

Page 55 (2018/19)

Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 2nd October 2018** 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 and Iain Wolfe.

Clerk – Tracey Bayfield

Public – 12

1. **Apologies for Absence** – were received and ***accepted*** from; Alban Donohoe (*work*), Samantha Arlow (*away*), County Cllr Dr. Marie Strong & Wells Police SNT.
2. There were no **Declarations of Interest** from members in relation to any agenda item.
3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **MINUTES** of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th September 2018 are signed as a true record.

4. **GUESTS** –

- 4.1. **Wells Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team)** – had advised that there had been a bit of a breakthrough with our Marine Crime issues, in that two chaps were caught stealing some outboard engines from Morston a few weeks ago and we recovered three engines from this. The offenders are still going through the court system. We are patrolling the harbours and quays at night now with our Police boat, we have trained volunteers to assist us, and we welcome this with foot patrols along the quay also.

Police are appealing for information after thousands of pound worth of designer menswear was stolen from a shop in Holt in the early hours of Monday 24th September at approximately 12.30am.

5. **CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

- Asked if anyone could give feedback on the **Blakeney Harbour Association Public Consultation Event** held in the Harbour Room on 27th September. Were told that in the end it was decided that the BHA would not respond to the Marine Management Organisation, in their quest for gathering evidence which may form a base to control what are currently ‘unlicensed’ activities in Blakeney Harbour.
- A reminder that NNDC are currently holding a public consultation on the **Blakeney Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan**, in St Nicholas Church from 10th September to 22nd October, and that there will be a public meeting on Friday 5th October at 6.30pm in Blakeney Village Hall. Parish Councillors are encouraged to attend.

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS –

6.1. **County Councillor** - Dr. Marie Strong was not present.

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

Conservation Appraisals – As mentioned the consultation is underway in the churches of the Glaven Ports and the Public Meeting is scheduled for Friday 5th October starting at 6.30pm in Blakeney Village Hall. In addition to this meeting I am also holding separate consultations with Parish Councils who wish to co-ordinate local responses.

If you need me to attend any **additional meetings** in Blakeney e.g. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group then please let me know. (Karen has been invited to the next meeting of the NPSG.)

Telephone Pole on Mariners Hill - I have shared the advice from NNDC, which I struggle to accept. I have asked for advice from an independent planning expert. Phillip Rowson, the new Head of Planning at NNDC, agrees that we should collectively lobby the telecoms companies. He has also sent a legal response for information, which advises that the Digital Economy Act 2017 overrides all layers designed to protect, such as the Conservation Area and AONB status. Given the level of feeling in the community, it is now a case of lobbying and sending the complaints to BT/Openreach.

There was also an application from BT/Openreach submitted to NNDC sometime ago for the installation of poles and wires from Blakeney to Morston to deliver broadband. I will send you the details. (Aldborough had a scenario like this before which may be of interest to you.) Cley has very recently had pole and lines removed from above ground and placed underground to enhance the open space in this AONB etc. hence this action by BT/Openreach is simply astounding.

Queens Close Parking - I today met with the **CEO of Flagship Housing (FH)** to press for a resolution to the ongoing hardship caused by Victory's stance over parking in Queens Close, to which he was sympathetic. He advised that FH are not in the mind of selling coastal properties in order to raise funds. Their purpose is to build more social housing. A merger could take place in March/April 2019 meaning that Victory would become a subsidiary. This was a very positive meeting.

Anglian Water Sewage - I have raised the issue of the sewage at Blakeney Quay with the relevant Officers and the Portfolio Holder and this will be included in their next meeting with Anglian Water.

Kimberley, New Road – The developer has advised that they are due to resubmit a revised planning application very soon, and that they would be looking to attend the Parish Council meeting at which it is to be considered.

7. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION – Members raised the following points.

- **B.T./Openreach** – Total anger in the village that this 8.2m mast can be placed on Mariners Hill with no right to public or Parish Council consultation whatsoever. There are other much more sympathetic ways of getting a phone line to the Church Rooms such as from the BT phone box beside the Church Hall Rooms, or the Guildhall flats for example. The tenant applied for a landline connection, as opposed to the Church and are also surprised at the result. Friends of North Norfolk became aware of the application back in April and were disgusted by the application Openreach then put to NNDC and asked for to be considered much more sympathetically. Karen was asked what BT/Openreach actually had approved as the NNDC planning page, is not overly helpful. (Karen advised that in fact due to the overriding government legislation, NNDC did not approve anything.)
- **Langham Road Closure** – The road closure diversion signs put in place for the 3 day Anglian Water works, are a disgrace, with no thought for access to Doctors Surgery, Post Office, Shop etc.
- Seems as though anyone, including developers can come along and do just what they want in our village with no regard whatsoever.
- **Planning Application** – Stratton Long Marine, Westgate Street – The scheme for consideration this evening, is a larger scheme than previous, is now upside down living, and will cause major overlooking and privacy issues to neighbouring property.

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

Planning Applications

**Due to public interest item 8.5. was taken first.*

- 8.1. Application no. **PF/18/1587** – Proposal; *Erection of single storey detached timber studio at, **Shipley House, 8 Westgate Street, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have **no objection**.*
- 8.2. Application no. **PF/18/1462** – Proposal; *Erection of 2 no. one and a half storey detached dwellings and detached garage block (revised scheme) at, **Stratton Long Marine, Westgate Street, Blakeney.** It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we object very strongly to this application. **Our previous objections to this site remain**, and are namely;
 - Overdevelopment of the site - noting that the size has now increased from that previously permitted on Appeal by The*

Planning Inspector. This is out of proportion and scale with the current buildings on this site and should not be permitted. This application lies within the Conservation Area of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and there is much detail for NNDC to consider in relation to the policies put in place to protect it.

