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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019** in the Parish Office, commencing at 7.00pm.

**Present**:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice-Chairman), Shirley Everett, Barry Girling, Edward Hackford, Nigel Sutcliffe, Neil Thompson & Jess Tutt.

**Parish Clerk**:- Tracey Bayfield.

**Public**:- 8.

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Were ***accepted*** from; Alban Donohoe (*work*), Samantha Arlow (*work function*) & Jess Tutt (*will join us, but will be a little late.*) Nigel Sutcliffe, advised that he would need to leave at 9pm this evening.

**2. Declarations of Interest** from members – Under the ‘Code of Conduct’, members must declare any disclosable Pecuniary Interests. Both Jenny Girling and Barry Girling, declared interests in item no. 10.4 and 12.1.

### **3. Minutes -**

3.1. **Resolved** to accept the Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **4. Guests –**

**Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** – PC Jason Pegden reported; that there has been 4 calls to the Police from the parish since the last meeting. There was one accident recorded as being on the A149 Blakeney, no further detail. Theft from the collection box in St. Nicholas Church and 2 arrests have been made in connection with this. Rural crime continues as does marine crime locally. If anyone spots anything suspicious, then please call the 101 number, if noting a number plate of concern, then again 101 or email the Wells SNT.

5. There were no **CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**.

### **6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS –**

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

**Norfolk County Council Budget:** At the annual budget council meeting in February county councillors voted on how money allocated to the county will be spent. Present were members of the public who attended in order to demonstrate their concerns regarding cuts to the children’s centres and to aspects of financial support for young people with special needs. Whilst a deputation regarding climate change received most of the media coverage you will be able to listen on the NCC website to the recording of the budget cuts debate. Whilst the two opposition groups opposed the cuts the budget as presented by the majority group was approved in its entirety.

**Cabinet System and Live Coverage:** After May NCC's committee system will be replaced by a cabinet system. At the same time the main meetings, such as cabinet and full council, will be 'live streamed'. It is unfortunate, in my view, that we are moving back to a cabinet system particularly since the cabinet makes all major decisions and will consist of councillors from only one political party. Therefore you will miss the healthy debate and exchange of views which the committee system engendered. Fairly or not the cabinet system has been said to engender a democratic deficiency. Fortunately full Council meetings will continue to include the council's 84 members representing all county council political parties and importantly representing each and every county resident.

**Changes to District Ward Boundaries:** Consideration of how Norfolk's town and parish councils should be grouped into wards is now complete and will take effect from the May 2019 district council elections. Presently the county division of Wells represents the town and parish councils shown at the end of this report. These councils are presently divided into three district wards – Priory, Glaven and Walsingham. Under the new ward system the same councils will be divided amongst the following wards: Coastal, Holt, Priory, Stody, Walsingham, Wells with Holkham.

**Changes to County Divisions:** Now the district wards have been agreed the county divisions are to be re-assessed with the amended divisions in place by the 2021 county council elections. Although not confirmed it is assumed that as with the re-shaping of the district wards there are likely to be fewer councillors.

**County Divisions:** To-date there has been a set number of residents which each councillor should have in their division. Fewer councillors - and fewer residents (see below) - mean some county divisions are potentially set to become larger.

Wells Division is one if not arguably the most beautiful division in the county but at the same time many areas exemplify rural deprivation. As a result of the latter it is one of the parts of the county where many residents find it necessary to move away for work and are these days less likely to be replaced by residents. (County archives show a time when Wells Division consisted of Wells town and two parishes – presumably with a very high proportion of residents.)

Non-residents do not count in the calculation of a division - although if they have bought property they, understandably, anticipate receiving assistance from the town/parish, district and county councillors.

I must add that I am very conscious of the income that can accrue in parishes via non-residents employing tradespeople and of the income from holiday makers. I am also aware that new residents moving in and those who eventually become resident often become much welcomed members of our

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communities, volunteering for the many schemes which keep our parishes alive.

However there are obviously a range of socio-economic factors which come into play and which deserve further debate than this report.

For now I am focusing on the forthcoming assessment of county divisions and am wondering if the time is not right to carry out an examination of the system of governance at all levels across the county with particular regard to a re-organisation of power.

Such an approach would have many benefits and be preferable, in my view, to simply making county divisions larger thereby allowing less time for county councillors to do justice to those divisions.

### **6.2. District Councillor – Karen Ward gave the following report;**

**Update on the Local Plan:** Public consultation on the draft Local Plan will commence on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> and run for six weeks. Details of the specific local events will be communicated in the forthcoming weeks. One event will be held at Blakeney. Consultation on the revised Design Guide will run concurrently, as will the Call for Sites for small plots as required by the changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

#### **Active Planning Casework:**

- a) North Granary – Application to increase the height of the external walls will be heard at the next Development Committee meeting.
- b) Openreach Pole on Mariners Hill – Openreach Case Officer, and the surveyor have both been in contact to say that they are now looking at options to see how else the church rooms might be provided with a telephone line. Norman Lamb is also involved.
- c) Tanning House – Revised plans have now met with the approval of the Conservation Officer. Unfortunately, unsympathetic work undertaken previously limits the possibility of significant improvements which would benefit the neighbours immediately adjacent the property.
- d) Flinders – The applicant has agreed to a request from the neighbours to have opaque glass in the velux windows and this application will therefore be approved.

**Queens Close:** Residents have met with the Chairman & CEO of Flagship Housing this afternoon. They have agreed to gift the piece of green to NNDC at no cost, and would then ask NNDC to solve and manage the car parking issues here going forward. Given that some of the properties here around the green are now in private ownership, Flagship are prepared to pay 60% towards making the parking

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arrangements in place. A possibility may be the 'Rhino' bollards as employed recently by BPC, in the hope that they could then be added to the BPC annual maintenance programme.

