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

**Present**:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice Chairman), Samantha Arlow, Shirley Everett, Barry Girling, Edward Hackford, Neil Thompson & Iain Wolfe.

**Clerk**:- Tracey Bayfield.

**Public**:- 8.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received & ***accepted*** from; Margaret Benson (*away*), Alban Donohoe (*away*) & Roger Hall (*work*).

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** from members – Under the ‘Code of Conduct, Members must declare any disclosable Pecuniary Interests. If such an interest is declared then the member is not permitted to remain in the meeting for said item. They must not take part in the discussion or the voting. The following were declared;

- i) Samantha Arlow – Pecuniary Interest in item no. 12.4. as a current trader.
- ii) Shirley Everett – Pecuniary Interest in item no. 8.iii. as an immediate neighbour.
- iii) Edward Hackford – Personal Interest in item no. 8.i. as a near neighbour.

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

- 3.1. FULL COUNCIL – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017.
- 3.2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

**4. GUESTS** –

- 4.1. Report received from PC Jason Pegden from **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** focused primarily on outboard thieves having been caught, now out on bail and awaiting trial, they have stolen around £25k worth of outboards. Also there had been a road traffic accident on Wiveton Road, and thefts of heating oil have been on the increase locally.

**5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS** – There were none.

**6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS** –

- 6.1. **District Councillor** - Karen Ward.

**NNDC General** - The 2017/2018 budget proposal was passed at Full Council last week. The ruling Cabinet presented a balanced budget for the forthcoming year, as they believe there have been no service reductions or reduced performance which require them to spend more money. Feedback from Glaven Valley residents would suggest otherwise in areas of Planning and Enforcement and I am asking for any

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budget surplus to be invested in these areas as a matter of urgency. I am waiting on a response from the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet member for planning. There will therefore be no Council Tax increase from a District perspective, but some Parishes have proposed increases in their precepts as has the Police & Crime Commissioner, so households will see slightly increased Council Tax bills.

The Cabinet's proposed commercialisation of assets strategy has received much criticism and this is the subject of ongoing debate. The Council are currently sitting on a £15 million capital surplus and many residents argue that they need to come forward with spending plans to utilise this money before selling off Council assets.

Planning & Enforcement - The Pastures – Out of the list of mediators presented for consideration, there is one match between BPC and The Blakeney Hotel and hence The Head of Planning and the Legal Team at NNDC are now looking to agree next steps in the mediation. I have also asked for there to be one Local Planning Officer present.

8 Wiveton Road - A Judicial Review has now been lodged by the neighbours and this is currently in the hands of the lawyers to determine whether there is a case to answer. No work on site can commence until this has been determined.

Barn on Field to North of Morston Road - NNDC have prepared a strong defence of our handling of the application Field on Morston Road - NNDC have provided the owner with a comprehensive overview of the Planning policy constraints of any development on this site. Ongoing conversations with the owner and interested parties e.g. BPC, National Trust are underway.

The Acreage, Coast Road - due to sick leave in the Enforcement Team, a backlog of cases has built up again. BPC needs to determine the planning application this evening on its own merits, pushing the enforcement scenario aside for this item. The Enforcement Officer is working hard with the owner of this site.

*Asked about the planning department, Karen confirmed that there are currently 7 vacancies, with 2 of them being in the Local Plan Policy Team and that in the case of The Acreage, the Planning Team and the Enforcement Team had not spoken.*

Other matters: Community Housing Funding for Affordable Homes - The Cabinet were proposing that these funds are spent on parishes with more than 10% Second Homes. This risked the funds not being spent on parishes like Blakeney with a much higher % of second homes. We proposed an amendment at Overview & Scrutiny that the funds were prioritised on communities with over 20% second homes, however this was not accepted by the ruling Cabinet.

Friends of North Norfolk have requested a meeting with NNDC to discuss performance issues with Planning and Enforcement. This is proposed to take place on 28th March so I will provide an update at the next BPC meeting.

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A new group called 'North Norfolk Planning Watch' was officially registered yesterday.

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

**Digital Divide Conference:** Speaker Matthew Hancock MP, Minister of State with responsibility for broadband and mobile 'phone connectivity. Attending this conference gave me the opportunity to put forward Norfolk's case to the Minister and I am now waiting a further response to my follow up questions regarding mobile phone connectivity in our rural areas.

**Norfolk Flood Summit:** I chaired this summit which was quite a challenge involving as it did 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 it was felt a step forward was made in establishing the answers.

