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

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Jenny Girling, Samantha Arlow, Margaret Benson, Alban Donohoe, Shirley Everett, Barry Girling, Edward Hackford, Roger Hall, Neil Thompson & Iain Wolfe.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 6.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Barry Girling will be arriving a little late. Wells Police are unable to attend. The Chairman **welcomed** our newly co-opted member; Shirley Everett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST from members – Under the ‘Code of Conduct, Members must declare any disclosable Pecuniary Interests. If such an interest is declared then the member is not permitted to remain in the meeting for said item. They must not take part in the discussion or the voting.

Samantha Arlow declared a pecuniary interest in item no. 13.2. as a current Trading Site holder.

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

3.1. FULL COUNCIL – Tuesday 4th October 2016.

3.2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Wednesday 5th October 2016.

3.3. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Monday 10th October 2016.

4. GUESTS –

4.1. **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** – Report submitted in their absence; Since the last meeting on 4th October, there have been no recorded crimes in the parish. However, there have been some reported suspicious vehicles in the North Norfolk area recently, especially at Quays and as you may already be aware there were 2 outboard engines worth £9,000 in total taken from close to Beach Road in Cley. Any suspicious vehicles should be reported to the Police via the 101 non emergency number.

5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- Sincere thanks to everyone involved with the Bonfire & Fireworks event.
- All welcome to attend the Memorial Events on 11th & 13th November, when wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Parish Council.

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS –

Barry Girling arrived.

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

NNDC: Steve Blatch & Nick Baker are jointly responsible in the interim for leading NNDC since the departure of the CEO Sheila Oxtoby, who has now left. Duncan Ellis is responsible in the interim for the financial leadership since the departure of the previous Finance Director.

Local Plan:

1. The Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party are currently visiting the 'call for sites' responses to ascertain their viability for inclusion in the Local Plan. This work is ongoing.
2. The Sustainability Appraisal is currently underway and responses are requested from local communities (10th October – 21st November). The full report can be found on NNDC website and residents are encouraged to review the section relating to Housing, as this will shape future development in the Glaven Valley.

Open Consultations:

1. Wind farms:
 - Hornsea 3 by Dong – Community Consultation Events are being held from 31st October to 9th November at various locations. Details available on NNDC website.
 - Public Inquiry – on shore wind turbines at Holt and Bodham starting 22nd November. Full details available online.
2. BT Phone Box Removals. The deadline for response to NNDC is the 30th November. 73 phone boxes have been identified for removal across North Norfolk. Notices have been put up in the phone boxes effected.
3. A148 Holt Bypass Roundabout – work to commence on 5th December for 5 weeks. Stakeholder consultation at Holt Community Centre on 9th November from 9am to 1pm.

Planning Enforcement: In recent months, NNDC has strengthened its enforcement capability, as it was recognised that past performance had not been good enough. A Combined Enforcement Team headed by William Abe is now up and running and we are experiencing much better response times. The team has been conducted three enforcement visits in the last month in Blakeney. This has been welcomed by residents who have notified NNDC of potential breaches of planning.

Conversations are ongoing at: **The Pastures** – Residents notified NNDC that a fence was being erected on land owned by The Blakeney Hotel and appeared to be

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in breach of the CT1 Open Space Designation for the Pastures. An Enforcement Officer attended within 24 hours. The fence and signage were found to be permissible under Permitted Development rights.

The Acreage – NNDC received several complaints that activity was taking place on the site without planning permission or food safety permissions. An enforcement visit was made and the owner has been notified in writing of breaches found and has until the 14th November to respond.

Queen's Close – After complaints to NNDC about garden buildings being used for purposes different to those allowed under the planning permission an enforcement visit has been conducted.

And in other news...

The Big Society Fund – still has funds to distribute. Details of criteria available on the NNDC website.

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

Parking on Pavements - Parking on pavements and obstructing pedestrians particularly those with physical problems has been cause for strong debate over many months. Members of the public who attended a recent meeting received reassurance from Inspector Chris Stevens that action can and will be taken by Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers. I followed this up with another meeting with the Inspector and am now able to offer you the following details.

Wells Division is covered by the police stations at Holt, Fakenham and Wells. Police Inspector Chris Stevens is in charge of these stations and has given me his assurance that all Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers from these stations are aware of the Constabulary's position on obstruction of the highway (see below) and will take appropriate action.

I now know there are two categories of obstruction. The offence of wilful obstruction, usually seen when a vehicle totally blocks the pavement, and unnecessary obstruction, that is half on half off the pavement. Both can be dealt with by means of a Traffic Offence Report known as a TOR.

Whilst half on, half off a pavement is normally unnecessary obstruction it would move into wilful obstruction if a wheel chair/motor scooter could not pass. The expectation for an offence of wilful obstruction would be the removal of the offending vehicle if the officer considered such action necessary.

Both Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers can issue a TOR - which is a report to central ticketing where the decision makers in that department decide whether the matter can be dealt with by means of a fine or by attendance at an educational driving course.

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Parking across a driveway, where a vehicle is unable to access or leave a property, would fall into the category of unnecessary obstruction – providing the parking obstructs to an extent where a vehicle is unable to pass, not simply making it difficult to pass.

Officers seeing any obstruction offence will issue a TOR or if considered necessary arrange for the removal of the offending vehicle. Members of the public should report offences by telephoning 101 and can ask for feedback from their call. Whilst I am assured that a case of a real emergency caused say by blocking an ambulance would be seen as urgent everyone will understand that serious crimes will take precedence over parking offences.

I would add that following previous debates as to what constitutes unnecessary obstruction I was given the code of practice regarding 'Safety at Street Works and Road Works' laid down by the Secretary of State for Transport which reads: Safe routes for pedestrians should always provide a minimum unobstructed width of 1 metre, increased wherever possible to 1.5 metres or more. Personally I like the idea of specific measurements, however, whilst there is not a similar code for the police I trust the clear statement that half on, half off a pavement would be an unnecessary obstruction and would move into wilful if a wheel chair/motor scooter could not pass will prove adequate information to motorists.

Devolution - The Devolution saga has moved along in what has become its own inimitable style despite which I endeavor to keep my mind open to the potential benefits of devolution. The latest news may come as a surprise to you. In brief Sculthorpe residents, because they live in Broadland, will be able to vote for a mayor – not so we who live in North Norfolk. This is because some Norfolk district and borough councils voted to proceed with a consultation on devolution, others not. I have written a letter which asks our MPs to ensure this democratic deficit is removed. If not the mayor, who will have extraordinary powers, must surely come from Suffolk. Norfolk County Council is supposed to have a final vote as to accepting devolution or not on Monday 21 November. However once I have sent this piece off to the Chronicle I must prepare my notes and questions for an additional meeting which will take place on Monday 7 November – with the intention the EDP informs me for councillors to vote on whether or not to give the council leader power to continue with the prospect of devolution. Additionally Minister of State for Local Government Sajid Javid has visited Norfolk and Suffolk, meeting the leaders of the two counties separately. Is Suffolk to be offered a separate deal is another question to be asked.

7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION –

- Residents on **Morston Road**, continue to be unhappy with the thoughtless parking outside the Greencroft Development by the contractors. *(Clerk confirmed that this had been conveyed to the Police, whose advice is to report any such concerns via the non emergency 101 number and take a photo if you can! PCSOs can also deal with these instances.)*

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- What are NNDC doing about the cars parked on **The Pastures** on the strip of grass deliberately left unfenced by The Blakeney Hotel, which would appear to be a breach of planning as opposed to something The Trustees of The Pastures should have to deal with?
- Withdraw the application for the **Memorial Cottages** site, rather than appeal, and resubmit an application for just the two cottages at the rear of the site.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS -

PF = Full Planning Permission

PM = Planning Permission – Reserved Matters

LA = Alteration to Listed Building

- i) Application No. **PO/16/1050** – *Proposal; Demolition of bungalow and erection of four semi-detached houses at, **Wentwood, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we object to this application for a number of reasons. We have serious concerns over the access, not only for the proposed development itself, but for the existing adjacent users of the shared driveway and the movement of the lorries and associated machinery, materials and traffic which would be brought onto this site. We also consider that this plot which currently has one property on it, and therefore traffic associated with only one home, would be seriously over developed if 4 properties with the associated traffic were permitted. There have been serious problems with regard the traffic parked outside the Greencroft development on Morston Road, which have lead to many complaints about highway safety from the public, and we would have the same concerns with regard this proposal. We also have concerns over servicing the property in terms of refuse collection, as the curtilage could not take 8 wheelie bins at any one time. We note the comments from the Highways Officer, that in order to address this visibility splay, it would require the removal of significant planting, which currently sits within the highway boundary and which extends back from the carriageway edge by some distant. In addition we note other comments as raised by neighbours objecting to this application.*
- ii) Application No. **PF/16/1417** – *Proposal; Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling at, **8 Wiveton Road, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed*** that we support this application on the provision that there are no retrospective amendments. With 4 in favour and 6 against, this *proposal was not carried*. It was therefore ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection to this application upon condition that the materials used are not then changed retrospectively.*
- iii) Update received from SMG Architects following the correspondence from NNDC Planning Officer advising that he would be recommending

