

Minutes of a '**Full Blakeney Parish Council Meeting**' which was held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014** at 7.00pm.

Present:- Tony Faulkner (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice-Chairman), Glennes Aikens, Margaret Benson, Alban Donohoe, Barry Girling, Mary James, Louise Leonard & Ann Wootten.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 15.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received & ***accepted*** from Roger Hall (*away*).

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** from members as per the Code of Conduct. There were none.

**3.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **MINUTES** of the FULL COUNCIL meeting dated Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 are signed as a true record.

**4. Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 -7<sup>th</sup> January 2014: 1 x Crime- Burglary Dwelling – BPC are aware of this work is on-going with regard this incident. The SNT have delivered burglary crime prevention packs to most of Blakeney and Cley in the build up to Christmas.

11 x Calls to Police during this time, other than above only one to note is a dog was struck by a vehicle which did not stop on A149 through village.

**5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

5.1. A public meeting with the Chief Executive of **Victory Housing**, Mr John Archibald has been arranged for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014, commencing at 7pm in the Village Hall. Other local Councils who share similar concerns will be invited.

5.2. **Tidal Surge** – Following the damage caused by the storm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013, we wish to convey our thanks to the community for all pulling together, and to express our sincere thanks to NNDC who did a tremendous job both before and after the event, and to Richard Cooke in particular.

**6. PLANNING** – *A meeting of the Planning Committee follows after this Full Council Meeting.*

**7. COUNCILLOR REPORTS** –

7.1. **District Councillor** - Lindsay Brettle reiterated that NNDC would try to obtain as much funding for flood repairs as possible, and that the EDP appeal was going well, and reminded everyone about the Norfolk Museums and the exhibitions open to the public.

7.2. **County Councillor** - Dr. Marie Strong.

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**Broadband**:- At last there is more information available regarding the future of broadband for our division. I have, therefore, invited Town Councillors from Wells and Parish Councillors from all the villages in the division to a meeting at the end of January when Karen O'Kane - Programme Director, Better Broadband for Norfolk, will explain what speeds our parishes can expect to receive and in which tranche. Karen will also be able to answer any questions from Councillors regarding their area which they can then feed back at to the Town and Parish Councils.

**Prime Minister's Visit following the flood**:- During the visit the weather was pleasant, the tide was well out across the marshes. I explained how the sea had crossed the marshes, risen above the sea wall, crossed the quayside, pavement and road. I then pointed to the East Quay road sign at and the height to which the sea had risen up the sign. The PM was quite startled and said this had a deeper effect on him than sitting in Cobra and being provided simply with facts. Having shown the PM a map of our division I explained how the flood had affected the parishes and described the effect on Blakeney.

I also took the opportunity to ask about the future situation regarding insurance for flood risk areas. He assured me the current arrangement between the government and insurance companies had been extended whilst a new arrangement was being negotiated. Subsequently I received a letter from the P.M. saying his Private Secretary would be in touch with further information.

As many of you will know the mobile phone systems went down during a particularly worrying time of the flood. Was it fortuitous or not that they were still down during the Prime Minister's visit? It was certainly noted by his security staff.

NCC will be holding a meeting with 'Gold Command' and other agencies on the 15<sup>th</sup> January and I shall report back afterwards.

**Blakeney Marsh**:- It is over a year ago since the combined efforts of our division put a halt to proposals by Natural England to "zone off" a section of Blakeney Marsh, endangering a whole range of activities that have taken place on the marshes for generations. A short while ago the newly-appointed Environment Minister, George Eustice MP, announced a further set Marine Conservation Zone sites to be designated by Natural England. Blakeney was not on the list, but we are worried that a new minister might not appreciate, as his predecessor did, the strength of local feeling about such proposals. Norman Lamb has asked for a meeting with George Eustice, so we can explain to him how important it is that the plans for Blakeney are not resurrected. The petition to Richard Benyon, the previous minister, was a key factor in saving Blakeney marsh. If you are able and willing to sign the new petition calling on the Minister to stop any plans by Natural England to zone off Blakeney Marsh visit [www.normanlamb.org.uk/Blakeney](http://www.normanlamb.org.uk/Blakeney), fill in your name and email and you will be sending an email to the Minister calling on him to make sure that people continue to be able to use Blakeney Marsh as they have for generations.

**Incinerator:-** NCC is awaiting a call on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 from Eric Pickles with regard the planning permission for the controversial incinerator.

*As discussed briefly before the meeting opened, it was **proposed & agreed** that we now adjourn this meeting, having heard from our District & County Cllrs, in order to hold the 'Planning Meeting', given the large number of the public which have turned up specifically for the Planning Meeting and then we will reconvene with the Full Council after.*

*Adjourned at 7.25pm*

'ADJOURNMENT for OPEN PUBLIC SESSION.'

*Reconvened at 8.16pm.*

## **8. FINANCE.**

8.1. It was **proposed & agreed** that the **Accounts** for the past month are paid.

8.2. **Clerk/RFO Report:-** Members were each in receipt of the accounts as they stand. The **Police** had held their Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December. The priorities taken forward were; Crime prevention advice around burglaries along the coastal parishes, Rural crime and crime prevention and high visibility officer presence in all parishes.

**Tidal Surge Recovery** – The Environment Agency had issued the following update following the East Coast tidal surge and the recovery process.

**Blakeney West to Morston East:** Work to repair the scour and erosion damage to this defence is being undertaken and will be completed before the end of January 2014. The Morston East ad Blakeney West sea defence banks extend to 2.5km between the villages of Morston and Blakeney. The defences protect 19 properties and 50 hectares of land comprising arable and pastoral farm land.

**Blakeney Freshes:** The frontage suffered multiple breaches and repairing those will be both costly and challenging. We are assessing fully the environmental impacts and engaging with other environmental bodies and partners as we work towards a conclusion.

**Salthouse Shingle Ridge:** The Salthouse Shingle Ridge, lowered in height and breached in 2 locations. 17 properties were flooded in Salthouse and 10 at the eastern end of Cley as a result of the shingle bank being overwhelmed. The Environment Agency is currently considering the options here.

**Cley, Beach Road Bank:** There were a number of breaches and damage from overtopping and this wall is currently being repaired by our contractors to the existing standard of protection.

Wooden Posts on Blakeney Quay – Having been asked to initially obtain costs of replacing the small broken wooden posts along the quay which were supposed to stop boats, topping the walkway, the Clerk was asked to obtain costs for installing wooden telegraph type posts along the quay, as per the Red House Land following the tidal surge. This item is purposely mentioned here ahead of the forthcoming budget meeting, as the estimate was for between £10k - £15k.

Nationwide Account – It was ***proposed & agreed*** to close this account, no. 1117/704003781 and to transfer the balance of just over £50k to our Co-operative Current Account with immediate effect.

8.3. Proposed **Insurance Claim** following the December 2013 flood damage. Having considered the list of known damage to date, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we accept the £250 excess for each item and claim for the following; Commemorative Benches – James Blake, John Bone & Frank Urry. Pay & Display machine, also the Attendants Hut and associated contents. The following seats were already well passed their 10 years expected life span, and were not in the best of condition and hence, will not be replaced; Nikie Reeves bench, just outside of the dinghy park, and the 3 on the Red House Land in memory of Phyllis Brooks. These sites may therefore offer new opportunities.

## **9. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

9.1. Margaret Benson is our representative on the **Village Hall Trust** committee and gave the following report. The half yearly profits on the letting of the hall are slightly up on last year but the bar takings were down by £4,606 for the previous full year. The overall takings for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 are down some £6k on the previous 12 months. The Farmers Market/Craft Fair is to move to Wiveton Hall, which will mean a further loss of income. With regards a new team being appointed, a number of names were discussed, but nothing final at this stage.

## **10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS** – None received.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE** –

11.1. Members noted with interest the information from the Norfolk Coast Partnership Report: Raising Awareness for **Second Home Owners** and will retain this on file for future reference.

11.2. Members were asked to feed in any questions ahead of the public meeting with **Victory Housing** which is to be held at 7pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in Blakeney Village Hall in order to help with the format and agenda setting. Tony Faulkner, gave his apologies as he is now unable to attend. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we

invite; interested coastal and inland parishes, Norman Lamb MP, our County Cllr, Dr. Marie Strong, our District Cllr, Lindsay Brettle, the National Housing Federation, Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society the EDP, other NNDC Cllrs who represent the coastal parishes and of course the general public.

11.3. Following an article from the Norfolk Association of Local Councils members were asked whether or not we should mark the fact that this year (2014) will be the centenary of the start of **World War I** and if so, how? It was ***proposed & agreed*** that this ought to be something that is considered by the Church and the Royal British Legion.

11.4. **Parish Councillor Vacancy**; co-option procedures apply as NNDC advised that no election had been called for. Two applications had been received, one from Mrs Leanne Welch and the other from Mr Edward Hackford. The members discussed the applications and a vote was taken. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that Mrs Leanne Welch is to be co-opted.

**Meeting closed at 9.01pm.**

**Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_