**NCC Budget:** You may well have heard about the recent County Council meeting to set the budget. Whilst obviously I cannot condense the details of that meeting into this space since it lasted from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. This enabled all councillors the opportunity to speak and to vote on the main budget proposed and all of the four amendments. Whilst we may not agree with each other's views it is important to listen to them. After considerable debate the Council tax 2017-18 was set to increase by 4.8%. This includes an increase of 1.8% for general council tax and 3.0% for the Adult Social Care precept.

**Better Broadband for Norfolk:** We now have an improved website which can be found on: [www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk)) and should make it easier for people to find out if an address in Norfolk has access to high-speed broadband or is likely to be able to access it. Using the new mapping tool you can now check by postcode area where better broadband is already available or whether there are plans to provide it under the BBfN programme. It is planned to keep the website map and search tools updated with the latest information – so please keep checking if you are waiting for news. And because the map on the website gives a much clearer picture of where the BBfN programme is making a difference we will no longer give long lists of places that have had fibre go live. Having listened to people's feedback and suggestions we have tried to make sure the website has the answers to your questions.

I have also written to the Minister who replaced Ed Vaizey and await a reply, in the hope that he will be able to advise me when Norfolk will get 100% coverage.

**Power Cuts:** Are a nuisance to us all but very worrying for the vulnerable - older people, people with chronic medical conditions or parents of very young children. To provide support there is a free 'Priority Services Register' (PSR) which helps Power Networks identify vulnerable people quickly in the event of a power cut and get them the help they need. You can find more about PSR by calling 0800 169 9970 or online at [ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority](http://ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority).

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**40 mph restricted areas:** There has been talk again regarding the possibility of increased 40 mph restricted areas – even entire towns and villages. Nothing concrete to report yet other than that Norfolk County Council is talking with DfT (Department for Transport) and have stated our interest in a trial scheme. In the event that DfT are willing to fund a scheme we would establish the precise details and hold a public consultation

**Avian Influenza:** This is a an extremely worrying time for anyone keeping poultry from large scale organisations to domestic settings – and there are many of both in this division. NCC Officers are extremely busy at present checking on potential outbreaks and giving advice and information wherever it is needed. General information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.

### **7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

- *Hilary & Don Glossop; involved with looking after the Duckpond and would like to officially reinstate the duck race over the summer, preferably before the Greasy Pole event. (Clerk will forward the Regatta Committee contact details.)*

### **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/17/0143** – *Proposal; Erection of detached chalet bungalow at, **8 Langham Road, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** (other than 2 abstentions) that we have no objection to the proposed building, however, we would like to see a different egress, given the proximity to the heavily used adjacent Doctor's Surgery.*
- ii) Application No. **PF/17/0169** – *Proposal; Erection of two storey extension to side and rear and two storey extension to side after demolition of flat roof extension at, **Thorpe Cloud, 15 Back Lane, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection.*

*Shirley Everett left the meeting at this point, having declared an earlier pecuniary interest. Neil Thompson missed the earlier declarations, and declared a pecuniary interest also, due to owning/running a similar business and also left the meeting. They both returned after the following item.*

- iii) Application No. **PF/17/0282** – *Proposal; Erection of two storey workshop with ancillary office and staff facilities at, **Blakeney Marine Services, Morston Road, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** to support this application (other than 1 who had no objection).*

- iv) Application No. **PF/17/0270** – Proposal; Proposed 200 space overflow car park for use up to 60 days per year at, **Former School Field, Langham Road, Blakeney**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we support this application.
- v) Application No. **PF/17/0235** – Proposal; Erection of one and a half storey dwelling and office at, **The Acreage, Coast Road, Wiveton**.

(Members were advised by the District Councillor that they had to consider this as a greenfield site on its own merits, and not to take into account the ongoing enforcement scenario.)

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we object to this application for the following reasons, all of which go against a number of Policies in the NNDC Local Plan. Namely; Policy SS2; Classed as 'Countryside' in the LDF, where only specific types of development will be supported. Core Strategy Policy EN8 is applicable as it lies within the Conservation Area which is designated for its architectural or historic interest. It falls within an areas within which additional controls over the display of advertisements apply. HO9 – Rural Residential Conversion applies as the site lies within an area where the re-use of an existing good quality building as a dwelling may be permitted. This is not the case here, ie. no such building on site meets the HO9 policy. Policy EN3; Undeveloped Coast of the Core Strategy applies; as the site is within an area of the North Norfolk Coast designated because it is relatively undeveloped. Policy no. EN1 & EN2 Protection of the Landscape and Settlement Character are also applicable, as is HO5 Forestry and other Occupational dwellings in the Countryside.

