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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 7th February 2017** commencing at **7.00pm in the Parish Office.**

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

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 6

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Were received and **accepted** from Barry Girling (*work*). Also District Cllr, Karen Ward (*annual leave*).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST from members – Under the ‘Code of Conduct, Members must declare any disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr. Samantha Arlow disclosed a pecuniary interest in item no. 9.4. as one of the current trading site holders and confirmed that she would leave the meeting for this item.

3. It was **proposed & agreed** that the **MINUTES** of the FULL COUNCIL meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 are signed as a true record.

4. GUESTS – Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team) – Since the last meeting on 10th January, there have been 5 calls to the Police as follows; 1 x theft of heating oil, (the 1 crime recorded) 1 x hare coursing, 2 x suspicious circumstances (both turned out to be in order), 1 x road traffic collision, on A149 near to the junction of Wiveton Road.

In the North Norfolk area, there have been a high number of complaints over hare coursing, and hence we will be upping patrols and liaising with game keepers and farmers. Also reports of heating oil thefts in the area, including Blakeney, Cley and Gunthorpe and we continue to encourage members of the public to call in any vehicles they see in the area that they believe to be acting in a suspicious way or paying attention to rear of properties/garden areas so that we can investigate.

5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS –

6.1. **District Councillor** - Karen Wards report as follows, was read in her absence.

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NNDC - A new NNDC website has been launched which, in theory, should make contacting the correct person at the District Council an easier process. As with all new IT, there will undoubtedly be teething problems, so please do let me know if you have difficulties. I have been using it for the last week and found it to be very user friendly in comparison to the previous site

Storm surge costs. Firstly, congratulations to all staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly on the clear up. Early indications are that the cost of this storm surge to NNDC will be between £300 - £500,000 depending on Environment Agency and insurance contributions.

The Budget for 2017/2018 is starting its review this week. The Cabinet are proposing not to increase Council Tax, but are intending to balance the books through the sale of Council assets. This has already caused upset in the locations of the proposed sales, so we will see where we end up. I will report back next month.

Speeding - This was an issue with many residents when I was canvassing in September, so I am pleased to see it on the agenda tonight. As a result of the concerns from residents, I have been working with traffic researchers to understand which techniques are most effective in places like Blakeney. It seems there are two main approaches – physical and psychological and a combination of the two works best. The flashing signs which tell you what speed you are doing are more effective than those which merely flash the speed limit, as they are interacting with the driver directly. If these are combined with signs which have behavioural nudges like ‘95% of people obey our speed limit, why wouldn’t you?’ or ‘ANPR operates in this area’ then this seems to encourage even greater compliance. Similarly using visual techniques along the road side – planting trees or having art work – encourages drivers to slow down as their line of sight is not so clear, without impacting safety. In some areas removing white lines on the road has also slowed traffic down, as drivers are less certain of the middle of the road and cannot use the white line as an indicator. I will continue this research and share any additional information in the future, but thought I would share this information now as traffic calming is on the agenda.

New Road street sign - I have spoken to the officer concerned at NNDC and he has been out to survey the sign. He has ordered a new one and this should be replaced in the next couple of months.

Public Space Protection Orders - I have spoken to the Officer concerned about the situation on Blakeney Quay and asked that the safety of children sitting on the edge of the Quay to crab is taken into account when this Order is considered.

Planning Updates - The Planning White Paper we were expecting in January, we are now told will be out this week. I will report the likely impact on the Local Plan at the next meeting.

The Pastures: Unfortunately, I was unable to speak to Emma Stannard before I left for holiday, so this will be top of my list when I get back.

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Morston Road Field: NNDC is preparing an update on this site and I will be in a position to update the Parish Council at the March meeting. Larkfields (next door) was refused planning permission for a replacement dwelling and the applicant has appealed. NNDC are defending the refusal to strengthen the protection for the land along that stretch of coast. They want to ensure there is consistency of approach for all sites on that side of the road.

Affordable Home Funding: I am waiting on more detailed advice on the pots of money available to local communities for affordable housing. There are two sources of funding potentially available. It appears that the primary purpose of the funding in the coming year is to establish the capacity and capability locally to deliver affordable housing schemes. This then unlocks further funds to commence building in the following year.

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

I thought you might be interested in what your county councillor gets up to and whilst I usually find preparing for and attending town and parish councils - plus committee meetings at county hall - is sufficient, I said yes to the following events believing them to be both important and useful to our community:

3 February: Attended a Digital Divide Conference which gave me the opportunity to put Norfolk's case to Matthew Hancock MP, Minister of State with responsibility for broadband and mobile 'phone connectivity.

7 February: Chaired Norfolk Flood Summit involving all major organisations engaged in inland and river flooding. (As some of you will know from experience it is often confusing as to who is responsible for what and the hope was to find answers.)