*Jess Tutt arrived.*

### **7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION –**

- *Two residents introduced themselves, as happy to be considered as Trustees of The Red House Land as per our written communication for item no. 10.4.*
- *A member of the Dinghy Park Management Committee, but speaking as a parishioner; would ask that the Finance Committee of BPC reconsiders its decision, which wants the DP Committee to become self funding by 20/21, given the relatively low level of expenditure.*

### **8. PLANNING – PF = Full Planning Permission, PM = Planning Permission – Reserved Matters, LA = Alteration to Listed Building.**

- 8.1. Application no. **PF/19/0180** – *Proposal; Single-storey front, side and rear extensions, 2 no. replacement dormer windows to north elevation, cladding of front elevation in brick and flint and erection of detached outbuilding to front of site at, **65 Morston Road, Blakeney.** Resolved that we have no objection to this application, subject to a planning condition being attached to the detached outbuilding, preventing it from ever being used as living or holiday accommodation.*
- 8.2. Application no. **PF/19/0121** – *Proposal; Erection of single-storey front, side and rear extensions; 2 dormer windows to front & 3 rooflights to rear to create additional accommodation in roofspace; replacement upvc windows at, **Seven Bells, High Street, Blakeney.** Resolved that we have no objection.*
- 8.3. Application no. **LA/19/0304** – *Proposal; Retention of external works for underpinning of two walls at, **Morgan Cottage, 97 High Street, Blakeney.** Resolved that given that the full planning application was determined in 2017, we merely note this application.*
- 8.4. Following our unsatisfactory response from Openreach, with regard the **B.T. Mast on Mariners Hill** an interview was given by our Chairman and District Cllr to Anglia News which was broadcast on 28<sup>th</sup> February and we have been contacted by Openreach, who have advised that they 'hope we can work together to resolve this', in addition to the statement made on TV; 'Given the concerns of people living nearby, we're more than happy to take another look at this to see if there's anything that can be done differently.' They have promised an update

by 15<sup>th</sup> March, and if this is not satisfactory, we then proceed with our actions as agreed last month.

## **9. FINANCE**

9.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £11,192.58 are to be paid.

9.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** –

- Internal Auditor had undertaken his second satisfactory review of the current financial year this morning.
- Members were provided with the up to date cashbook figures and car park income figures.
- The Clerk advised that Victoria Egan from The National Trust was unable to join us this evening, due to having to attend another meeting, but hoped to have all paperwork ready to attend our April meeting.

## **10. TRANSPORT/TRAFFIC RELATED ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

10.1. Having received a request for traffic problems in **Westgate Street** to be given further consideration members were provided with additional historical information and current thoughts from NCC Highways. It was **resolved** to appoint NCC Highways Design Team to provide us with a quotation and timescale for drawing up a report for us which could then be considered further, based upon the following brief;

To produce an effective traffic management system for Blakeney which;

- Addresses pedestrian safety in Westgate Street
- Reduces congestion in Westgate Street
- Takes into account funding and managing expectations

10.2. As our representative, Neil ran through the most recent minutes of the **Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team** and advised that it had been agreed that meetings would revert to evenings.

- Would BPC like the B3CT to make a presentation to them on the initial design for the Channel outside of a monthly PC meeting and if so when? **Resolved** to accept this kind offer, date to be agreed.
- As the Vice Chairman of the **Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**, Rosemary guided the members through the draft set of policies as they stand, pointing out that policy no. 8 & 9 are still being worked on. Members complimented the group on the vast amount of work

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already undertaken, and what they considered to be a very good set of policies when compared with our initial aims and objectives.

**Resolved** to ask that the policies most definitely include the following;

- Not to lose commercial premises – ie. they are not permitted to be turned into residential dwellings via a change of use application.

10.3. **Resolved** to accept the draft updated **Carnser Car Park P&D Sign** ahead of the new 2019 season, noting that we do not wish to increase the Winter charge from £1.00. Ideally, we would like to see the Terms & Conditions signage, headed along the lines of; *Welcome to Blakeney Carnser Car Park, please note the following Terms and Conditions of Parking.*

*Jenny Girling & Barry Girling left the meeting at this point, due to the following interests; have a commemorative seat on the quay and BG has also offered to fill the Red House Land Trustee vacancy.*

*Nigel Sutcliffe left the meeting at this point.*

10.4. With three applications for the one **Red House Land Trustee** vacancy it was **resolved** to appoint Mr Roland Goodison.

11. **COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS** – None received in advance.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

12.1. **Commemorative Seat** installations further to last month's discussion.

**Resolved** to;

- Current Seats – as and when we wish to undertake any action with regard these seats, we write a personal letter to the family at the time, approaching each on an individual basis.
- New Seats – We like the idea of families purchasing a plaque to go on a seat purchased by the Parish Council, which would allow multiple commemorations on one bench, subject to us seeing examples of this in practice first, hence on next agenda, iii) Defer replying to the 2 current requests until after our next meeting.

**NNDC Planning Decisions or Updates, or any Planning Inspectorate Appeals since our last meeting.**

- **PF/18/2335** – Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) & 6 balustrading) of planning permission PF/17/1905 to allow for change of balustrade materials to a mix of glass and flint at, **North Granary, The Quay, Blakeney** – **Permission granted.**

**12.2. Confidential Item – Exclusion of the Press/Public**

With The National Trust unable to join us, this item was deferred.

*Due to the confidential nature of the business about to be considered, it is proposed that the press and public are now excluded.*

12.2. Updates from The National Trust; i) Annual Carnser Car Park Agreement, incorporating the Service Level, ii) 2018/19 Year End figures.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_