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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 1st March 2016**, commencing at 7.00pm in the Parish Office.

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

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 6.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received & ***accepted*** from Samantha Arlow (*work*).

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

3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 abstention) that the **MINUTES** of the FULL COUNCIL meeting held on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 are signed as a true record.

4. **GUESTS** – Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team) were unable to attend.

5. **CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS** – A gentle reminder that no new items requiring a decision can be brought to the table Under Councillors Questions. If it is not on this agenda, then it cannot be debated and decided upon.

Also, to thank Glenn Aikens for her time served as a member of the Parish Council as we are aware that she and her husband will soon be moving from the village.

6. **COUNCILLOR REPORTS** –

6.1. **District Councillor** - Andrew Wells joined us later in the evening, and in brief, mentioned The 3 Owls Planning application and said that NNDC had taken legal advice and that the members had gone with that. Most of the newly appointed Planning Officers are now in situ, with two due to start soon. NNDC budget now agreed and will email this across. He will find out when The Blakeney Hotel planning application in relation to parking on The Pastures is due to be considered.

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

In January I went to Westminster with Normal Lamb MP and District Councillor Andrew Wells to meet with Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture and Digital Economy, to discuss infrastructure for mobile 'phones and specifically the MIP project - designed to eradicate 'not spots' where not even emergency signals can be made. Whilst realising the Minister would not be able to magic up a solution that day I asked at the start of the discussion that if I was to go away disappointed could I, as a consolation, have an update on DAB – a promise was given and the information supplied.

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DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) has been a popular topic at parish councils for some years and a number of people have expressed concern at buying DAB radios for elderly family and friends then embarrassed to hear they cannot use them. And while we all know the stories of hanging out of windows with mobile 'phones I have heard the same stories but with DAB radios!

The communications regulator Ofcom has published detailed maps outlining the improvements to local DAB network coverage across the UK. I am delighted that we have information specific to Norfolk and as you will read more areas are now DAB enabled and others will be enabled when work is finished in the summer. So I hope, whilst the following information will not tell everyone when and if they will be DAB enabled and if or when the government will make a switchover from FM, it will be of interest:

Digital radio switchover is a similar proposition to the digital television switchover - switching consumers from getting their entertainment from an analogue platform to a digital one. Whilst the Government had proposed to make DAB the main broadcast platform for national radio stations certain criteria would have to be met before a switchover could take place. The government continues to review the situation particularly regarding coverage and including the adaption of cars to take DAB technology.

The proposed switchover would not mean an analogue radio switch off. FM would still be used for ultra local and community radio stations but national radio stations would stop broadcasting on FM in favour of digital platforms.

Local DAB network expansion

Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is providing up to £7.75m of capital funding to support investment made by commercial radio and supported by the BBC to expand the coverage of the local DAB digital radio network (carrying local commercial radio services and BBC local radio stations) across the UK. The programme of work will see a total of 182 new digital transmitters built across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and technical modifications at a further 49 existing DAB transmitter sites and it is expected to be completed by the end of September 2016. As a result of this investment, coverage of the local DAB network will increase from 75% to 91% of all UK homes (about 4 million extra) and from 56% to 77% of all major roads (an extra 4,400 miles).

Norfolk

The upgrade to the local DAB network will see 6 new local DAB transmitters built (in addition to the 5 existing transmitters) at sites across the Norfolk local digital radio multiplex area: Daffy Green, Diss, Hinkling Stubb Road, Martham Collins Lane, North Walsham and Norwich central. In addition, the work includes a technical modification at 1 of the existing local DAB sites. The upgrade is expected to be completed this summer.

As a result the local DAB upgrade is expected to provide digital radio coverage to an additional 93,353 households and 230km roads in Norfolk.

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Ofcom's detailed maps outlining the improvement to local DAB network coverage across the UK, including in Norfolk at:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/coverage/dab-coverage-plans/>

The services currently broadcasting on the Norfolk local DAB Multiplex include:

- BBC Radio Norfolk
- Capital
- Gold
- Heart Norfolk
- Smooth Norfolk

BBC national DAB network expansion in Norfolk

Separately the BBC is rolling out its national DAB network to a further 162 transmitter sites across the country. The BBC's programme to extend its national DAB network is expected to be completed in early 2016 and includes new DAB transmitters at the following sites in Norfolk: Brandon, Burnham, Dereham, Downham Market, Fakenham, Heacham, King's Lynn, North Walsham, Swaffham, Thetford and Wells-next-the-Sea.

Norfolk small scale DAB multiplex

There is a small scale DAB trial multiplex operating in Norwich with 8 small stations broadcasting on DAB: Future Radio, Norwich 99.9, CDN, Solar Radio, Jazz FM, Totallyradio, Radio Caroline and Future Plus.

