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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 10th January 2017** commencing at **7.00pm in the Parish Office.**

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice-Chairman), Samantha Arlow, Shirley Everett, Barry Girling, Neil Thompson, Edward Hackford, Neil Thompson, Alban Donohoe and Margaret Benson.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield

Public:- 3

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Were received & ***accepted*** from Roger Hall (*away*). County Cllr, Dr. Marie Strong is attending another Parish Council meeting, first and will join us shortly.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST from members – None.

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

3.1. FULL COUNCIL – Tuesday 6th December 2016.

3.2. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Wednesday 14th December 2016.

4. GUESTS –

4.1. Report from **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** read in their absence, having received their apologies.

Since the last meeting, there has been no crime in the parish and no calls made to the Police. Lead thefts from churches are high, but not in our immediate area, but please all remain vigilant. We arrested three males with two stolen outboard engines stolen from the coast. These males have been remanded into Police custody and we believe that they have been responsible for all the thefts along the coast recently.

4.2. Helen Chester had prepared a report (16th October 2016) on her research into the **Historic Public Rights of Way**. After much consideration it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we look further into the 'Blakeney route BL4 suspected status; footpath', by using our local connections and also 'Blakeney route BL5' and that we refer the BL 3 to Langham Parish Council, and that we take no further action with BL1 & BL2. We thank Helen immensely for the work she has done, will keep her in the loop and may need to call upon her services again in the future.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – (*The District Cllrs report was taken first, due to the update it provided.*)

6.1. **District Councillor** - Karen Ward gave the following report.

New electoral arrangements - The Local Government Boundary Commission England (LGBCE) has responsibility for ensuring that citizens are appropriately represented by their local Councillor and that the size of a Councillor's ward is equitable. Due to house building and changes in population, the NNDC District Council Wards required a review. LGBCE has now published its draft recommendations for new boundaries of NNDC. This can be viewed at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

The headlines are that there will be 8 fewer District Councillors in total. The Glaven Valley will cease to be an electoral entity and its current parishes will be reallocated into four new electoral wards as follows:

1. It is currently proposed that Thornage, along with Hunworth & Stody and Brinton & Sharrington move into the new STODY ward alongside Briningham, Melton Constable, Edgefield, and Corpusty & Saxthorpe.
2. Morston, Blakeney and Wiveton will move into a new COASTAL ward alongside Cley, Salthouse, Kelling, Weybourne and Upper Sheringham.
3. Letheringsett & Glandford will join High Kelling and Holt into a revised HOLT ward.
4. Field Dalling & Saxlingham will move into PRIORY ward alongside Langham, Binham, Stiffkey, Warham, Wighton, Gunthorpe, Hindringham and Thursford.

You have until 30th January 2017 to submit your views on these proposed changes. Final recommendations will then be published in April 2017 and once ratified will come into being at the next District Council elections in May 2019.

Second Homes - An announcement from DCLG on funding for affordable housing through community land trusts in areas with second home ownership came just before Christmas. North Norfolk will get a share of £60 million based on the % of second homes. The details are yet to be released. At the moment the % of second homes is calculated by the number of dwellings registered for the 5% Council Tax discount. Current figures for Blakeney are 174 dwellings which is 30% of the total dwellings. Is this figure likely to be accurate or are there many dwellings which are second homes, but the owners choose not to claim the 5% discount?

Planning Updates –

- The Pastures: a short list of mediators has been proposed and is being reviewed before being sent to The Blakeney Hotel and Blakeney Parish Council.
- Morston Road Field: NNDC is undertaking further research into the legal options for this site. The applicant has asked for a conversation with the Chair of BPC once these options are available.
- 8 Wiveton Road: I have met with the applicants and the objectors. To ensure that all points of view are considered, I have called the decision into the Development Committee. There will be a site visit on Thursday 12th January which will include viewing the site lines from The Old Rectory. The application

will go to the Development Committee on Thursday 19th January. I am asking the Development Committee to consider the application in relation to EN2 – Protection and Enhancement of Landscape and Settlement Character.

- 5.1. Planning Application no. **PF/16/1417 – 8 Wiveton Road, Blakeney**. Members were asked if they wished to rescind the decision they made on 1st November 2016, after receiving correspondence on the history of the property from objectors to the application. The merits of doing so were discussed along with planning reasons, and it was **proposed & agreed** (other than 1 abstention) not to revisit this as the correct process had been followed. The District Cllr was asked to ensure that attention is paid to the materials to be used. This application is in the hands of NNDC now.
- 5.2. Would the Parish Council like to take part in the **Church Floral Display** in July? The answer was in favour, and this will appear on the February agenda, with full details.