refusal of our planning application no. **PF/16/1144** erection of 4 dwellings (1 x detached single-storey & 2 x one and a half storey) at, **Memorial Cottages, New Road, Blakeney** unless we wished to withdraw it and address the concerns raised. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we withdraw this application and that we submit a new application for just the two properties at the rear of the plot and ensure that we confirm that they are to be only for affordable social housing.

- iv) *To receive & consider* information on 'Village Greens', and to consider whether or not to ask The Trustees of **The Pastures** to consider registering the land as a 'Village Green'. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we take some advice on this, and if appropriate, then BPC should make the application.
- v) Members were in receipt of the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which will form part of the emerging North Norfolk **Local Plan 2016 – 2036**, noted.

9. FINANCE

- 9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that **Accounts** totalling £9,415.93 are paid.
- 9.2. The **Clerk/RFO Report** gave the up to date cashbook figures and car park income.
- 9.3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we join the **Open Spaces Society** for an annual membership fee of £45.00.
- 9.4. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we put in a request to install a 'trod' at the bottom of Back Lane, via the **Highways Partnership Funding Scheme** and that the Parish Council takes on the cutting of this area.
- 9.5. Members noted and agreed the decision of **The Personnel Committee** with regard Pension Provision.

10. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

- 10.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that Shirley Everett fills the one remaining Parish Councillor vacancy on **The Trustees of The Pastures**.
- 10.2. Members were in receipt of the minutes from the most recent meeting of the **Joint Management Group of The Dinghy Park Committee** and Rosemary Thew will attend the next meeting.

11. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – There were none.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12.1. It was **proposed & agreed** that we are happy to approve the request to take some graft wood for propagation from a Beech Tree on **The Pastures** and that we ask David Gillett to oversee this on our behalf, and we would ask Mr Donovan Leaman if he would kindly keep us informed as to its progress.

Having declared a pecuniary interest earlier, Cllr Samantha Arlow left the meeting.

12.2. It was **proposed & agreed** that the contracts for the next trading period are amended as follows, ahead of the imminent advertising of the three **Trading Sites** on The Carnser, ie. Teas & Refreshments, Seafood, Art & Crafts – i) Contract period to be 1st April 2018 to 31st October 2021, ii) That the Seafood site may sell hot drinks (*with 5 in favour & 5 against, this was carried on the chairman's casting vote.*), iii) Advertised as previously, but to include our Facebook page and The Quay Magazine, as we should meet the deadline. It was **proposed & agreed** that the sites remain in their respective places and that we do not allow flexibility to move them depending upon the unit used by the businesses when the time comes.

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

- 1) Application **PF/16/0871** – Proposal; Demolition of dwelling and barns and erection of two and a half storey dwelling at, **Three Owls Farm, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney**. This application has been withdrawn.
- 2) Application **PF/16/0827** – Proposal; Raise Midstrey gable by 300mm and lower westerly third of main house ridge by 300mm at, **Three Owls Farm, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney**. This application has been withdrawn.
- 3) Application **LA/16/1214** – Proposal; Installation of replacement windows at, **102 High Street, Blakeney**. Consent given.
- 4) Application **PF/16/1151** – Proposal; Single storey side and rear extension (part retrospective) at, **6 Harbour Way, Blakeney**. Consent given.
- 5) Application **PF/16/0138** – Proposal; Erection of first floor extension to garage and one and a half storey rear extension at, **Tern Cottage, 1 Pintail Drive, Blakeney**. Consent given.
- 6) Application **PF/16/1126** – Proposal; Erection of detached two and a half storey dwelling with detached annexe and internal garage at, **Michaelmas Cottage, 1 Langham Road, Blakeney**. Consent given subject to a number of conditions.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman _____