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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 7th June 2016** commencing at **7.00pm in the Parish Office.**

Present:- Tony Faulkner (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice-Chairman), Samantha Arlow, Margaret Benson, Barry Girling, Edward Hackford & Neil Thompson.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 6.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Were received & ***accepted*** from; Roger Hall (*work*), Alban Donohoe (*work*), Rosemary Thew (*long term prior commitment*) & District Cllr Andrew Wells (*away*).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST from members – There were none.

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

3.1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 3rd May 2016.

3.2. FULL COUNCIL – Tuesday 3rd May 2016.

4. GUESTS –

4.1. PCSO Sarah Kirby **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** advised of the recent 3 outbuilding thefts in the parish where garden items were stolen, also 1 cycle has been damaged. 3 outboards taken from Morston and in nearby villages, trailers and a teleporter have also been stolen. We have (for public use) some permanent non removable ink which can be used to mark outboards etc. If interested please get in touch.

5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS –

5.1. Date of open public meeting to discuss general **Planning Concerns** with Nicola Baker, Head of Planning at North Norfolk District Council – This is now set for Tuesday 2nd August 2016 at 7pm, with the village venue to be confirmed.

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS –

6.1. **District Councillor** - Andrew Wells had sent the following report in his absence.

Disabled Facilities Grant - NNDC and NCC have finally agreed (in principle) on some steps to improve the dismal performance of this grant processing team - which earlier this year I discovered was taking nearly a year to decide applications. I will keep pushing to make sure the changes actually happen! The target has to be to be

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deciding all applications within a few months, with the urgent cases decided much quicker than that.

Devolution - It looks increasingly like the much-vaunted devolution deal that I have been boring people with for a year probably won't happen. The government has given in to the requests by Cambridge and Peterborough to break away from the regional deal - taking most of the money with them - and leaving the Norfolk/Suffolk element without the substance or benefits to outweigh the risks. We will supposedly find out what the Government final offer is for Norfolk/Suffolk in a few weeks - with NNDC to decide by the end of the month. I met with the Conservative leadership last week to discuss this and they expressed significant reservations - which I share.

Shared services with Great Yarmouth - Up until very recently this project was looking similarly uncertain. But I've now received a draft report from NNDC's CEO, with more of the detailed technical information around finances, staffing, performance and IT about every department in both councils, and the practical options for linking them together (recognising some "red line" areas that must remain separate, such as planning). There is more work to do, but I hope we may be in a position to make a decision on this by the end of this month or the next. Hopefully I will be able to say more about what this will mean in practice for services at the next meeting.

6.2. County Councillor - Dr. Marie Strong.

Dementia Friendly Wells - The meeting on 24 May was the best I have been asked to chair in a long time. The aim to promote Wells as the first dementia friendly tourist town filled the meeting room at the Community Hospital with people from across the broadest spectrum of Wells - each and everyone adding to what is a wonderful jigsaw of people willing to commit to the project of Wells moving forward to become dementia friendly for residents and now for visitors.

It is a subject that needs to be talked about openly - at the moment whilst the Alzheimer's society say dementia is the most feared illness of our times people delay for a year or more before asking for a diagnosis. A year in which they and their loved ones could be given help and also importantly that some could be reassured it is not happening to them and that they could stop worrying needlessly.

Well it was certainly talked about on the 24th by the members of the year old Wells Dementia Friendly Group, by Age UK Norfolk, by representatives of the day care centre, community hospital, town council, district council, police, fire service, Holkham estate, library, health centre, churches together, schools, local businesses, coastal community group and more. And from that meeting enough volunteers to fill two more workshops – more organisations who will be able to announce they are dementia friendly.

Syrian Refugees - A paper on the situation in relation to Norfolk can be found on the county council website for the Policy and Resources Committee. Following the

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committee meeting on 31 May the item will now be discussed at full Council on 25 July.

Devolution - The latest update received 31 May is as follows; At the Council meeting on 27 June 2016 the proposal for devolution to Norfolk and Suffolk - developed from the East Anglia Devolution Deal signed by Government and the Leaders at the time of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be considered by full council – together with the proposed governance arrangements. With the council's consent, the Scheme will then be published for public consultation.

The results of the public consultation would then be reported at the end of August and, in accordance with the legislative process would be passed to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Secretary of State would then draft an Order which would come back to the Council for decision at the October Council meeting.

You can find out more detail on the devolution website which includes comprehensive FAQs about the deal and which are regularly updated:
www.eastangliadevo.co.uk

Parish Partnership - This is the scheme whereby a town or parish council puts forward an application for a project, say a SAM2 speed warning system, and the county matches the funding. The 16/17 schemes were approved by the Environment Development and Transport Committee in March so delivery is now underway. However this successful scheme continues and letters inviting bids for 17/18 will be issued in June with a bid deadline of December, followed by assessment and Committee approval next March. Councils can get their thinking caps on but there will also be suggestions in the letter as to favoured projects.

7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

- In relation to item 8 (v) – Blakeney Hotel Parking & The Pastures – As a resident, I would like to see The Pastures back to as it was before, ie. no parking whatsoever and the orange plastic fencing removed. I would like to see a chain fence all the way along The Pastures, with the only access being for the mower.
- In relation to item 8 (vi) – Blakeney Methodist Church Planning Application – As the Outreach Worker, I just wish to re-emphasise the reasons behind the need for change, like being able to offer the community some additional support such as bereavement support, dementia support, loneliness, young people etc.

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/16/0442** – *Proposal; Replacement door and erection of open porch at, **Harbour Room, 139 – 141 High Street, Blakeney.*** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we support this application.
- ii) Application No. **PF/16/0469** – *Proposal; Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden and demolition of existing stables, construction of replacement stables and new agricultural store at, **Blakeney Downs, Morston Road, Blakeney.*** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection.
- iii) Application No. **PF/16/0403** – *Proposal; Erection of first floor and ground floor extensions at, **65 Morston Road, Blakeney.*** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection.
- iv) Application No. **PF/16/0624** – *Proposal; Erection of timber pergola to front and alteration including creation of first floor to Church at, **Blakeney Methodist Church, 111 High Street, Blakeney.*** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we support this application.
- v) Various aspects of **The Blakeney Hotel** parking scenario:-
 - i) *NNDC – Continued failure to address this breach of planning permission and the timescale.* Members noted that District Cllr Andrew Wells is taking this matter up very strongly with NNDC.
 - ii) *Parking on verges – We had received a request from the ‘Blakeney Timeshare Co’, asking if we would have any objections to them installing a post and chain link fence along the edge of the verges in front of the properties to stop vehicles connected to the hotel from parking on them.* It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection as the landowner of the adjacent driveway.
 - iii) *Alternative parking options on Hotel land – It was ***proposed & agreed*** that at the meeting with representatives of The Blakeney Hotel and NNDC Planning Officers, on Thursday 9th June 2016, that we ask District Cllr Andrew Wells to put forward what we see as a suitable alternative possible site, that being part of The Hotels own garden. Should they be able to use just a small piece of this land, then it would appear to address all of the concerns they have raised about parking away from The Hotel.*
 - iv) *Request for allocation of BPC parking spaces.* It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we do not consider it necessary to allocate and mark out parking spaces in each of the 3 Parish Council operated car parks solely for the use of guests and staff of The Blakeney Hotel. (Also to note that in the letter from The Blakeney Hotel dated 26th May 2016, Emma Stannard has

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written; *Finally I refer to Tracey Bayfield's email to Anne sent on 29th April 2016 requesting that our fencing (the temporary plastic orange) is removed from The Pastures. I can confirm that this will not be possible.*

- vi) It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 1 abstention) that we are happy with the suggested amendments to the plans/sketches for the proposed additional **New Development** of 3 affordable housing units on the site of the Memorial Cottages and that we are now ready to submit an official planning application.

9. FINANCE

9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **Accounts** for May totalling £12,480.07 are paid.

9.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** - Confirmation that the Bank of Ireland a/c had now been closed with the balance of £52,946.11 having been transferred to the new Nationwide a/c as instructed. The April and May 2016 Carnser income was down on the same period for the previous year. Up to date cashbook figures were given to members as was the income for the period 01/04/16 to 31/05/16.

The Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society had also written to the Parish Council thanking us for the assistance with the production of the AGM papers.

NCC have invited Parish Councillors to a devolution briefing on either 16th June (Dereham) or 22nd June (County Hall) at 6.30pm to 8pm. Free to attend, but must book in advance.

9.3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that members approved the **Annual Return** for the year ended 31st March 2016. Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2015/16 & Section 2 – Accounting statements for 2015/16. Members also wished to thank the Internal Auditor, David Wright for his work throughout the year.

9.4. Members had received information with regard **Business Online Banking** for the Parish Councils Co-Operative current account due to changes in long standing previous banking arrangements. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we sign up for online banking, and use any two of the current authorised account signatories, ie. the Clerk and one other for online transactions.

9.5. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we change from our current **Electricity Supplier**, EDF Energy to Scottish & Southern, thus saving just over £1,000 over a 3 year period.

10. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

10.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we install a wooden post at each point to clearly mark the 'gap' which should be left for vehicles to gain access at the rear of the **Village Hall Car Park**, at the end of the sunken telegraph poles and to have a reflective, 'Please keep clear' sign, with appropriate indicative arrow on each one. Simon Strong & Structureflex as suggested.

11. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None received.

12. CORRESPONDENCE –

12.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we are happy for Rose Ives to hold a **Cake Sale/Tombola** on the Quay in aid of 'Childreach International'.

12.2. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that having received information on taking over the future maintenance and responsibility of the **Blakeney Defibrillator** which is located by the ladies toilets on Blakeney Quay, that we are happy to do so.

12.3. Having considered the current accessibility to the **Dog Bin** which is situated in front of the car parking area on The Red House Land, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we move this to the right of the adjacent slipway, as you face it, close to one of the current wooden posts.

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that, 'That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.'

12.4. Three applications for the current **Parish Councillor Vacancy** had been received. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that a signed ballot is taken. Therefore the majority vote was in favour of Iain Wolfe, with Jennet Tilley second and Don Glaister third.

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

Application No. **PF/15/1853** – *Proposal; Erection of replacement two-storey dwelling at, White Sails, 75 Morston Road, Blakeney. NNDC: Granted.*

Application No. **PF/16/0173** – *Proposal; Variation of condition 2 of 14/1658 to allow erection of detached car port and increase in width of utility room to plot 3 at, Land adj. Poppyland, Back Lane, Blakeney. NNDC: Granted.*

Application No. **PF/16/0303** – *Proposal; Erection of shed at, The Whins, The Downs, Blakeney. NNDC: Granted.*

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Application No. **PF/16/0091** – *Proposal; Erection of 3 dormer extensions to front, 1 dormer extension and 1 roof light to rear, and 1 first floor window to each side elevation. NNDC: Granted.*

Application No. **PF/16/0257** – *Proposal; Alterations and extensions to front, side and rear of dwelling and detached garage to front. NNDC: Granted.*

Meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Chairman _____