7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – One member of the public simply wished to reiterate their objection to the Planning Application in relation to 39 New Road, Blakeney.

8. PLANNING –

PF = Full Planning Permission

PM = Planning Permission – Reserved Matters

LA = Alteration to Listed Building

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- i) Application No. **PF/15/1898** – *Proposal; Erection of two-storey dwelling and detached garage at, **Land at front of The Orchard, 39 New Road, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we object to this application for the following reasons;*

CT 1 – Open Space Designation – Open Land Areas

The policy states that development will not be permitted except where it enhances the open character or recreational use of the land. By no stretch of the imagination does this application 'enhance' this Open Space area. Therefore this application is contravenes policy CT1 and the application should be refused.

EN 1 – Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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The policy states that the impact of individual proposals, and their cumulative effect on the Norfolk Coast AONB will be carefully assessed and that development proposals which have an adverse effect and which will be significantly detrimental to the special qualities of the Norfolk Coast AONB and their settings will not be permitted. This application will have an adverse effect within the area, which is highly valued by residents and visitors alike. Therefore the high priority in terms of protection should be given to this landscape character, which forms a large part of the local village identity. Therefore this application should be refused.

EN 2 – Protection and Enhancement of Landscape and Settlement Character

The policy states that development proposals should demonstrate that their location, scale, design and materials will protect, conserve and where possible, enhance the landscape setting. Any development on this open land would have detrimental effect upon the character and appearance of this Conservation Area, hence another reason this application should be refused.

EN 8 – Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment

The policy states that development proposals should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the designated asset, in this case the Conservation Area, and that development which would have an adverse impact on their special historic or architectural interest will not be permitted.

NNDC Refusal – Application No. PF/15/0483

Attention must also be drawn to the previous application for a similar development on the same designated Open Space site. The main difference being that it was proposing the access be off Little Lane due to its precise location on the plot. NNDC refused this application for a number of reasons, including the policy numbers to which we have referred. Nothing in relation to the NNDC adopted policies, which are in place for protection of specially designated areas has changed. Therefore the previous decision for refusal should be continued to this application.

Planning Application No. 01/980409/PF

The decision notice dated 11th June 1998 in relation to this planning application has 7 conditions attached to it. One being; *Notwithstanding the provision of Part 1, classes A and E or of Part 2, Class A of Schedule 2, of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, (or any Order revoking, amending or re-enacting that Order) no enlargement or, alterations to the dwelling and cart shed/garage hereby permitted shall be undertaken and no buildings, structures or means of enclosure within the curtilage of the dwelling shall be erected unless planning permission is first granted by the Local Planning Authority.*

Precedent

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We would have grave concern that to approve this application would set a precedent for further development within the area defined as Open Space which is such an important part of the Conservation Area.

Earthworks already undertaken

As has been mentioned in various email correspondence, we are very concerned at the vast amount of earthworks which have already taken place on this site, and the amount of material which has been brought in, and hedging and planting which is all new to this designated Open Space, all of which has been engineered to break the open area up visually.

We note the comment from Nicola Baker, in which she says that following a site visit, it is clear that a significant amount of topsoil has been brought onto site, of a such a scale to be considered to constitute an engineering operation which requires planning permission, and that the owner of the site will be informed that a (now retrospective) planning application is necessary if the works are to be retained.

We would ask that the members of the Development Committee therefore refuse this application outright.

- ii) Application No. **PF/16/0091** – *Proposal; Erection of 3 dormer extensions to front, 1 dormer extension and 1 roof light to rear, and 1 first floor window to each side elevation at, **30 The Pastures, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection.*
- iii) Application No. **PF/16/0138** – *Proposal; Erection of first floor extension to garage and one and a half storey extension to rear at, **Tern Cottage, 1 Pintail Drive, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection.*
- iv) Application No. **PF/16/0173** – *Proposal; Variation of condition 2 of 14/1658 to allow erection of detached car port and increase in width of utility room to plot 3 at, **Land adj. Poppyland, Back Lane, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection.*
- v) Application No. **AI/16/0079** – *Proposal; Illumination of existing hanging sign at, **The White Horse Hotel, 4 High Street, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection.*
- vi) NNDC and the preparation of the new **North Norfolk Local Plan;** Asking for sites to be put forward in the parish which may then be considered for future development, known as the 'Call for Sites'. In response to the Parish Councils question, NNDC have confirmed that they would like the Parish Council to suggest sites for affordable housing, general market housing and any other uses. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no sites to put forward.