- vi) Our District Councillor, Karen Ward had been asked how to address the issue of **Planning Enforcement** with regard current planning applications during the building process. Karen confirmed that people with local intelligence could ask for a site to go on an active NNDC monitoring list. Neighbours are often best placed to keep an eye on things. Sadly the Building Control and Enforcement Team are not linked. Any such concerns should in the first instance be reported to Karen.

## **9. FINANCE**

9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that **Accounts** totalling £7,753.16 should be paid.

9.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** - Advised on the balances held and the car park incomes to date, as well as the receipts for the past month. Members were also advised that Graham Lubbock has announced his retirement from The National Trust in May. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we give a huge vote of

thanks to Graham, as we have truly appreciated the help, support and relationship that he has shown to BPC over the years and that he will be sorely missed. As a gesture, we allocate £50 to him as a leaving gift of some description.

9.3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we accept the quotation from Wicksteed Leisure, to rectify the points raised by the most recent annual Play Inspection report in relation to the **Outdoor Play/Recreation Equipment** at a cost of £2,400.67 excluding VAT. The Clerk advised that Wicksteed were coming out to inspect the raised/lifted, safety grass mats, and that their findings will be reported back to members as soon as possible.

## **10. TRANSPORT ITEMS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

10.1. With none of the official representatives present who attended the last meeting of the **Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team**, Rosemary & Neil updated the meeting as they did attend. The next meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in The Kings Arms. At the most recent meeting, all present without exception felt that something should be done, in terms of looking at The Harbour as a whole and the siltation of the channel with regard maintaining a navigable route. The next meeting is open to the public.

11. **COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS** – There were none.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

12.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we approve the request from the **Blakeney Primary School** to hold a fundraising event of the Playing Field on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 (May Day).

12.2. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we approve in principle the request from the **Old Wild Rovers** to hold a charity event on the corner of The Carnser Car Park on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017 from approx. 3.30pm til 6.30pm for Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society, Blakeney Harbour Association & The Glaven Centre, subject to confirming acceptance to their proposals by our insurance provider and confirmation of their precise plans.

12.3. Members were in receipt of an update from NNDC confirming that Blakeney is one of 62 parishes across the district which is eligible for the **Community Housing Fund**. The next step is to liaise with Nicola Turner and to arrange a meeting of all interested parties, including Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society.

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

*Samantha Arlow left the meeting at this point, having declared an earlier pecuniary interest, as one of the current trading site holders.*

12.4. It was ***proposed & agreed*** to accept the legal advice as received from Nicholas Hancox Solicitors Ltd as our response regarding the addition of a get out clause and any financial implications/penalties to the holder of one of the **Trading Site Contracts** – That is to take each request for an early departure on its own merits, ie. there is no right to depart early, but that it may be permitted if the two parties can agree terms, as the four season period is meant to provide security for both parties.

12.5. *To receive & consider **Tenders** as submitted for each of the three Trading Sites; Refreshments, Seafood and Arts & Crafts.*

A total of 7 applications were received; 4 for the 'Refreshments site', 2 for the 'Seafood site' (although one was incomplete, and therefore invalid) and 1 for the Arts & Crafts site. Members had a copy of each tender and each was taken on its own merits. After much consideration, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that the following tenders are accepted; Carl Johnson & Patricia Tilley (Refreshments), Emma Darby (Seafood) & Samantha Arlow (Art & Crafts). The total of these 3 tenders equates to £15,000 per annum.

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

- 1) Application **PF/16/1659** – *Proposal; Extension of bathroom dormer window at, **58 High Street, Blakeney.** Consent given.*
- 2) Application **LA/16/1699** – *Proposal; Replacement of casements in existing bay window at, **Corner Cottage, 9 High Street, Blakeney.** Consent given.*
- 3) Application **PF/16/1745** – *Proposal; Erection of rear/side single storey extension (Orangery) at, **The Butts, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney.** Consent given.*
- 4) Application **PF/16/1524** – *Proposal; Erection of flint and brick wall of up to 2m high to front (south) and west boundaries at, **Gull Ridge Cottage, 67 New Road, Blakeney.** Consent given.*

Meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_