14 February: Town Councillor Pauline Cotton and I joined the Wells branch of the Royal British Legion to talk with the members about Dementia and what is being done to make Wells a dementia friendly community.

16 March: Invited to speak at the Local Government Association workshop entitled: 'Connecting the Nation – a Local Government Connectivity Summit' (I believe this will be more of use than it sounds.)

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.

Norfolk's Vulnerable Syrian Person's Resettlement scheme: The first five Syrian refugee families will arrive in Norwich during February through the Government's Resettlement Scheme. Extensive work has been carried out with district councils, health authorities, schools and voluntary groups to help ensure everything is ready for these families with young children who have spent long periods in the refugee camps.

Norfolk Vanguard - Grid Connection Work: You may well have read recently of the Norfolk Vanguard off-shore Windfarm project. Since the company had sent me

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literature I decided to seek specific information regarding our division and any potential impact of grid connection works. The response advised me that Wells Division is outside of the revised cable search area and when I checked later after the announcement of a new refined area I was told the project is planned even further away from the Wells Division boundary.

Mobile 'Phone Boosters': If you receive a weak signal at home you might find a booster useful. If you are interested google Mobile Phone Boosters and read carefully what is promised and check out any queries with the manufacturer. I googled and see Vodafone and '3' offer such equipment - in each case it looks as though it works only for calls with people using the same provider. Another company claim to handle E/Vodafone/O/3. Some people find the equipment very useful, some are disappointed – it depends on a number of factors so check very carefully before you pay.

Dance and music activities for older people: The first session went well although having joined in I realised sitting in meetings does not increase one's flexibility. If you missed the 14th February session you will be made welcome on Tuesday 28th February - 12.30-2:30pm at Wells Community Hospital. The events aim to engage participants in a programme of fun, stimulating music and dance activities in a safe and welcoming environment. For further information contact Lea Schiller at Creative Arts East on 01953 713390 or email lea@creativeartseast.co.uk.

Broadband: This is just a short note regarding complaints made that Openreach excludes other Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from offering fibre broadband for several weeks after BT has had the opportunity. I have been informed that Ofcom regulates Openreach tightly on this matter. When a fibre cabinet becomes available the commissioning process means Openreach release the cabinet to all ISPs including BT ISPs at the same time. Other ISPs would definitely raise a complaint with Ofcom if it believed BT were not treating all ISPs in the same way. What differs is that different ISP internal processes appear to take different amounts of time to start offering services once a cabinet is live.

Road Gritting: When freezing temperatures are predicted Norfolk County Council officers are on duty ensuring the gritting teams go out on time, and repeatedly if required. The County Council currently has around 13,000 tonnes of salt stocked in the county and is replenished throughout the winter. More than a third of Norfolk's roads totalling over 2,000 miles are on the council's 49 regular gritting routes, including all A and B-class roads and some C-class roads, and each route takes around three hours for a gritter lorry to treat. The A11, A47 and A12 are gritted by Highways England. You can check which roads are on the council's gritting routes by looking at the map at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting. On the same map you can find the locations of the more than 1,800 grit bins in the county that are filled by the County Council and which people can use on public pavements, cycle paths and roads. Now whilst over 2,000 miles are on the 49 gritting routes I realise there will be readers whose road is not gritted. Not that it is of any comfort but my road is not gritted and I do appreciate the concerns. Here is where your town or parish council comes into play. You can talk to your council and ask if the road you have in mind

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could be put forward to NCC with a request to have it included on the gritting route. This may not be successful and an alternative is to discuss the possibility of having a grit bin in the vicinity of the road.

7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

- *Spoke to Norman Lamb, about concerns over motorists speeding on Morston Road. The Police undertook a speed check in December 2016. Would prefer to see this take place during the summer months.*

8. PLANNING – To receive & consider the following Planning Applications:-

PF = Full Planning Permission

PM = Planning Permission – Reserved Matters

LA = Alteration to Listed Building

- i) Application No. **PF/16/1659** – *Proposal; Extension of bathroom dormer window at, **58 High Street, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have ***no objection***.*
- ii) Application No. **PF/17/0080** – *Proposal; Erection of single storey rear extension and garage at, **10 Queens Close, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have ***no objection***.*

9. FINANCE

9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that **Accounts** totalling £8,515.11 are paid.

9.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** advising of the balances as held to date were shared with members.

9.3. Applications to the **Community Fund** were received and considered. The total sum available for distribution is £4,522 and the following were ***agreed (by a clear majority)***;

- *Blakeney History Centre - £300*
- *Blakeney Scout Group Executive Council - £300*
- *Blakeney & District Scout Group - £480*
- *Blakeney Methodist Church - £250*
- *Coastal Rowing Association Blakeney - £210*
- *Blakeney Royal British Legion Bowls Club - £350*
- *Blakeney Village Hall Trust - £250*

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- *Blakeney Bingo - £250*
- *Blakeney Community Flood Wardens - £600 (This to be set aside under a heading in BPC accounts for use as and when needed to provide equipment for the community scheme.)*
- *Norfolk Age UK - £250*
- *Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team - £1282*
- *Nothing awarded to: St. Nicholas Church or The British Red Cross.*

Cllr Samantha Arlow left the meeting at this point and returned after item no. 9.4.

9.4. Members were asked to give consideration to one additional aspect of the **Trading Site Contracts** – The addition of an ‘*Early Termination Clause*’, and any financial implications/penalties to the trader should they decide for any reason to cease their contract period part way through, something which was not currently covered specifically within the documents. After much discussion and reflection on the two occasions that it had happened in the past 16 years, it was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 against), that we leave it as it is for now. (The Clerk will seek legal advice on best practice in such circumstances.)

9.5. Further options based on previous discussions on the replacement of the traffic cones along the front of **The Carnser** with posts, both permanent and removable options, were shared with members in advance. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we go with the ‘Exeter’ post in White Polyurethane, which are no more than 1 metre in height above ground, and that we order 2 additional spare units in addition to the quotation received from ‘Broxap’.

10. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

10.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that subject to Highways agreement and the ability to obtain funding via grants etc, that we install a portable **Vehicle Activated Sign** known as SAM2 which could be sited on Back Lane, New Road, Wiveton Road & Morston Road. Trevor Leach has confirmed that he would be happy to take on the role of moving it as per the requirements set by the scheme.

10.2. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that Roger Hall, Alban Donohoe & Iain Wolfe are to be the official Parish Council Representatives for the newly formed **Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team** – They are to act in a representative role only and report back accordingly. As this is not a Committee of the Parish Council, they do not have delegated power to act on behalf of The Parish Council. (*This new group is tasked with taking forward the channel improvement talks, which have been discussed by the Dinghy Park Management Committee. Invited Stakeholders only have just attended a*

handover meeting. The next meeting on the 21st February is open to the Public.)

10.3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the Parish Council will take part in the St. Nicholas Church **Flower Festival** from 29th to 31st July 2017 and that our budget for materials is £100.

10.4. Members had received the minutes from the January **Village Hall Committee** meeting on 10th January 2017 from our representative, Rosemary Thew, which were noted accordingly.

10.5. Members were in receipt of the revised drawings/plans for the **War Memorial Cottages Site**. There were now 2 options to consider for 2 x units at the rear of the property. Both the Trustees of The Memorial Cottages and The Full Council, ***proposed & agreed*** 'Scheme B', based on information received, which they felt better suited the plot, and SMG will be asked to submit this as a planning application.

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

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

12.1. A request from **The Blakeney Harbour Association** to The National Trust asking for permission to site the former Blakeney Fairways Buoy with a noticeboard on the north east corner of The Carnser Car Park, and the subsequent response from The National Trust which confirms that they are willing to issue an annual licence, subject to the consent of Blakeney Parish was considered. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we are happy to support this in the form of the detailed response given by The National Trust in their letter to Charlie Ward, dated 30th January 2017.

12.2. NNDC **Public Space Protection Order** consultation. The one proposal which affects Blakeney is; **Blakeney Quay Footpath** – NNDC are proposing to remove the order for 'dogs to remain on leads' on this footpath area, as they have had no complaints and cannot justify retaining it. The consultation period ends on Friday 3rd March 2017. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we do not support the removal of this order.

In our opinion to do so is a complete disregard to public safety, in what is a heavily populated area for many months each year, ie. children and adults sitting by the waters edge of the quay 'crabbing' at high tide aswell as the proximity to the busy Quay Road. Water and road safety here are paramount and dogs for their own safety, are also safer on a lead here. We find this proposal ludicrous.

12.3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we will take part in **A Nation's Tribute – Battle's Over** a beacon lighting ceremony on 11th November 2018 at 7pm in order to commemorate & remember 100 years since the end of the war. We would look to site our gas beacon on the top of Mariners Hill.

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

- 1) Application **PF/16/1417**– *Proposal; Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling at, 8 Wiveton Road, Blakeney. Consent given.*
- 2) Application **PF/16/1697** – *Proposal; Erection of single storey rear extension at, Vine Cottage, 60 Morston Road, Blakeney. Consent given.*
- 3) APPEAL RECEIVED Application **PF/16/1245** – *Proposal; Demolition of existing house & erection of dwelling at, Larkfields, 144 Morston Road, Blakeney. (BPC had no objection.)*

Meeting closed at 9.02pm.

Chairman _____