

Page 15 (2014/15)

Minutes of the '**Full Blakeney Parish Council Meeting**' which was held on **Tuesday 1st July 2014** at 7.00pm.

Present:- Tony Faulkner (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice-Chairman), Glenn Aikens, Margaret Benson, Alban Donohoe, Roger Hall, Mary James, Leanne Welch & Ann Wootten.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 1.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Received & ***accepted*** from Barry Girling (*work*) and to note letter of resignation from Louise Leonard. The Clerk had already informed NNDC. Members asked the Clerk to write to Louise on their behalf and to thank her for the time served as a much valued member. Leanne Welch, had advised the Clerk that she would need to leave the meeting just before 8pm (*family reasons*).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST from members – Under the 'Code of Conduct. There were none.

3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **MINUTES** of the FULL COUNCIL meeting dated Tuesday 3rd June 2014 are signed as a true record.

4. GUESTS –

4.1. PCSO Sarah Kirby, gave the following report on behalf of the **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)**. Sarah advised that she has been a PCSO for 7 years, and has come from the Fakenham policing area. There has been 1 crime during the past month, which was a burglary other than dwelling. There have been no other calls to the Police from Blakeney. A gentle reminder to look out for and report any scams which target the elderly in particular.

4.2. Edward Stocker (NCC Environment Department) outlined proposals for conservation grazing, using cattle on the **Blakeney Esker SSSI** which is planned to commence Autumn 2014. In summary; the perimeter of the site would be fenced with livestock fencing and the existing access in and around the site will remain and there will be full public access at all times.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – There were none.

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

7. COUNCILLOR REPORTS –

7.1. **District Councillor** - Lindsay Brettle reported on general items. Her report will be in the pages of the Glaven Valley News.

Page 16 (2014/15)

7.2. **County Councillor** - Dr. Marie Strong gave the following report:-

Potholes: After last winter we are all still coming across new potholes so you may be surprised but I hope pleased that Norfolk County Council was one of the few Counties to be awarded additional money, nearly £5.5 million, towards repairing potholes. The award was made because the County has managed repair work better than many other counties. However whilst the £5.5 million will be very useful it has to be seen in the context of a backlog of some £80 million of potholes and surface deterioration.

Broadband and Mobile Phones: I attended the new EDT Committee (Environment, Development and Transport) and spoke about the importance of getting effective broadband to our rural towns and parishes, how the mobile phone provision particularly in rural and coastal areas was poor at best and often non-existent in times of emergencies. Finally I urged that the Working Party on Broadband and Mobile Phones be reconvened under the new committee system. Not only did I receive support for my request but I am now Chair of the Working Party. I could say it serves me right but I am pleased since I believe we must make every effort to radically improve the present situation.

Better Broadband for Norfolk: The Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme is set to continue until December 2015 but in the meantime a number of understandable questions have arisen. One is when will the outcome be known of the survey work which was needed for a number of our rural parishes. Whilst we have already been successful regarding funding we are seeking more, and the more funding we can acquire the more fibre we can roll out to our rural parishes. If our application is successful we should be able to communicate details early in 2015. Otherwise NCC should be in a position to give an overall outcome this autumn. Hopefully patience will bring the reward we seek.

The second question is how soon can individual households be told what speed of broadband they can expect. The answer is that because of potential issues the County Council only publishes information on specific locations once survey work had been completed and can confirm that implementation can take place. If information is provided in advance of confirmation it is always with the caveat that the details are subject to survey. This is because a survey may reveal something that would require more work than expected which could cause a delay or, in extreme cases, it is possible that severe technical issues will be discovered that prevented implementation altogether. In all cases the NCC stresses that the speed that is accessible from individual properties varies according to the distance that property is from a cabinet. Each roadside cabinet serves homes and businesses in a very localised area such as part of a village or town. In some villages not every property is connected to a cabinet which is planned for upgrade, and consequently not every property in a village will always benefit from an upgrade. Unfortunately NCC is not in a position to advise residents where an upgrade may take place. For more information visit www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk.

Page 17 (2014/15)

Calling Local Pubs: Norfolk County Council has created a fund of £30,000 to support Norfolk pubs in creating community facilities and services where there are no others in the local area. Pubs can apply for grants of up to £4000 to fund projects that would meet a local need or can help the community to thrive. Examples of projects pubs range from fitness classes and meals on wheels to farm shops, delicatessens and bee keeping. The £30,000 fund is now open for applications. Pubs can find out more about applying for funding by contacting Terry Stork, East Anglia Advisor for Pub is The Hub on 07789 275908 or email terrystork@pubisthehub.org.uk. For information visit <http://www.pubisthehub.org.uk/>

ADJOURNMENT for OPEN PUBLIC SESSION was not required.

8. FINANCE.

8.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **Accounts** to date, totalling £11,307.65 are paid.

8.2. Members were in receipt of the **Clerk/RFO Report** which detailed the balances held.

8.3. As per our **Financial Regulations** it was ***proposed & agreed*** to appoint one member (other than the Chairman) to verify the bank reconciliations once in each quarter. Roger Hall kindly volunteered.

Leanne Welch, gave her apologies and left the meeting at this point.

Tony Faulkner declared a personal interest (as a boat owner who moors along the quay) in the next item.

8.4. Members received further information including costs on the replacement of upright timbers along the Quay as per the proposed work of the **Blakeney Harbour Boatman's Association**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we will support option 3, which is to replace just the broken posts with the larger size as discussed at a previous meeting with timbers measuring 6" x 6" and that we will contribute up to £1,000.

8.5. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we follow the recommendation of our insurance provider to have **PAT Testing** carried out on items within the Parish Office.

9. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

9.1. Members were asked to consider and confirm the criteria for issuing workers permits for **Coronation Car Park** and were supplied with historical information. It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 abstention) that the traditional issuing of permits (temporary) to the builders and window cleaner would continue but no other permits would be issued. The Clerk to contact

the one current 'other' holder and advise that as of 1st April 2015, he would not be eligible for a permit.

9.2. Members had received a request from **Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society** to locate a container for 'Pikes' in the corner of Coronation Car Park as previously. After much debate it was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 against & 1 abstention) to permit this, but to charge an annual rent. It was then ***proposed*** that we charge a rent of £100 a week, with 2 in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention this ***proposal was not carried***. It was further ***proposed & agreed*** (with 2 against & 1 abstention) that the annual charge will be £1,000 for 12 months.

9.3. **Parking on the Playing Field** - It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 abstention) that parking on the field is no longer permitted for any event and hence our previous policy no longer applies. Our planning application to develop this area has now been submitted and hence work with heavy machinery could start any time within the next few weeks. Health and safety must be paramount during this time.

9.4. Following the feedback received after last years **Bonfire Event** on the quay, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we ask if we can be supplied with pallets again, and then hire a skip and manpower in order to clear the site the next morning.

9.5. Tony Faulkner gave a brief verbal report following his attendance at the recent **Wash & North Norfolk Coast** meeting. He advised that after the meeting, as was tabled (minutes will follow in due course) that Defra discussed the sites for the second tranche of the Marine Conservation Zones. Out of the 37 sites identified, the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds is the only one in the area, and it is hoped that the local fishermen will fully engage when the consultation begins. Whilst our Reference Area has not been axed entirely, it is not currently being considered, but we should remain alert.

10. **COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS** – There were none.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1. Members had received the Halcrow report (105 pages) prepared for the Environment Agency with regard the **Blakeney Freshes Bank**; The Chairman had kindly read the document and felt that Section 5, Discussion and recommendations was of particular interest. At the moment, the feeling is that the Environment Agency are likely to go with a reduced level bank plus floodboards to the Bakenev Manor Hotel, however, neither this option, or any of the other options considered meet the minimum criteria for capital investment of public funds. This is because the only benefits identified relate to the prevention of grazing marsh loss. That said, no final decision has been

ePage 19 (2014/15)

made. This option would mean that the bank would be made lower but wider, thus stronger, but it would be overtopped more, but not bust.

11.2. Members received information with regard to the **Yes to Homes** petition pack. Do we wish to get involved? It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we do not, as we are focused on affordable housing for local people as opposed to general housing.

11.3. Members were in receipt of the copy of the Annual Property Inspection report for **No. 2 Memorial Cottages** and were satisfied with the report. It was also ***proposed & agreed*** that permission is granted for Shane Allen to move into the cottage. He will not acquire any rights.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Chairman _____