- vii) To aid with discussions regarding the development of the **Memorial Cottages Site**, ie. Affordable Housing for Local People, the following were ***proposed & agreed***. i) That we look to build 1 x bungalow at the front and 2 x 2 bedroom houses at the rear, (to see if this is feasible) if this is not acceptable, then we look to build 2 x 2 bedroom bungalows, one at the front and one at the rear, ii) That we adopt the 'Technical Standards for floor areas', (which means that the bedroom sizes should be equal) iii) To design the new properties as an open plan area for the sitting room, dining room and kitchen area, iv) Behind the War Memorial keep this area as blank and unobtrusive as possible, v) Use flint so as to match the existing Memorial Cottages.

There was a question over whether further conversations could be undertaken by a smaller number of members. The Clerk reminded members that the War Memorial Cottages Trust, is a registered charity made up of Trustees, as opposed to being a committee. Legal advice in the past has stated that the day to day administration can be undertaken by the Trustees alone, so long as the whole Parish Council has agreed this.

9. FINANCE

9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that **Accounts** totalling £9277.64 are paid.

9.2. The **Clerk/RFO** gave the up to date balances held and the figures for both the Carnser and Coronation Car Parks.

9.3. Having received information and feedback on various options to address the issue of the recurring hole at the entrance to the **Carnser Car Park**, including 'Greencrete' (concrete square blocks), 'Grassform Geogrid' (plastic) and a continuation of the concrete/ashphalt, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we ask NCC to provide us with an up to date quote to extend the current area into what would have been Option 2 (as per the options/quotes dated 07/06/2012) and that we also ask Simon Strong to provide us with a quote. (This would take the area to a depth of 9.5m and it would have a tar and chip hand layered finish with a gradual drop down to a surface level with the surrounding gravel.)

9.4. Having obtained comparison information for **Marquee Hire** in relation to our own 2 marquees, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we amend the wording in point 1 of our lettings policy, to read as follows; *Local organisations and private users can use the marquee and will be asked to make a donation (the figure to be determined by themselves) and they must leave a £200 (cheque) refundable deposit, which will be refunded in full, so long as no damage has occurred to the marquee.*

9.5. Comparable rents (both Social and Affordable) in relation to the two **Memorial Cottages** had been received from Victory Housing, Broadland

Housing and Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society and were discussed. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we keep our monthly fee (rent) as it is, ie. £92.00.

10. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

10.1. Nominations for the Community Representatives to serve the **Norfolk Coast Partnership AONB** were received. 5 nominations to be made from 6 candidates. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we look for a wide geographical coverage and that we vote for; Andrew Murray, Clive Wakes-Miller, Ian Shepherd, Terry Brown & Keith Harrison.

10.2. Members received a written report from the **Village Hall Trust** meeting which was held on 16th February 2016.

10.3. Members received a verbal report from Rosemary Thew, having attended the **North Norfolk Tourism** overview and Management Forum Meeting at Cromer on Monday 22nd February, as well as a copy of the minutes which had recently been received. Topics discussed were; Second Homes Council Tax, Affordable Homes (Allocation & Right to Buy), NNDC Property Investment Strategy (Establishment of Property Company), NNDC Car Park charge increases and Neighbourhood Plans. The meeting asked for volunteers to put themselves forward to form a smaller group to consider the way to take the issues and concerns of the meeting forward to the relevant people and official bodies. Rosemary Thew kindly volunteered to be part of this.

11. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – To please include an item on the April agenda to facilitate a general discussion with regard recent planning decisions made by North Norfolk District Council.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12.1. Having looked at the **Community Honours** scheme for Holt, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that whilst it is a good idea in principle, we will not take this scheme forward in Blakeney.

12.2. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we will not light a 'Beacon' on 21st April 2016 as part of the **Queen's Birthday Celebrations**.

Admission of The Public and Press to Meetings

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, (4 items below) it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.'

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- i) A letter of resignation of the **Seafood & Shellfish Trading Site** by the current holder Mrs Lindy O'Regan with immediate effect, had been received on 29th January 2016. The Clerk had immediately set in action the tender process for this site.
- ii) Two **Tenders for the Seafood & Shellfish Trading Site** had been received; i) Miss Emma Darby & ii) Mr Duncan Groom. It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 abstention) that the tender from Mr Duncan Groom be accepted for the trading period 2016 & 2017.
- iii) John Stevens had written to advise that he no longer wished to continue the role of **Litter Operative** on behalf of the Parish Council after the 29th February 2016. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we thank him for his work and that we approach Trevor Leach and ask that he takes on this role, on a self employed basis, and that we will continue with the same hourly rate of pay, but note that the hours may need to be revisited, the Clerk will liaise as appropriate.
- iv) It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 abstention) that we do not reply to recent articles in the **Glaven Valley Newsletter**.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman _____