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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 6th December 2022** in **The Scout Hut at 7.00pm.**

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Nigel Sutcliffe (Vice-Chairman), Samantha Arlow, Jane Armstrong, Alban Donohoe, Shirley Everett, Barry Girling, Edward Hackford & Willie Weston.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield

Public:- 2

1. **Apologies for Absence** were ***accepted*** from Jenny Girling.
2. There were no **Declarations of Interest or requests for dispensations** from members.
3. ***Resolved*** that the **Minutes** of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 31st October 2022 are signed as a true record.
4. There were no **Chairman's Announcements**.
5. **Reports from Police, County & District Councillors –**
 - 5.1. *Wells Safer Neighbourhood Police Team* – No report received.
 - 5.2. *County Councillor* – Michael Dalby – Have your say on Council tax and spending Plans. People have until the 16th December 2022, to have a say on the county council tax and spending proposals.

The council is consulting on;

- Proposed total increase of 2.99% - 1.9% for general Council tax and 1% for Adult Social Care precept.
- People views on a rise of 4.1%, as the council has set in previous, and 10.1% - in line with inflation (which would require a referendum).

Savings proposal;

- Reducing open hours of Norfolk Record office from 28 hour a week to 22.5 hours a week.
- Reducing weed spraying activities on the Highway from twice a year to one a year.
- Reducing summer open hours at recycling centres and closing all recycling centres on Wednesdays.

Findings will be considered by cabinet on the 30th January 2023, before the full council finalises the budget on 21st February 2023.

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5.3. *District Councillor* – Victoria Holliday – A summary of key points;

Planning - Planning improvement plan - the consultation regarding the Planning Service's performance is underway with towns and parishes. The Parishes consultation is still open. The public consultation started 1st November and will be advertised through social media, the Outlook Magazine and NNDCs website. Paper copies can be obtained by visiting the Council offices or calling customer services who will post one out.

The enforcement team has 208 live cases which is the lowest for a while.

Benefits - The Benefits Service has recently recruited additional officers to help with processing. NNDC has launched a Financial Inclusion Team to reduce financial exclusion in the district. More details of how to refer coming soon. There are 2772 households on the housing list and 55 households in temporary accommodation. 52 affordable homes are expected to be built this year and 354 in the next few years. NNDC has a new Domestic Abuse Project Officer within the Housing Options Team to promote awareness and good practice in housing for victims of domestic abuse.

Sustainable growth - North Norfolk should receive £1.5 million through the Rural Prosperity Fund for rural development and growth. A Local Partnership Group will identify priority interventions. 100 new apprenticeship placements will be offered across the district over the next two years. The total value of tourism in the district for 2021 was £365 million, up 54% on 2020, but down 30% on 2019, with tourism related jobs (8898) up 11% vs 2020 but down 25% on 2019.

Finance - NNDC forecasts a budget deficit (currently £900k) for this year.

The NHS is running a campaign to keep us warm and well this winter. Check out www.winterwellnorfolkwavney.co.uk or contact me if you're not online.

6. Open Public Session – to allow members of the public and councillors with prejudicial interests to address the meeting.

- *Just to reiterate the points made at the 31st October meeting, and to advise that approval has been sort from the new owner of The Manor Hotel to use the 'small green triangle of land', owned by them at the bottom of Mariners Lane for temporary parking, so as not to cause any problems to the residents of Mariner Lane.*

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

- 7.1. **PF/22/2547 & LA/22/2548** – *Proposal; External & Internal alterations, including insertion of new window in reduced opening on south elevation and replacement of north facing timber sash windows. Reinstatement of west elevation window and replacement flat roof incorporating flat roof*

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*light at, 16 Westgate Street, Blakeney. **Resolved*** - No objection, subject to NNDC Conservation & Design team being happy with the windows.

- 7.2. **PF/22/2708** – *Proposal; Extensions to front, side and rear of dwelling; alterations to front and rear dormers; changes to external materials; first floor balcony to rear; detached domestic outbuilding (garden room) at, Sandpipers, 3 Kingsway, Blakeney. **Resolved*** - No objection.
- 7.3. *Proposal; That permission be granted by the Parish Council in favour of a partial closure of the footpath (FP11) directly in front of 4 Mariners Hill, Blakeney and The Friary, Mariners Hill, for a period not exceeding 4 months commencing from January 1st 2023, to be completed by Easter 2023, to necessitate the movement of building materials to 4 Mariners Hill. A diversion of the footpath will afford access to the top of Mariners Hill across Parish Council owned land and links to an established footpath leading from the Harbour alongside The Guildhall. **Resolved*** – No objection.
- 7.4. Members noted the recommendation of use of Visible Light Transmission Glass (VLT) in future planning applications, in the context of our **Dark Skies Policy** and **resolved** that NNDC be asked to look into this further.
- 7.5. *Proposal; Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and first floor stair access, and construction of a new first floor and single storey extension to form a habitable room on part of the original building footprint. The application also includes for replacing existing windows with energy efficient fittings and insertion of a window to the garage at, The Wells, 3 The Pastures, Blakeney. **Resolved*** – No objection.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £12,167.23 are to be paid.
- 8.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** – Brief update on the figures to date.
- Planning permission is required for the creation of the disabled access ramp on the **Scout Hut** – the Scout Group will submit a retrospective application.
 - **NCC Highways** have confirmed that Back Lane and Westgate Street should have received more surface preparation before the surface dressing was carried out in the summer. These ‘gaps’ will be filled and rectified as soon as possible.
 - The end of season **Bonfire & Fireworks Event** made a profit of £3,282, which is ploughed back into the community. (Noting that the fireworks are accounted for under a separate budget heading.)

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- 8.3. **Resolved** to accept the quote for **Rain eroded Gulley** on The Carnser Car Park from Glaven Landscapes dated 1st November 2022.
- 8.4. **Resolved** to accept the quote for **Village Hall Car Park** repairs.
- 8.5. **Resolved** to place the following contracts for **Electricity** from the quotes we had received, noting that they are changing all the time; i) Parish Office – best 2-year fixed rate deal, ii) Trading Sites/Carnser – best 2-year fixed rate deal & iii) Street Lights x 2 accounts – best 1-year fixed rate deal.
- 8.6. **Resolved** the following in relation to Norfolk County Council **Parish Partnership Schemes**;
- i) **Village Gateways** – Langham Road, Morston Road, Cley Road, Saxlingham Road, Wiveton Road – to receive & consider costings. **Apply to Parish Partnership Fund** for entire scheme.
- ii) **Bournes Corner Parking** – to receive & consider costings. **No further action.**
- iii) **Langham Road Trod** (*Cllr Jane Armstrong*) – *To reconsider* whether to go ahead with the proposed trod on the east side of Langham Road (at an anticipated cost of £10k to Blakeney Parish Council plus £10k to Norfolk County Council) bearing in mind that there have been some developments since the decision to apply for this project was taken in November 2021. In particular:
- a) this length of verge is now easy to walk on without any further work;
- b) if the expected residential development to the south of Kingsway goes ahead it is likely that around a third of the trod will be removed and replaced by new access road and pavement;
- c) in the current financial circumstances, I would suggest the project does not offer good value for the £20k of public money. **Withdraw this application**, do not proceed with the work.

9. Reports from Representatives on Other Committees/Groups which have met recently if applicable and any decision taken this evening;

- **BPC & N/T Working Group** – **Resolved** 2023 Tariff ; All charges to remain as they are, other than the cost of a Season Ticket, which will increase from £50 to £100.
- **Events Committee** – **Resolved** to grant a budget of £2,000 to the Events Committee, in order to commemorate the ‘Coronation of King Charles III’ in May 2023 with permission to undertake a local event.

- **Dinghy Park Management Committee** – Verbal update given, as per their minutes.
- **Blakeney Village Hall Trust** – Verbal update given, as per their minutes.
- **Community Speedwatch** – **Resolved** to enter dialogue with the Langham group (which Rosemary and Nigel are part of) and see if they would visit Blakeney also. If successful, then the co-ordinator has to agree with the police, the sites where speedwatch might operate in the village.

10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None received.

11. CORRESPONDENCE –

- 11.1. **Resolved** to adopt the **Civility & Respect Pledge** for the Local Council sector.
- 11.2. **Resolved** that we now cancel this project/scheme, as time has moved on, and we no longer feel the need for this, as we did during the height of the Covid pandemic, ie: **Live Car Park Full Sign** in relation to The Carnser which was to be erected near the Westgate Street/Langham Road crossroads, as part of a successful NCC Parish Partnership funding application.
- 11.3. **Resolved** that we after much consideration we feel that we are not able to take any further action with regard **Coronation Lane**.
- 11.4. The **Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan** – public consultation runs til 20th January 2023 and will therefore placed on our January agenda.
- 11.5. **Resolved** that Nigel Sutcliffe, Rosemary Thew and Edward Hackford will attend the meeting with **Holt Medical Practice** on 8th December at 12 noon via Zoom.

12. Confidential Business – Exclusion of the Press & Public – **Resolved** that; *Due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (Parish Rent Charity business), it is proposed that the press and public are now excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. (Admission to Meeting Act (Public Bodies) 1960.*

- 12.1. **Resolved** to award a grant of £1,000 in this current financial year to this parish charity.

Meeting closed at 9.16pm

Chairman _____