- Overlooking and loss of privacy to neighbours – with the living arrangements having now swapped, meaning the bedrooms are downstairs and the living quarters with the balconies and large glass bifold doors upstairs and decks, and heightened windows, this means that neighbouring windows and gardens will be overlooked.
- Access for residential use on to the highway at this site is extremely dangerous, and the only vehicle entrance to this site, runs directly past the customer entrance to a shop.
- Ground contamination of this site has been raised by experts and has not been addressed.
- Loss of one of the few historic commercial sites within the village as we raised previously, as this site is designated as an Employment Area, where only specific employment generated proposals are permitted.
- We are mindful of the appeal decision with regard the previous application for this site and also the appeal for Shipley House, (adjacent) which was dismissed by The Planning Inspector.

- 8.3. Application no. **LA/18/1525** – *Proposal; External works to facilitate the installation of ground floor window to rear at, **Benbow Cottage, 6B High Street, Blakeney***. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have **no objection**.
- 8.4. Members were happy with the update from NNDC with regard the consultation: **Protecting our Green Space** in relation to the preparation of the emerging new 'Local Plan' with regard correct wording.
- 8.5. **To receive & consider* information with regard the installation of the **B.T Mast on Mariners Hill** serving St. Nicholas Church Hall. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we shall formally complain and that we shall involve the community. It was suggested that we write a template letter giving the main bullet points, but equally that we encourage people to write their own individual letters, and remind them of the deadline to reply which is 3 months after the installation date as written on the pole, which was 18th September 2018.

- 8.6. Rosemary would be happy to attend the Norfolk Coast Partnership planning session on **Landscape for AONB Parishes** on 17th Oct, Edward would be happy to attend on the 1st November and Neil would be happy to attend any session as the second person. It should be pointed out to the organisers that the timing makes this a rather 'exclusive' rather than inclusive event.
- 8.7. Application no. **PF/18/1649** – *Proposal; Conversion of attached garage to living accommodation, including changes to fenestration. Extension to link building, including external courtyard staircase, balcony, pitched roof to replace existing lean-to roof, and first floor extension to North West elevation of existing lean-to building at, **The Tanning House, Mariners Hill, Blakeney.** Other than 1 abstention, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we have no objection.*

9. FINANCE

9.1. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **Accounts** totalling £9,634.38 are paid.

9.2. Clerk/RFO Report

- Members were in receipt of the details of cash and bank balances held, the car park income figures and were advised that the second instalment of the Precept had been received.
- Vodafone – Due to the improved mobile phone signal, the ROSS booster units will be temporarily disabled on the 8th October, and if it is determined that they are no longer needed, then they would be decommissioned at a later date.
- After 34 years of trading, Stephen Beal of Stephen Beal Landscapes is retiring. Many of his men will continue to trade, and we have their details for future reference.

9.3. PKF Littlejohn have advised of satisfactory completion of **External Audit** for year ending 2017/18.

9.4. Three quotes had been received for replacement of flooring in the **Public Toilet** located in converted brick bus shelter. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we accept quote no. 2 for R9 tiles in grey at a total cost of £550.

9.5. Two quotes had been received for extended shelving in **Parish Office**. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we accept quote no. 1 at a cost of £265 in total.

9.6. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we go to the press given the lack of support from NNDC, with our recent application to the **North Norfolk Big Society Fund** over their lack of financial support for our parking prevention

scheme which; i) received Police Crime Prevention Officer support and advice, ii) better to prevent than deal with after the event, whenever possible, iii) would only be used upon Police advice, iv) NNDC themselves have taken preventative measures on their land/car parks and thus pushed the problem along the coast, making others more vulnerable and feeling the need to take preventative action v) NNDC schemes will have been paid for via the public purse, vi) we are asking for only 50% of our total cost, and from the Big Society Scheme, to which Blakeney is the largest contributing village.

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

10.1. Iain gave an update/report on the **Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team**, and the full minutes of the last meeting are now available. Progress is being made, with a clear plan made, but now await outcome of most recent funding application.

10.2. Rosemary gave an update on the **Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** on progress and outcomes in the preparation of said plan, and to receive any recommendations on any proposed content of the Neighbourhood Plan. Group met last night and considered the public feedback from the last public consultation event. The NNDC Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, is a very useful tool here. Progress is being made. Minutes available shortly.

10.3. Meeting was yesterday, but neither of our representatives on the **Blakeney Village Hall Trust** were able to attend.

11. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – There were none.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12.1. Given the number of categories, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we will not make any nominations for the NNDC **Big Society Fund Volunteers Awards 2018**.

12.2. Details for the Battle's Over **A Nation's Tribute** lighting of the beacon on Mariners Hill on 11th November 2018 were ***agreed*** and full details will be shared with the wider community. Tom Benson has very kindly agreed to assist with this memorable event. We would like to see if we can have the other known names which are read, added to the War Memorial on New Road.

12.3. In reply to the question from the Environment Agency regarding **Predicted Flooding Changes** and, what one thing could change or help how this was managed, we have more than one key point to make. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that our answer is;

Page 61 (2018/19)

- Remove the bureaucracy and red tape
- Remove the astronomical licence fees
- Put funding aside for helping when sea defences/banks are breached in order to make good the features for the local habitat

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

- **PF/18/1352** – Erection of single storey front extension, two storey rear extension and detached garage to front of property at, 73 Morston Road, Blakeney – Granted.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman _____