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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 7th July 2015**, commencing at 7.00pm in the Parish Office.

Present:- Tony Faulkner (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice-Chairman), Glenn Aikens, Samantha Arlow, Margaret Benson, Alban Donohoe, Barry Girling, Edward Hackford & Rosemary Thew.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 7.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received and ***accepted*** from Roger Hall (*work*). The Chairman also welcomed our new District Cllr, Andrew Wells to the meeting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** from members – There were none.

3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the following **MINUTES** are signed as a true record;

3.1. FULL COUNCIL – Tuesday 2nd June 2015.

3.2. FULL COUNCIL (Extraordinary) – Wednesday 20th May 2015.

3.3. FULL COUNCIL (Extraordinary: Finance) – Monday 29th June 2015.

4. **GUESTS** –

4.1. **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** – PC Jason Pegden advised that there had been a total of 13 calls to the Police since the last Parish Council meeting. 1 x burglary from a dwelling in Back Lane and 1 x road traffic accident on the B1156. The SNAP priorities at the moment are focused around; stolen bird eggs, thefts from beauty spot areas and drinking and licensed premises.

5. **CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS** – We submitted an entry for our Parish Clerk to the Nfk Clerk of the Year competition, and whilst she did not win, we wish to place on record our sincere thanks for all of her hard work and dedication, and indeed are happy to show her this by way of the application submitted.

6. **COUNCILLOR REPORTS** –

6.1. **District Councillor** - Andrew Wells advised that he had no specific report this evening, but with the Parish Councils blessing, he wished to interject on specific items on the agenda as and when they arose, primarily in relation to planning items. Members were happy with this.

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

Hempton Recycling Centre will be hosting another amnesty day in September, dates and further details in due course.

Sale of Housing Stock – In our division we have the worthy ‘ Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society’, a private Housing Society, in Wells we have ‘Homes for Wells’, both without government funding. Therefore at the recent meeting of NCC’s Policy & Resources Committee I spoke in some detail about the Governments proposal to ‘Enable the extension of Right to Buy levels of discount to housing association tenants’. I referred to these two local housing organisations and the Holt & Neighbourhood Housing Society and pointed out that the County Council had an opportunity to support these organisations since the Government has not fully decided how it is going to go about its pledge and wants to give itself some space to do so. We have the opportunity to add to this thinking process by asking questions of the new Secretary of State. I gained support that we write to Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, asking him to put this concern to rest by stating that local housing organisations, such as these be specifically excluded from the proposal. That request has also been sent to Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning.

Adjourned at 7.15pm for the OPEN PUBLIC SESSION and reconvened at 7.41pm.

7. PLANNING – *To receive & consider* the following Planning Applications:-

PF = Full Planning Permission

PM = Planning Permission – Reserved Matters

LA = Alteration to Listed Building

- i) Application No. **PF/15/0440** - *Proposal; Demolition of detached two storey dwelling and erection of detached replacement two storey dwelling, detached open-fronted carport and creation of new drive at, **The Brecks, Bilsey Road, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have **no objection**.*
- ii) Application No. **PF/15/0724** – *Proposal; Variation of condition 2 of planning permission reference 12/1162 to permit revised siting, layout, height, elevational treatment and landscaping details at, **Bliss, Morston Road, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** (with 7 in favour of the proposal and 3 abstentions) that we have **no objection**. A further ***proposal was agreed***; That we will write to NNDC pointing out our concerns as to how this situation was allowed to arise in the first instance and why the development was not monitored much more closely by NNDC, as someone should be held accountable for this.*
- iii) Application No. **PF/15/0814** – *Proposal; Erection of single storey side extension with balcony above at, **Watermark, Langham Road, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** (with 8 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention) to **object**, as we would like to see screening to the*

balcony on the north side to protect the privacy of the neighbouring property, known as 'Springtides'.

- iv) Application No. **PF/15/0762** – *Proposal; Demolition of bungalow and outbuildings and erection of a two storey dwelling and detached three car garage at, **Three Owls Farm, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney.** It was **proposed & agreed** (with 7 in favour and 3 against) that we have **no objection**. It was also **proposed & agreed** that we advise NNDC that we would like to see any eventual build very carefully monitored so as to ensure that it complies with what permission is granted. We would also ask that they take into account the comments with regard lack of detail as made of the 'Glaven Valley Protection Group and Friends of North Norfolk.'*
- v) Application No. **PF/15/0722** – *Proposal; Creation of pond at, **8 Wiveton Road, Blakeney.** It was **proposed & agreed** that we have **no objection**.*
- vi) Application No. **PF/15/0783** – *Proposal; Erection of front porch at, **23 Kingsway, Blakeney.** It was **proposed & agreed** that we have no objection.*
- vii) Application No. **PF/15/0893** – *Proposal; Variation of condition 17 of planning permission ref: PF/15/0070 to allow first floor en-suite window on northern elevation of Plot 7 only, to be obscure glazed at, **Greencroft House, 22 Morston Road, Blakeney.** It was **proposed & agreed** that we have **no objection**.*
- viii) Application No. **AN/15/0767** – *Proposal; Installation of 4 non-illuminated signs and 1 hanging sign at, **The White Horse Hotel, High Street, Blakeney.** It was **proposed & agreed** that we have **no objection**.*
- ix) Application No. **CL/15/0317** – *Proposal for a Certificate of Lawful Use; Continuous use for parking of vehicles by The Blakeney Hotel on The Pastures. **This was refused by NNDC.***

NNDC Officers had held a meeting with the owner of The Blakeney Hotel on site a couple of weeks ago, and have subsequently received correspondence confirming that The Blakeney Hotel intends to submit a planning application seeking to regularise the parking use. It is also understood that the agent acting on behalf of the owner will also be writing to several interested parties, including the Parish Council, confirming this to be their intention and providing some more details.

District Cllr Andrew Wells advised that due to the length of time that this scenario has been ongoing, that he has asked for the application to

be submitted within 28 days and if it is not then NNDC should issue an enforcement order. BPC members were grateful for this.

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we really would like to work with The Blakeney Hotel with regard their proposed planning application and would therefore approach Emma Stannard asking if we could have a meeting of some description to try and share the concerns of the Parish Council the members of the Public and agree a solution which would hopefully please everyone, including The Blakeney Hotel, hence meaning that once the application was received we had already addressed and discussed many issues of local concern and addressed them if possible. The Parish Council has only ever wanted this situation to be addressed in the correct and official manner, ie. a Planning Application and hence we welcome this decision.

- x) Members had received information from the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP), a Government funded initiative to extend **Mobile Phone Coverage** and new mobile connectivity to Blakeney. The proposal is to site a 30m high lattice tower mobile phone base at land at Friary Farm Caravan Park, Cley Road, Blakeney, from a total of 13 sites which were considered. This project seeks to provide coverage by all four Mobile Network Operators (Vodafone, O2, 3 and EE.)

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we **support** this application as we see it being of huge local benefit to many people.

(The Clerk updated the meeting with regard the very slow progress of the second tranche of the Vodafone Sure Signal programme, which was due to some sites not now wishing to take part and others where signed agreements had not yet been returned, despite being chased.)

8. FINANCE.

8.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **Accounts** for the month, totalling £13,433.81 are paid. The increase in insurance premium was due to having updated the asset register, with some rebuild costs.

8.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** – Members were in receipt of the up to date cashbook figures, and Carnser and Coronation Car Park income figures.

8.3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we **accept** the proposed maintenance agreement with Parkeon for the **Pay & Display Machine** in Coronation Car Park.

8.4. Members received details of the **Parish Partnership Funding Scheme** by Norfolk County Council, established to deliver local highway improvements. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we make enquiries into the possibility of having a 'SAM 2' (Mobile Speed Awareness Message sign) for

Back Lane, and that subject to how the, (hopefully soon to be installed) wooden posts at the bottom of Back Lane and opposite The Manor Hotel work, that we may consider applying for more of these. Also that we ask the Head Teacher of Blakeney Primary School, how she got on with consultation and fact finding regarding the installation of 20mph 'flashing signs' outside the school, given that this was an item up for consideration last year.

8.5. Our last **Tree Inspection Survey** was undertaken in January 2013, and our insurers have advised that so long as such an inspection is undertaken every 5 years, then we are insured. Hence it was ***proposed & agreed*** that our next full inspection is undertaken in January 2018.

8.6. The subject of the previously agreed project to develop two additional dwellings on the **Memorial Cottages Site** had been placed on hold whilst other immediate scenarios were considered, such as the Avocet View development, the sale of The Rectory and site and the Land at Morston Road.

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that as we have budgeted £15k in this financial year to prepare plans, submit planning applications etc, that we now look to proceed with this project to build two additional affordable housing properties for local people, and that we look into the associated costs of building with a view to borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board. Stead Mutton were mentioned as a possible firm to approach.

9. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

9.1. Members received the draft **Licence for Playing Field Sites** from NCC in relation to our request for additional parking provision at peak times. Subject to the accompanying plan being corrected, (the area marked in blue is to show adjacent land owned by the Parish Council, but is incorrect with regard land which should now be included within the boundary of the property known as 'Spring Cottage'), then it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we ***accept*** this Licence as it stands and that we thank NCC for their assistance on this matter.

9.2. Rosemary Thew, as Chairman of the **Blakeney Village Hall Committee** had prepared a report for the members. To summarise whilst the Village Hall is financially viable and its income and expenditure more or less cancel one another out, there is concern that the hall is very much under used, and hence ideas and offers to run events would be greatly welcomed. Bookings remain disappointingly low, although of course there are a regular variety of users, but there is scope for so much more. The full report also covered the state of the hall, a major crack near the entrance is being investigated, heating problems, and the possibility of solar panels are being investigated.

9.3. Report from Neil Thompson as a member of the **Blakeney Boatman's Association**, which has applied to obtain Charitable status. Robust enquiries are being made and followed up by Neil, with a view to having the large 'steel

boat' removed from Blakeney Quay for good. (This is the one which ended up on the highway following the December 2013 tidal surge.) Members thanked Neil for his efforts, which are ongoing.

9.4. Alban Donohoe, as a member of the **Joint Dinghy Park Management Committee**, updated members in relation to the proposed 'Dredging Project' and future funding, they had also received some back minutes from this committee in order to assist. The main point was that in order to achieve this, major finances were going to have to be sought, by the way of grants and pledges etc, and to advise that the Full Council may be asked to give some thought to this come budget time.

9.5. Members noted the following **Committee/Trustees** updates; i) Poor's Land & Parish Rent – for ease, really needs to be the same Trustees, hence Rosemary Thew is happy to be on both, and Edward Hackford is happy to step down from the latter. ii) John Sizer has confirmed that the following no longer exist as such, and hence we do not need named members; Blakeney Area Advisory Group (BAAG), Special Area of Scientific Interest (SAC).

10. **COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS** – The Clerk advised that the destruction of the Saxlingham Road sign had indeed been reported to NNDC, and that they will order another replacement in due course.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1. The Police Crime Commissioner for Norfolk asks employers in Norfolk; **Would you employ an ex-offender?** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that yes, in principle we would consider doing so.

Members were in receipt of information about an event being held in Norwich to bring together ex-offenders, offender managers, employers, trainers and funders to work on strengthening partnerships between businesses and prisons to encourage the creation of new employment opportunities.

11.2. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we grant permission for the request to hold a **Street Collection** on behalf of the Royal Air Force Association, 'Annual Wings Day'. *Margaret Benson declared a personal interest as the request was written by her husband, Tom Benson.*

11.3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we seek further information on **Adopting a Telephone Kiosk**, the red listed one in the High Street, as we would like to know if we would then own it, if we could ever sell it on, how other communities which have embarked upon this scheme have found a use for it and the pros and cons of doing so.

11.4. Each individual Parish Councillor present, ***agreed*** to formally adopting the legislation allowing **Councillors to receive summonses electronically**, ie. agendas can be legally sent by email.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Chairman _____

NNDC Planning Decisions Taken & Updates aswell as any Planning Inspectorate Appeals.

- i) Application No. **PF/15/0070** – *Proposal; Conversion of existing detached two storey dwelling into 2 apartments, including construction of dormer window and erection of 6 two storey dwellings, creation of new access and installation of air source heat pumps at, **Greencroft House, 22 Morston Road, Blakeney.** **Consent given.***
- ii) Application No. **PF/15/0431** – *Proposal; Demolition of rear porch and erection of two storey rear extension and insertion of flue at, **79 High Street, Blakeney.** **Application withdrawn.***