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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 4th April 2017** commencing at **7.00pm in the Parish Office.**

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice-Chairman), Samantha Arlow, Alban Donohoe, Shirley Everett, Barry Girling, Edward Hackford, Roger Hall, Neil Thompson and Iain Wolfe. Also County Cllr, Dr. Marie Strong.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 7.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received from District Cllr Karen Ward, attending a meeting in London.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were none.
- 3.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **MINUTES** of the FULL COUNCIL – Tuesday 7th March 2017 are signed as a true record.
- 4. GUESTS** – Report read on behalf of **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** as they were unable to attend. Since the last meeting on 7th March, there has been 1 call into the Police in relation to vehicle parking on Langham Road, which we are keeping an eye on, and 1 alarm activation which turned out to be a false alarm. There has been no recorded crime of this date. Residents are reminded to remain vigilant for Hare Coursers and any suspicious vehicle activity within the hours of darkness.
- 5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** – We have received a letter of **resignation from Margaret Benson** (dated 14th March 2017, having served as a member for 8 years), NNDC have been notified and we are therefore currently advertising a Casual Vacancy. Anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk.
- 6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS** –

6.1. **District Councillor** - Karen Ward had sent the following as a written report.

NNDC General: We are now in the period known as 'Purdah' ahead of the County Council Elections on May 4th 2017. This means the communication from NNDC is restricted and actively monitored to ensure no political advantage is gained by the ruling Cabinet. A by-election for Holt ward on the District Council will also take place on 4th May. This is as a result of the retirement of District Councillor Philip High. If you need information on any aspect of Council business, please let me know and I will do my best to get you what you need.

Business & Skills events are being organised by the Economic Growth Team for anyone wanting to set up or expand a business in North Norfolk. A range of advice from funding opportunities to apprenticeships is on offer. Please contact the team on economic-growth@north-norfolk.gov.uk for further advice. There is a regular newsletter which can be signed up for at www.genix.org.uk

Planning & Enforcement: Changes to the Planning System: On 1st April 2017, the new paperless planning system came into force. All planning applications will now be sent electronically to Parish Clerks who will circulate them to the Parish Councillors. Details are available on all applications online for any member of the public to review and add their comments. This is to enable NNDC to meet the new shortened planning deadlines set by Central Government and to enable Councillors and the public to view all comments on applications in real time.

On 1st May 2017, there will be a new system for **Pre-application advice** in force. Anyone who wishes to discuss a planning application will need to register with NNDC and any advice provided will be provided in writing, made public and available on the NNDC website. This is to increase the transparency of any communication between NNDC and potential applicants and ensure that the public are fully aware of any planning discussions for their local area.

The Pastures – The Blakeney Hotel are finalising their planning applications for internal alterations to some of their rooms, as, in the interests of transparency, they wanted this information to be in the public domain before mediation began. Due to planning regulations any additional bedrooms at the hotel require additional parking provision, so these applications are material to the proposed mediation.

8 Wiveton Road – The Judicial Review is still in progress and we are still awaiting a decision from the Judge. No work can take place in the meantime

8 Langham Road – I worked with the Planning Officer after representation from the applicant to ensure additional review of this application. After additional consideration, this application was refused by NNDC due to overdevelopment of the site and overbearing on the bungalow to the north of the property and loss of light. This application had not materially changed from the initial application submitted. A less substantive property on the site would have a greater chance of meeting planning regulations. This decision was consistent with other similar applications decided in recent months, due to the relation of this application to its surrounding neighbours.

Field on Morston Road – After reports of building materials being deposited on the site, several members of the public contacted NNDC Enforcement who responded quickly. After NNDC contact with the owner, it was confirmed that it was a temporary measure to enable building materials from another project to be collected and removed from site. No enforcement breach took place and the site was cleared within the timescales required.

The Acreage – The applicant was advised that the Planning Application would be refused as it breached a number of planning guidelines and the applicant withdrew the plans. Enforcement action has continued and a Planning Contravention Notice was served on 16th March 2017 and the owner has 21 days to comply with the notice. I will follow up with the Enforcement Team at the end of this week to see what response they have had from the applicant and I will send an update.

Parking in Queen's Close – Residents have been in contact with me following news that Victory Housing are planning to restrict access to a grassed area in front of a number of properties where parking is a longstanding custom and practice. This, in combination with the sale of the garages and hardstanding, could make parking in

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the area very problematic. I am in consultation with Victory Housing to find a better solution.

Building Control – After last month’s meeting, I followed up the question about Building Control inspections on development sites. Applicants do not have to use NNDC Building Control team, so it does not automatically follow that developments which are contrary to planning applications will be flagged up to NNDC Enforcement through Building Control inspections. I would therefore encourage local residents who are concerned about development which they believe is at risk of contravening planning permission to contact the Enforcement Team at NNDC and also to let me know so I can follow it up. Timely response is critical in these situations.

Other matters: Community Housing Funding for Affordable Homes. Great news – NNDC have been awarded the second tranche of funds for 2017/2018 which brings the total to £2.4 million. Blakeney Parish Council and Blakeney Housing Association will now work with NNDC to pursue local schemes which will be able to benefit from these funds.

Friends of North Norfolk held a meeting with NNDC to discuss performance issues with Planning and Enforcement on 28th March. This was a frank, but positive exchange of views. NNDC have agreed to commission a Conservation review, which will update the information on sensitive sites across the Glaven Valley. This will sit alongside the revised Local Plan and can inform any Neighbourhood plan which might be developed. It was also agreed that Sarah Ashurst, Planning Manager, would act as a point of contact for FNN on sensitive applications to ensure accurate information was provided. She is leading the efforts to improve transparency of the Planning process at NNDC.

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

It has truly been a pleasure and privilege to serve the residents of Blakeney for the past eight years. My commitment to you remains as strong as ever, therefore, as you know I have agreed to stand again in the election on Thursday 4 May 2017.

Forgive me if some of the items are repeats but some, like Avian Influenza, are an update.

Representing Residents: Apart from regularly attending Wells Town Council and my other nineteen council meetings I thought you might be interested in the range of committees and working groups on which I have represented you during this last county administration: Chair of the Broadband, Mobile ‘Phone & Digital Working Group and of the Flood and Coastal Management Working Group; Member of the Policy & Resources Committee, CAG (Constitutional Advisory Group), Personnel Panel, Employment Appeals Panel, Emergency Committee; Norfolk County Council representative and executive member on the County Council Network (CCN), NCC representative on the LGA (Local Government Association) and on the Norfolk Coast Partnership (AONB). I am a member of the North Norfolk Advisory Group and of the Wells Dementia Friendly Committee.

Flooding: Whilst it is only a short time since our coastal parishes were on flood alert it is not only the coast as you know which suffers from flooding. Thus I agreed to

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chair the recent Norfolk Flood Summit. This was quite a challenge involving all major organisations engaged in flooding from rivers, surface water, foul sewers and coastal flooding. Some of you will have experienced the confusion which can arise when you're flooded, as to who is responsible for what. At the end of the summit it was felt, that whilst there is more work to be done, we had moved forward during the Summit in establishing some of the answers and where responsibilities lie.

Mobile Phone Coverage: A little more information on mobile phone coverage: Unlike fixed broadband European State Aid rules mean that only very limited public subsidy can be used to invest in mobile infrastructure. Therefore the provision of mobile infrastructure is largely dependent on commercial investment. As reported previously the main mobile operators in the UK are: EE, O2, Three and Vodafone and whilst some operators now share mast sites coverage in many locations is poor with differing signal strength from different providers. The following Ofcom website provides a postcode checker and access to coverage maps for each of the four providers at postcode level: <http://maps.ofcom.org.uk/check-coverage>. Choosing an operator using this checker means at least at home you should have a satisfactory signal.

100% Mobile Phone Coverage: I have referred previously to the agreement between the government and operators to increase coverage to 90% geographic voice coverage by the end 2017. Whilst I tend to avoid conferences I accepted the request to attend the Digital Divide Conference led by Matthew Hancock MP, the new Minister of State with responsibility for broadband and mobile 'phone connectivity. As well as being able to put forward Norfolk's case to the Minister at the conference I am now waiting a response to my follow up question as to when we might expect 100% coverage in Norfolk!

Road & Transport Improvements: Good news that central government is providing Norfolk County Council with an additional £5.1 million to spend on road and transport improvements in the 2017/18 financial year. The money can be used for a wide range of improvements including, I am pleased to say, upgrading and improving the maintenance of local routes – which are most of the roads in the Wells division.

Parish Partnerships: NCC has awarded £370,362 funding for 136 small highway schemes across Norfolk. In the Wells Division Blakeney was successful gaining £3,500 towards a trod.. This is the sixth year running that funding has been allocated to be matched by town and parish funding. I look forward to the scheme continuing and seeing more applications from the Wells Division. (I personally favour a trod to complete a safe access from the hospital to the Holkham entrance.)

Avian Influenza: The Control Zones restrictions in Suffolk on the border of Norfolk were removed 20 March. Any immediate queries should be directed to NCC Trading Standards: (01603) 224380; jon.peddle@norfolk.gov.uk. General information can be found on: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

- *Concerns expressed over the development at Michaelmas, Langham Road. Is the build in accordance with the plans approved?*
- *Back in October 2016 concern was raised that NNDC were not dealing with retrospective planning applications correctly. 39 New Road & Greencroft on Morston Road were both mentioned. This matter was to be taken up. Not seen an update in the BPC minutes, however, Steve Blatch, via Karen Ward, confirmed that he had conducted a review into this and found that the due process had been correctly followed by NNDC and that the matter was now closed.*
- *Would ask the Parish Council to give their support to the Planning Application for the Outdoor Nursery at The Primary School, especially as we no longer have a Pre-School of any kind in the village.*

8. PLANNING – Applications considered; Also in addition to the report from our District Cllr, if we are definitely now not able to obtain any time extensions for planning applications, then we will either have to reform the Planning Committee or hold additional Full Council meetings as and when the need arises. Confirmation will be given at our AGM on 2nd May. What should be noted, is that every Parish Councillor is now encouraged to view the planning applications online before the meeting, as we will be relying on the technology in the Parish Office on the evening working 100%, and for any number of reasons there are times when it may not, and hence you would not be able to determine a planning application if you have not viewed it.

PF = Full Planning Permission

PM = Planning Permission – Reserved Matters

LA = Alteration to Listed Building

- i) Application No. **PF/17/0399 & LA/17/0400** – *Proposal; Change of use of land to create an outdoor children’s nursery, erection of ancillary buildings including a yurt and storage shed, fencing and re-opening of existing blocked pedestrian entrance onto Wiveton Road at, **Blakeney E Of E Va Primary School, Wiveton Road, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we ***support*** this application.*
- ii) Application No. **PF/17/0394** – *Proposal; Erection of single storey extension and garage to side and rear of dwelling at, **10 Queen’s Close, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have ***no objection*** to this application.*
- iii) Application No. **PF/17/0371** – *Proposal; Erection of two semi-detached two storey dwellings at, **Memorial Cottages, New Road, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we ***support*** this application.*

- iv) Following the two presentations at the Annual Parish Meeting, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we wait and consider **Community Land Trusts** further after our discussions with NNDC in relation to the Community Housing Fund and how it may benefit Blakeney. Also, with regard whether or not to proceed with a **Neighbourhood Plan**, we want firm confirmation from NNDC that if we were to proceed with this that it would be adopted as part of the legal planning policy as we feel that NNDC are not overly supportive of Neighbourhood Plans based on past conversations with them. We would therefore ask if Nicola Baker could come along to a meeting and reassure us and would invite Karen Ward also.

9. FINANCE

9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that **Accounts** totalling £ 31,08108 are paid.

9.2. Clerk/RFO Report –

- Up to date cashbook, Carnser and Coronation Car Park figures were provided to the members.
- Parish Partnership Funding Scheme – Success with the trod at the bottom of Back Lane, but not with the bollard scheme at the front of The Carnser Car Park or the entrance to the proposed overflow car park on Langham Road.
- Parish Council laptop, replacement needed – Clerk obtaining details from Sure Computers and would be asking the PC to dip into the IT budget.
- Norfolk Age UK thanked the Parish Council for the Community Fund grant of £250 and confirmed that it could cover 50 x 25 minutes befriending calls to isolated older people.

10. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

- 10.1. Update from Parish Council representatives, who attended meetings of the **Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team** since the last Parish Council meeting ie. Alban, Neil & Iain. The BCCCT group has decided to start from scratch and is looking at a wide area from Bourne's Corner out to the Fairways Buoy, and will be consulting experts rather than consultants, who that will be, is yet to be decided. Working on agreeing the main objectives, ie. is it the status quo? Options are being kept open as to what will work. The next meeting is tomorrow night.
- 10.2. Update from our representative Rosemary Thew, following attendance at the **Town & Parish Forum Meeting** in March. This group looks

particularly at the second home council tax and how it is then drip fed out via the NNDC Big Society Fund. Many of the parishes affected by the number of second homes did not receive funds from the pot this year and much of it goes into reserves. The pressure will be upheld for this allocation of funding to be reconsidered.

11. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None received by deadline.

- A question was raised by email previously about signage on the Former School Field in connection with the application for a 60 day overflow car park. The Clerk had replied to this, and advised that signage detail ought be considered once the decision of the planning application was known, for a number of reasons.
- Concerns raised over work going on at the rear of no. 8 Langham Road, as the planning application was refused. Clerk asked if those noticing had reported their concerns to NNDC. They hadn't and so the Clerk would forward these concerns on.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** to allow **Gray's Travelling Funfair** to use the Carnser Car Park from Monday 14th to Sunday 20th August 2017 inc.

12.2. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that Councillors would write an article of say no more than 300 words for inclusion in the Glaven Valley Newsletter over the course of the next year, explaining in their own words what it means to them to be a **Parish Councillor**. (The aim is to help people understand the role.)

12.3. With regard the applications for **Assets of Community Value**, NNDC had written to confirm the following;

- Land at top of The Pastures – unsuccessful due to insufficient evidence of community use.
- Land at 39 New Road – unsuccessful due to it being a private residential garden land, therefore it does not meet the criteria.
- Agricultural Field/Land at Morston Road – unsuccessful as the land nominated is fenced agricultural land, therefore it does not meet the criteria.

Given the reply from NNDC, Karen Ward had met with an Officer to discuss the detailed requirements for submitting applications and for them to provide up to date detailed guidance for future submissions.

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

- 1) Application **PF/17/0143**– *Proposal; Erection of detached chalet bungalow at, **8 Langham Road, Blakeney**. **Refused***
- 2) Application **PF/17/0080** – *Proposal; Erection of single storey extension and garage to side and rear of dwelling at, **10 Queens Close, Blakeney**. **This application was withdrawn.***

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Chairman _____