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS –

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

Devolution came to an abrupt end for Norfolk days before the county was to vote. We heard that West Norfolk had said no to the proposed devolution and within days it was over for Norfolk. I would add that not only in retrospect but throughout the process I have felt the proposal for was a parson's egg, partly bad partly good. People I spoke with appreciated the idea of devolved powers but a mayor and cabinet were seen as an additional layer between them and government – and at a cost; concern was also expressed that funding over a 30 year period might not be secure. If another devolution proposal is to follow I would like to think it would be tailored for Norfolk not Whitehall. However within hours of 'Devo 1' being stopped the question of Unitary was back on the scene but a motion at full council asking for an investigation into unitary lost the vote. The reason for rejection was two-fold: first officers and members need to focus over the coming months on the February budget – one of the most important for a number of years; secondly there are county council elections in May 2017 and any ideas and plans made before then could be rejected by the new administration.

Broadband speed issues or faults: Whilst more and more parishes are being fibre enabled whether or not you have this provision problems can still arise. So in the event of any problems relating to broadband faults or speed issues customers in the first instance should contact their internet service provider (ISP) (e.g BT, Sky, Virgin Media). Internet service providers will be able to identify if the issue is something they will be able to fix or if it is an issue with the infrastructure they will escalate it to Openreach. Openreach can only work with internet service providers, not directly with members of the public, in order to ensure that all ISPs are treated equally. Many internet service providers have guidance available on their websites which can alert customers if there is an existing network problem in their area and this often includes

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information on how long it will take to be resolved. Their websites also provide guidance for users to help identify if there is anything they can do to resolve the issue (e.g changing a wifi channel). If internet advice is unavailable most providers will offer a similar service over the telephone. It is very important for everyone to report faults to their internet service provider so the provider can understand the extent of the issue and escalate to Openreach if necessary. People should not assume that if they see an Openreach vehicle in the area that their fault is being fixed – they should always check with their service provider.

Mobile 'Phone Coverage: Because Wells division is particularly rural, covering some 35 parishes and hamlets, and because I travel all around all these places I am acutely aware of the problems with mobile 'phone coverage. As Chair of the Broadband, Mobile Phone and Digital Working Group I, along with fellow councillors, am also aware that the problem even exists in some of our towns. I hope the following update is useful: I am in regular contact with Mobile UK, which represents mobile operators, putting across our concerns and seeking information as to developments. Additionally the group has met twice with representatives from the four main mobile network operators (EE, O2, Three and Vodafone). We already knew that mobile operators have an agreement with government to achieve 90% geographic voice coverage across the country by the end of 2017. We have now been assured that operators are on track to meet this commitment which should also result in an increase in 4G data coverage. In turn the government is reviewing the Electronic Communications code to help operators deploy new infrastructure – particularly important in rural areas. (And please remember that at present infrastructure means masts.)

The government will review the coverage situation once the 90% coverage target has been achieved and the new Emergency Services Network (ESN) has been deployed. (The ESN is the new communications system which will be used by the Police, Fire & Rescue, the Ambulance Service and other public safety users. Where public money is used to subsidise ESN expansion in rural areas the infrastructure will be made available to all mobile operators.) Network operators are working together to share sites and improve infrastructure. However they are still commercially independent so the operators will not publically share future coverage plans.

However, whilst not a universal solution, you can use a coverage checker to determine the best network for the places where you will be mainly using your mobile phone. Most mobile phone operators have a coverage checker available on their own website but there is also a coverage checker available on the OFCOM website. <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/advice/mobile-coverage-checker>

And whilst, as you will have read, the situation is improving and will continue to do so, concern remains. Therefore early in 2017 we will be writing to the Minister responsible for Culture, Media and Sport requesting intervention regarding Norfolk's access to mobile 'phone networks.

Helping Vulnerable People Stay Well this Winter: I know many readers will be keeping an eye on those who need help to get through the winter safely and that includes keeping warm. Encourage people to apply to the Surviving Winter fund – to get details go to www.norfolkfoundation.com. If you know someone who struggles to prepare hot meals go to www.Norfolk.gov.uk/mealsonwheels. If you think someone is at risk please contact Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020. In an emergency ring 999.

Dance Workshops at Wells Community Hospital: We members of Wells Dementia Friendly Committee are delighted to have persuaded Creative Arts East to bring the Green Candle Dance Company to Wells Community Hospital (Mill Road). The programme is called 'Improving Wellbeing through the Arts'. It will provide the opportunity for older people to make new friends, enjoy a 'cuppa and cake' in a fun and dementia friendly environment. Sessions are free but space is limited – to book a place call Lea on 01953 713390 or email lea@creativeartseast.co.uk. This is not overly energetic so no excuses!

7. **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION** was not required.

Margaret Benson gave her apologies (unwell) and left the meeting at this point.

8. **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. **LA/16/1699** – Proposal; Replacement of casements in existing bay window at, **Corner Cottage, 9 High Street, Blakeney**. It was **proposed & agreed** that we have no objection.
- ii) Application No. **PF/16/1697** – Proposal; Erection of single storey rear extension at, **Vine Cottage, 60 Morston Road, Blakeney**. It was **proposed & agreed** that we have no objection.
- iii) Application No. **PF/16/1745** – Proposal; Erection of rear/side single-storey extension (Orangery) at, **No.1, The Butts, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney**. It was **proposed & agreed** that we have no objection.
- iv) Application No. **PF/16/1764** – Proposal; Erection of detached double garage at, **Lemanja, 3a Wilsons Way, Blakeney**. It was **proposed & agreed** that we **object to this application**. We do not believe that it would be possible to access this garage without driving over other peoples land. We also consider this to be over development of this site.

- v) Members noted that under NNDC reference **LB11/012/1440867** – ***Notification of Listing – The Blakeney War Memorial***; This structure has now been added to the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest.

9. FINANCE

- 9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that **Accounts** totalling £4571.67 are paid.
- 9.2. The **Clerk/RFO Report** was shared with members, and gave updates on the finances.
- 9.3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** to accept the report & recommendation from the Finance Committee following their budget and precept meeting and to set the **2017/18 Precept** at £37,000 and accept the NNDC grant.

10. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

- 10.1. Members were asked to review the process regarding 'Builders Permits' for **Coronation Car Park** ahead of the 2017 season. All scenarios were considered. It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 against and 1 abstention) that as from 1st April 2017 such permits will be charged at £25.00 each per annum. All other details to remain unchanged.

Edward Hackford gave his apologies (feeling unwell) and left the meeting at this point.

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

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- 12.1. Having received the draft recommendations of the proposed new **Coastal Ward** following the Electoral Review of North Norfolk it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we would like to see Stiffkey form part of the Coastal Ward, and would prefer to see Upper Sheringham (not coastal) grouped with Sheringham, so as to keep the local coastal communities with same/similar issues grouped together, which would seem to make far more sense.

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

- 1) Application **PF/16/1168** – *Proposal; Variation of condition 2, 7, 12, 13 & 14 and removal of Condition 16 of planning permission 15/1219 to allow for revised site layout (including positioning of dwellings, pedestrian access, plot boundaries, car parking), reduction in land levels, design and fenestration alterations including re-positioning of flue on Plot 5 and approval of screen*

*fence and wall details (part retrospective) at, **Greencroft House, 22 Morston Road, Blakeney.** Consent given.*

- 2) Application **PF/16/0876** – Proposal; *Erection of 2 no. two-storey 3 bed detached houses and detached garage block. Change of use of part of the site to garden land for 5 Westgate Street at, **Stratton Long Marine, Westgate Street, Blakeney.** Refused.*
- 3) Application **NMA2/14/1658** – Proposal; *Creation of a small attic room with a Velux window facing north and the addition of a small south facing Velux window to give light over the stairs. Altering position of window in ground floor study/bedroom 4 to face east in lieu of north at, **Land adjacent to Poppyland, Back Lane, Blakeney.** Consent given.*
- 4) APPEAL RECEIVED - Application **PF/16/1254** – Proposal; *Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling at, **Three Owls Farm, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we add to our previous comments; *that we object strongly to the proposal to move even further into the countryside and the impact upon the curtilage.**
- 5) Application **PF/16/1489** – Proposal; *Erection of two storey extensions at, **Thorpe Cloud, 15 Back Lane, Blakeney.** This application has been withdrawn.*
- 6) Application **EF/16/1473** – Proposal; *Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed change of use of Agricultural Barn to (C1) Hotel and other flexible uses as per Part R of The Town & Country Planning Act (GPDO) 2015 at, **Barn to north of Morston Road, Blakeney.** This application has been withdrawn.*

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman _____