	£2,244.24
Walsingham Estate Management	hand sanitisers, gutter, fascia boards	101432	£975.59
Walsingham Estate Management	repairs to steps, manhole cover and new letter box at VH	101433	£399.13
Countryside Recycling Ltd	emptying bottle bank	101434	£27.00

Annual uplift for the employer's contribution by 0.5%: monthly payment of employer's and employee's contribution to change from £177.59 to £180.71 from April 2021.

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## 9. Highways

- a. **Potholes and other highway faults should be reported via the website:**  
<https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/default.aspx>
- b. It was noted that at least one of the grit bins had been re-filled. Councillors were asked to check those near them and report back if action was required.

## 10. SAM2

- a. The SAM2 had been on Wells Road and was now going to Houghton St Giles.

## 11. Anaerobic Digester / Egmere Energy

- a. Scilla reported that there had been a useful update regarding the rye (maize had not yet been planted). She thought that the company had taken on board the need to liaise with local villages. NNDCllr T FitzPatrick had noted that the only complaints he had received were that the farm vehicles were going too slow on the main roads. Elizabeth pointed out that farmers needed to farm and it was difficult to reconcile the problems of too slow on main roads and too fast through villages but that the communication was helpful.

## 12. Walsingham Development Project (report from Clare Williams)

- a. Clare had had a useful meeting with Clovis Meath Baker. The updated form had been circulated.
- b. **Litter pick** on 29 March. Thank you to all who took part either on the day or at another time. It was noted that a letter had been sent to Environmental Protection and to the Police regarding the anti-vaxx stickers.
- c. **Light at bus shelter** for inside shelter: K&M Lighting are able to provide a solar light in the bus shelter fixed near the top inside (plus a wire mesh guard over it to try to prevent vandalism) the solar panel would be fitted as high on the outside wall as possible. The cost of this work would be **£163.00 ex VAT**. It was agreed to ask K&M Lighting to install this.
- d. Suggestion to make Mount Pleasant one-way.
- e. Street Light (solar powered) near bus shelter. This would have to be free-standing as UK Power Networks no longer allow fixtures on their poles.
- f. New bus shelter on Wells Road (some ideas had been circulated). It was reported that a councillor had had a conversation with local residents and the feeling was that it was not worth putting a bus shelter on the verge here as it would be vandalised. People waiting for the bus could use the brick shelter on the opposite side of the road (however it is not possible to on-coming buses).
- g. It was agreed that it would be useful to consult the community on the various issues and ideas listed above as well as the possible way forward for the magazine / newsletter.

## 13. Parish Newsletter / Magazine (report from Julia Marozzi)

### **News & Views: for residents and visitors**

Background: Until the Covid-19 pandemic the magazine was published bi-monthly – December, February, April, June, October, December – and edited by Zoe Wenzel with the support of a small committee. By 2019 it was clear that financing News & Views was becoming a problem. The magazine was finding it hard to attract funding and paused publication in September 2020. The last issue, in mid-production, was prevented from being distributed by older residents because of Covid 19 restrictions.

Costs and income: Costs were supported by advertisements by local business and some small grants. Each issue as currently configured needs £550-£650 depending on its pagination and how much support is provided by the printer in relation to the design and layout. This is a competitive figure in relation to other providers. In the last financial year, the total amount derived from advertising was £2,450. This may be unsustainable in the light of the current economic environment. In addition, the magazine receives an annual donation of £200 from the Walsingham Parish Council and £75 from the Houghton & Barsham Parish Council. The publication has also received support from the Walsingham Parochial Church Council of £500 and the Barsham Parochial Church Council of £50. Again, this may not be sustainable. During the past year the magazine also received two 'one-off' grants totalling £1,500.

Current status and proposal: A solution therefore needs to be found to fund and sustain the magazine as a viable communication which provides the village with a lively, informative and accessible community service. We do not feel it would be sensible to restart publication until some form of normal life is resumed, as distribution would be a problem due to social distancing and other related measures.

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The solution needs to be sustainable and should include as many residents as possible to support content, distribution and advertising.

We therefore suggest the following:

- Ownership should revert from the Parish to the Parish Council, the umbrella body which represents the whole community – resources to be allocated, financial spreadsheet operated, advertising to be sought
- Printed Magazine to become quarterly
- Village and Parish News updates should migrate to digital transmission – Facebook, village website, Issuu, Mailchimp
- Editorial Committee and Editor to be nominated to oversee editorial contents, pagination, paper stock, news and features gathering, imagery, uploading news to digital platforms.

The issue was discussed but no formal decision was taken.

## 14. Planning

### a. Applications received since the last meeting

- i. LA/21/0401: Internal and external works to facilitate remodelling & alterations to dwelling at **13 Friday Market Place**. Link circulated 22 Feb. No objection submitted 7 April.
- ii. PF/21/0422: Single storey side extension; dormer to rear: replacement doors and windows in rear extension at **11 Westgate**. Link circulated 23 Feb. AMENDED plans link circulated 7 April.
- iii. LA/21/0577: Replacement windows at **Berry Cottage 3 Westgate**. Link circulated. No objection submitted 7 April.
- iv. PF/21/0585: Single storey side and rear extensions; installation of air source heat pump and detached outbuilding within rear garden and LA/21/0586 Internal and external works associated with proposed single storey extension to side and rear and installation of air source heat pump at **Heins Cottage 20 Westgate**. Link circulated. No objection submitted 7 April.

### b. Decisions made by NNDC

- i. LA/20/2657: Internal and external works comprising small variations to works approved under listed building consent LA/19/1405), including introduction of two additional fan extracts on roof, roof access hatch on the northern side of roof, brick vents on two elevations, alterations to kitchen and bathroom layouts, relocation of original kitchen cupboards, creation of three ventilation shafts along east elevation and replacement of rotten timber floorboards in attic spaces at **Berry Hall Westgate**. APPROVED

15. **Airfield Memorial Project:** nothing to report.

16. **Correspondence:** circulated as usual.

## 17. Items for report or future agenda

- a. Community Gathering for Walsingham Development Plan
- b. Great Walsingham telephone kiosk needs repainting

18. Next Meeting is on **Wed 19 May 2021** at 7.15 for 7.30 pm in the Village Hall (online meetings no longer allowed after 6 May)

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Agenda prepared by JO 07/04/2021

The Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting.

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## **Meeting of Walsingham Recreation Trust**

Following the Parish Council meeting Wednesday 14 April 2021

- 1) The Minutes of the meeting on 24 February were approved for signing.
- 2) **Village Hall**
  - a) **Maintenance:**
    - i) Guttering, fascia boards, steps at the rear and a manhole cover have been repaired by WE.
    - ii) L A Whitmore to carry out **Electrical work** to replace 2 light fittings in shower rooms, remove flood light fittings and wiring and replace scencor bulkhead fittings and install pir led fitting over the main door: for £485.50 + VAT.
  - b) **Improvements**
    - i) Broadband connection ordered from Plus Net. The Village Hall has been added to the Royal Mail database and now has an official postcode and a letter box. BT engineers claim to have made the connection to the Village Hall but three appointments have been missed. Plus Net is following this up.
    - ii) Projector
  - c) **Preparation for re-opening**
    - i) Hand sanitisers in place (will need to be switched)
    - ii) Signage to encourage mask wearing and hand cleaning
    - iii) Cleaning (V Waller confirmed that she was happy to continue with this for the time being)
    - iv) Are any other measures required? (C Williams would see if anything was required once the Youth Club has re-started.
- 3) **Recreation Ground**
  - a) Inspection of playground apparatus
  - b) New padlock for storage container at the Rec. (B Landale and V Waller both have a key and there is one in the kitchen).
  - c) Moles on playing field and the recreation ground. Acorn Pest and Country Services to attend.
  - d) No dogs at Recreation Ground signs ordered from Steward Safety Supplies.
- 4) **Finances**
  - a) Receipts since previous statement: Covid-19 support grants £2,276;
  - b) Balance as at 7 April 2021: **£24,258.06**
  - c) Payments to approve: none
- 5) **Bookings** (cancelled during the lockdown)
  - a) Regular bookings:
    - i) Thursdays 4.30pm Youth Group (restart on 29 April)
    - ii) first Thursday of the month: History Society (not at present)
    - iii) Wednesday evenings: Band practice (?)
  - b) Bookings
    - i) Thursday 6 May: Elections (Clerk to check if they will be using the hall or the bar lounge)
    - ii) Saturday 14 August: private party
    - iii) Saturday 11 September: private party
- 6) Any other business: none

Meeting closed at 8:20 pm