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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 3rd May 2016** following the AGM.

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

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 3.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Andrew Wells (District Cllr), has submitted a report in his absence.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** from members – Tony Faulkner declared a pecuniary interest in item no. 8.2. (planning application for ‘Seashell, Kingsway’) as this application has been submitted by his wife.
3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **MINUTES** of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th April 2016 are signed as a true record.
4. **GUESTS** – **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** had sent apologies earlier in the day, and had hoped to send a report, although nothing had been received.
5. **CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS** –
 - We have been advised by North Norfolk District Council that no election has been called following the resignation of Glenn Aikens, hence we are to action our co-option procedures. Therefore this vacancy has been advertised with a closing date of Friday 27th May and we will be looking to co-opt our new member on Tuesday 7th June.
 - A former Councillor had written to the Chairman to say that they were disappointed that Blakeney did nothing to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday. The Chairman had replied (gave the Clerk a copy of both letters) and advised that the Parish Council did discuss this, however, on this occasion it was agreed that too little notice had been given, (particularly for the April event) and that we had contacted the Parochial Church Council also. We hope everyone will remember the events which spanned 4 days for the Queen’s Jubilee in 2012.
6. **COUNCILLOR REPORTS** –
 - 6.1. **District Councillor** - Andrew Wells. Dr. Marie Strong read the following report as written by Andrew on his behalf as requested by him.

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The Pastures/Enforcement issues - Nicola Baker has confirmed that she will be taking responsibility for the enforcement process on the Pastures site in Blakeney. However, given the continued shortage of planning enforcement officers at NNDC, I'm afraid it doesn't surprise me that the update on progress I had requested in advance of the meeting tonight hasn't arrived. I raised the problems of enforcement staffing with the Chief Exec this morning, and she confirmed that extra funding has now been agreed to support priority enforcement cases being handed over to an external planning consultancy to tackle delays, and if I don't see some progress in the next few days I will ask officers to consider this case for contracting out.

Disabled facilities grants - I reported at the last meeting that I had discovered delays of up to a year in processing applications for housing adaptations for people suffering from disabilities. NNDC had agreed to review the service together with NCC Adult Social Services to identify ways to address the problem. Officers at the two councils have now agreed - in principle - those parts of the application process where changes are needed, and I am hoping the practical details of the changes will be agreed in the coming weeks. The current situation is disgraceful, so changes can't come soon enough.

Devolution - I proposed a motion at NNDC's recent full council criticising proposals for an elected mayor for the East of England with powers to overrule local councils on issues like planning and transport investment, and also demanding more clarity on the financial details of how the proposed transfer of central government responsibilities to local councils could work. An amended motion was passed, with unanimous Conservative support. Many other Norfolk councils have now passed similar motions - we can only hope that the message will be heard in Whitehall.

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

Adults at Risk of Abuse - If someone you know is being abused call NCC Adult Social Services on 0344 800 8020 (24 hours a day); text 07767 647670; email SCCE@norfolk.gov.uk; online.norfolk.gov.uk/socialcareenquiry. (You can also use these contacts if you are worried about a child). For more information see www.norfolk.gov.uk/speakup. In an emergency call the police on 999.

Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) - BBfN is officially ahead of all Broadband Delivery United Kingdom (BDUK) projects; it has exceeded the projected number of properties with access to super fast broadband (24Mbps); contract one was completed early and came in under budget - which will benefit the second stage. A number of parishes will have been made aware they are due for an upgrade to fibre some time this year. However please know that I am aware that there are residents who wait with understandable interest as to BBfN progress and I offer the following update:

BBfN has almost doubled coverage in Norfolk enabling fibre broadband to over 80% of properties; based on £5.3 million take-up rebate and assuming all district councils confirmed the allocations they have made, thereby attracting Government match funding, then coverage is expected to increase to 95%. Underspend from contract one will further increase coverage. However there will remain a few percent of

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Norfolk properties without fibre because they would be the very hardest and most expensive to reach. The Government is aware that a small percentage of properties, across the country, might not obtain good broadband speeds via current technologies and therefore have work underway regarding alternative, new, viable technologies. With this knowledge at a recent meeting at county I received cross-party and unanimous agreement for an allocation of £500,000 capital to be used in the future to address with new technology some if not all of the remaining properties. (Next month I will offer information regarding mobile 'phone provision).

No Cold Calling - The new web link for information on No Cold Calling Zones is www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/trading-standards/consumer-advice/no-cold-calling-zones It still contains guidance on the scheme and links to the online application form. Existing zones can be located via the 'where I live' site www.whereilive.norfolk.gov.uk/. I have also supplied the PC with a list NCC has available for genuine businesses which details where all of Norfolk's existing zones are located.

Devolution – Government's Proposal for East Anglia - This is a fast moving situation and much will have changed by the time you read this edition but in brief - Details of the draft 'deal' from the Government to East Anglia (which constitutes 22 county, city, borough and district councils) can be found on NCC website supplementary agenda to the Policy & Resources Committee (21 March '16). Discussion was then taken to full council on 11 April (recording available on NCC website). After extensive debate the only conclusion reached was that the Leader and Chief Executive should continue to take part in discussions. In general county councillors accept there are important benefits of powers being devolved; at the same time there is insistence that any devolved powers must be accompanied by sufficient and new money; there is also considerable concern as to the appointment of a mayor for the whole of East Anglia. What I can assure you is that there will be a public statutory consultation before the deal comes back to the council for a final decision on the part of Norfolk County Council. And that on the assumption a major will go ahead there will be elections in May 2017.

Norfolk County Council Planning Authority - People are more familiar with the district council's responsibility for planning on which the county council is a consultee regarding highways aspects. However the county is responsible for all elements of minerals and waste planning and for determining planning applications for county council developments such as Schools, Libraries and fire stations. The extent of the work regarding waste and mineral extraction is considerable and further details can be found at:

[http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/Minerals and Waste planning policy/index.htm](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/Minerals_and_Waste_planning_policy/index.htm)

Post Offices - Hindringham and Walsingham, along with neighbouring villages, should have seen the start of a mobile Post Office service. The vehicle for Walsingham will be situated close to the Village Hall on Wednesdays 10-11.30 and for Hindringham close to the Pavillion on Wednesdays 11.45-12.45. There will be a

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six week local public consultation regarding the locations, proposed days and opening hours.

7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION –

- In relation to item 8.3. on the agenda – Just a reminder that Little Lane is widely used by pedestrians.
- In relation to item 8.5 on the agenda – Would prefer the new development to be called ‘Greencroft’ as opposed to ‘North Side’.
- In relation to item 10.3 on the agenda – The BMX track must go ahead, this Parish Council will lose much credibility if it doesn’t. Lots of money has been raised. I, (Louise Leonard) was one of the original committee members, and hence I know how much hard work and time has gone into this. I do not understand why the Parish Council is even considering not proceeding with this project.

8. PLANNING – The following Applications were considered:-

PF = Full Planning Permission

PM = Planning Permission – Reserved Matters

LA = Alteration to Listed Building

- i) Application No. **LA/16/0352** – *Proposal; Replacement of new timber windows to front of building at, **Corner Cottage, 9 High Street, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we support this application.*

Tony Faulkner had declared a pecuniary interest and therefore left the meeting for the discussion and voting of the following item and was called back to the meeting after.

- ii) Application No. **PF/16/0388** – *Proposal; Erection of single storey extensions to front, side and rear and roof alternations to rear of dwelling at, **Seashell, 9 Kingsway, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 abstention) that we have no objection.*
- iii) Amended Application No. **PF/15/1847** – *Proposal; Demolition of detached dwelling and erection of 2 detached two and half-storey dwellings with associated garages at, **Michaelmas Cottage, 1 Langham Road, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we object as we feel that i) This would result in over development of the site and ii) We still have concerns with regard access to and from the site, in that the access point for additional vehicle movements to and from this site onto the B1156, Langham Road, which is defined as a main distributor route so close to the junction of the A149, raises concerns due to visibility and safety issues. The drawings as just received by us*

for consideration appear to be very misleading. On PLO1 Rev. E, it shows a purple bar running the length of Langham Road would appear to suggest that there is clear visibility all the way up from this property and/or that the applicant could clear back neighbouring boundary hedging etc to make this happen, at quick glance some could possibly think this looks like an existing footpath. This is not the case, and we would urge that this is looked at during a site visit. We also have concerns over this development will have on the remaining hedges and trees on this site.

- iv) *To note* that the applicants have launched an **appeal** against refusal to The Planning Inspectorate for the original planning application no. **PF/15/0483**. Those wishing to add to their original comments must contact the **Planning Inspectorate** by 24th May 2016. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no additional comments.

(Application No. **PF/15/1898** – *Proposal; Erection of two-storey dwelling and detached garage at, Land at front of 39 New Road, Blakeney. NNDC: Refused. This being the second application.*)

- v) It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **New Street Name** for the new development at the site formerly known as 'Greencroft House', should be 'The Chase', named after the former long standing family, as opposed to the developer's suggestions of 'Greencroft' or 'North Side'.

9. FINANCE

- 9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **Accounts** totalling £9,076.33 are paid.

9.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** – Up to date figures were presented for the Carnser Car Park 2015/16 = £64,723.30 net, and Coronation Car Park = £15,916.40 net. The Clerk also advised that Keith Morley, one of the Car Park Attendants had found himself having to give his immediate resignation on the 12th April due to personal circumstances. Clive Warnes and David Long, (remaining attendants) have absorbed these hours, taking us back to our traditional number of 2 attendants. A letter of thanks had already been sent to Keith, and the Chairman will send a personal one from the Council also.

10. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

10.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we support the **North Norfolk Town & Parish Forum** initiative in relation to second homes council tax, which is to raise the matter of the administration of the tax with central government and to confirm that we are sympathetic with the aims of the forum.

10.2. Neil Thompson gave a verbal summary following the AGM of the **Blakeney Harbour Association** which was held on 15th April.

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10.3. Members received an update with regard the installation of the **BMX Track** following the site visit with Dave Turner from D.T. Leisure, who has given a start date of 27th June, subject to ground conditions. (The delays have been due to very exceptional, life threatening circumstances.) It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we continue with this project.

11. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – must be given to the Chairman & Clerk 3 clear working days prior to the meeting. None received at time of print. (No items requiring a decision will be discussed under this heading.)

Edward Hackford had submitted 3 questions as per the Standing Order requirements;

- The first requesting that the proposals regarding the mobile phone infrastructure were able to be discussed, although Phil Wright was no longer attending. (*This was discussed by members at the start of the AGM.*)
- How should the Council respond to any default on the grass cutting contract? (*The Clerk advised truthfully, ie. breakdown with machinery and a member of the staff then on annual leave, and that this was the first blip in an otherwise exemplary service period.*) The members asked that Norse be asked to come out and clear the site and collect the grass, as the first 2 cuts of the season had been missed and to also ask about what contingencies they have in place to prevent this from happening again.
- Is the Council contractually bound to the building of the BMX track, bearing in mind the delays on the completion of the works? If not can this project be reconsidered? (*This item was discussed in great detail at item 10.3. and the Clerk had given members a 2 page factual report, which advised on a number of matters including that there was no binding contract in place and that yes it could be reconsidered, however the members were also reminded that a full public consultation had taken place, the planning permission was in place, as was the funding.*)

12. CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing received.

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

Application No. **PF/15/1540** – *Proposal; Proposed overflow car parking area for The Blakeney Hotel on The Pastures, Blakeney. NNDC: REFUSED.*

Application No. **PF/15/1898** – *Proposal; Erection of two-storey dwelling and detached garage at, Land at front of 39 New Road, Blakeney. NNDC: REFUSED.*

Meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Chairman _____