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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023** in The Scout Hut at 7.00pm.

**Present**:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Nigel Sutcliffe (Vice-Chairman), Jane Armstrong, Barry Girling, Jenny Girling, Edward Hackford, Willie Weston & Iain Wolfe.

**Clerk**:- Tracey Bayfield

**Public**:- 4

**1. Apologies for Absence** were ***accepted*** from; Alban Donohoe, Samantha Arlow & Shirley Everett.

**2.** There were no **Declarations of Interest or requests for dispensations** from members.

*Cllr Iain Wolfe arrived at this point.*

**3. Resolved** that the **Minutes** of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 are signed as a true record.

**4. Chairman's Announcements –**

- Attended the Parish & Town Council forum at NNDC yesterday, and we were asked to remind all Cllrs about the forthcoming elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Full details will be shared with the Parish Clerk soon.
- Also, please could all Councillors respond to the invite to attend a meeting with the B3CT (Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team) as a matter of urgency, noting the correct response email address.

**5. Reports from Police, County & District Councillors –**

5.1. *Wells Safer Neighbourhood Police Team* – No report received.

5.2. **County Councillor – Michael Dalby**, shared the following report;

**Housing with care flats helping people leave hospital** - 10 Housing with Care flats across Norfolk are being used to support people who are medically fit but need care at home to leave hospital. People will temporarily move from a hospital bed to a flat in a Housing with Care scheme for up to four weeks. They will receive 24/7 care and support before moving back to their home. Developed as a partnership between Norfolk County Council, the landlords (Broadland Housing Association and Saffron Housing Trust), NorseCare, Country Kitchen Foods Norfolk and NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board the flats will be available until 31 March.

**Cabinet considers next phase of support for Ukrainians in Norfolk** - Norfolk County Council's Cabinet is being asked to consider the next step in the

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Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, which will be known as the Move On programme. The council will continue to provide support, both directly and through its partners and district and borough councils, to both hosts and guests. The new package from central Government is providing funding to support Ukrainian guests to move into their own homes and for housing authorities to purchase properties for the use of refugees.

**Norfolk residents to benefit from £2 bus fare cap** - Nine bus operators in Norfolk have announced that they will be taking part in the Bus Fare Cap Grant scheme. This means that a single journey on all services run by these operators between 1 January – 31 March 2023 will cost no more than £2 thanks to funding from HM Government. The scheme is part of the Government's Help for Households campaign designed to support families through cost-of-living pressures.

Operators taking part are; BorderBus, First, Konectbus, Our Bus, Sanders, Simonds, Coach Services, Stagecoach & Semmence.

**Village Gateways Funding** – I am pleased to advise that I have allocated £6k towards this project, from the NCC Road Safety Community Fund which will reduce the Parish Councils expenditure on this project.

**Highways** – The remedial work for Westgate Street and Back Lane, will take place as soon as the weather and budget allow.

5.3. ***District Councillor – Victoria Holliday*** a summary of key points made.

**Planning** - Nutrient neutrality - a Joint Venture Board is being set up by March 2023 including Anglian Water to provide environmental credits. This should enable development to proceed.

**Benefits** - Household Support Fund - round 3 is now open. NNDC will target those in need; you can also apply directly. Energy Bill Support Scheme - an alternative fund providing £400 for those not eligible for the energy bill discount will start mid-January. Discretionary Housing Payments - these are available to support tenants keep their homes. Financial Inclusion Team - this supports resident who require debt advice, welfare benefits advice and financial capability. Energy Efficiency Improvement Grants - these are available to low-income households for insulation, air source heat pumps etc. There are 2754 households on the housing list, and 55 households are in temporary accommodation. 7 Ukrainian households have been rehoused following the end of their six-month host arrangements.

**Wellbeing** – The newly formed North Norfolk Steering Group is looking for young people aged 11 to 18 years, to join the Youth Council. Their main aims are improving education, mental health services and environmental issues around North Norfolk. Anyone interested should contact [emma.denny@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:emma.denny@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

**Sustainable growth** - A Local Partnership Group has been convened to decide how best to spend the North Norfolk allocation of the Rural Prosperity Fund, which is £1.5

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million. This will go toward supporting local businesses (eg capital funding for net zero infrastructure or diversification of farm businesses) and rural communities ( eg investing in cultural and heritage assets or social capital). UK Shared Prosperity Fund - NNDC will receive £1.24 million to fund improvements to community infrastructure, strengthen local businesses and in support to keep people in employment.

**Environment** - There has been an increase in rat sightings in rural areas, but Environmental Health will only tackle those which are associated with a public health risk. There are still issues with bin collections though service is improving. NNDCs carbon footprint has decreased by 57%. Some of that is due to the use of green electricity. Adding Electrical Vehicle charging points to 6 Council car parks is under review.

**Customer service** - Fly tipping location reports will now include What3Words. The new public toilets in Wells are finally open. There are two Hornsea Three Community Fund consultation events in Feb, Wells on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Holt on 21<sup>st</sup>. This is an opportunity for those interested in obtaining funding to discuss projects. The fund doesn't go live til June 2024, but that gives plenty of time to work up funding requirements. The four themes for funding are sport/recreation, environment/conservation wildlife/public open spaces, community building and community services. It's not aimed at arts/heritage. More details on Hornsea Three Community Fund website. Shoreline Management Plans. SMP5 (Hunstanton to Kelling Hard, administered by Environment Agency), being refreshed, current plans available on East Anglia Coastal Group website, under Shoreline Management Plans.

We are informed that the Coast Rd speed limit from Hunstanton to Weybourne may be reduced from 60 to 40mph. There is as yet no timeline on this.

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

- *Would the Parish Council be prepared to consider seeking the allocation of 'Asset of Community Value' and/or similar allocations for the car park, green and buildings which form the **Harbour Room premises** in High Street, Blakeney? (BPC will place this on the February agenda for consideration.)*

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

- 7.1. **RV/22/2830** – *Proposal; Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission PF/21/3073 to allow existing hedge to south site boundary to be removed to enable new low-level solid fence, hedge to be replanted when fence is complete and brise soleil removed from west elevation of plot 2 at, **43 New Road, Blakeney. Resolved** – No objection.*

- 7.2. **Planning Inspectorate Ref. EN010109** – *Proposal; Application by Equinor New Energy Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project, to be located of the coast of Norfolk; one for up to 23 wind turbine generators and the other for up to 30 wind turbine generators.* **Resolved** – Noted for the time being. District Cllr Victoria Holliday, will ask the Community Engagement Office to simply update us.
- 7.3. **Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan** – public consultation runs til 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. **Resolved** – i) We want the saltmarshes to remain in the Conservation Area, ie. to continue to enjoy their present level of protection, ii) We wish for the modern housing area on Saxlingham Road to be retained within the protected area, aswell as the field, iii) We are also happy to sign up to the co-ordinated response with other parishes.
- 7.4. **RV/23/0018** – *Proposal; Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission PF/21/2307 (single storey extensions; removal of part of roof and extension to provide first floor accommodation; other external alterations) to allow additional window for bedroom 2 and relocation of air source heat pump, at Cranford, High Street, Blakeney.* **Resolved** – Defer to the February Parish Council meeting.

## **8. FINANCE**

- 8.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £9,190.08 are to be paid.
- 8.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** – Brief update on the figures to date.
- **Parish Partnership Bids cancelled** – 1) Live Car Park Signage (no cost incurred to BPC) & ii) Langham Road Trod (£750 cost incurred by BPC for NCC work undertaken given that scheme was to commence before Christmas, so £9,250 is to be returned to BPC via NCC).
  - **Electricity Providers** signed up to – Given that prices had changed, and based on Broker recommendations these are the final contracts placed: Parish Office 2 year with EDF Energy, Carnser Car Park/Trading Sites 2 year with EDF Energy and Street Lighting remained with British Gas for a 1-year contract.
  - **Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan** – Iain Withington has advised that the final report will be issued in the new year.
  - **Granary Staging** – The Blakeney Harbour Association is hoping to erect a sign to keep the public off the dilapidated staging near the granary, they just need to satisfy themselves on the liability front.

- 8.3. **Resolved** to accept the recommendation from the Finance & Governance Committee, to request a **Precept 2023/24** of £45,000 from NNDC.
- 8.4. **Resolved** that we accept the quote to undertake all outstanding work as detailed by **Online Playgrounds**, following the quarterly inspection report, noting that the Clerk will query the zip wire retention timing and replacement timbers.

**9. Reports from Representatives on Other Committees/Groups** which have met recently;

*The following item was taken immediately after Planning, however, for continuity of the minutes following the agenda, it is recorded below.*

- 9.1. Cllr Nigel Sutcliffe updated the meeting with **Holt Medical Practice & Duncan Baker MP**, regarding Blakeney Surgery which was held via Zoom on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The outcome being that Holt Medical Practice, will now start the official consultation process to close the **Blakeney Surgery**. BPC therefore **resolved** to undertake the following actions;
- Submit the following **Freedom of Information** requests;
    - i) Ask for a copy of the 10-year Business Plan, covering Holt Medical Practice Group, ie. includes Blakeney and Melton Constable surgeries;
    - ii) Ask for their accounts covering the last 10 years (or 7 if that is all they retain), covering the Holt Medical Practice Group, ie, includes Blakeney & Melton Constable surgeries;
    - iii) Ask if the Blakeney premises are owned outright, and if there has been any correspondence with any potential developers;
    - iv) In relation to the last financial year; How many collections are made from Blakeney? How many patients have made an appointment via Blakeney Surgery to see a GP or nurse at Holt or Melton Constable?
    - v) Ask for the data of patients attending all 3 surgeries, ie. demographics;
    - vi) The number of patients visiting Blakeney surgery compared to Holt and Melton Constable surgeries;
    - vii) Confirmation of what the Blakeney Surgery Dispensary offered in the past 10 years and what it is now;

- Also ask for the outcome of the meeting they were holding on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- Put in a complaint to the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board regarding the current services provided by HMP at Blakeney Surgery which is significantly different from that provided at their last Care Quality Commission Inspection Report published on 24th August 2018. If this is not successful the next step BPC can take is to make a complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman for further investigation but this last action is very much for the future. (NS will draft.)
- District Cllr Victoria Holliday will follow up leads also with the Integrated Care Board.

**10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None.**

**11. CORRESPONDENCE –**

- 11.1. **Resolved** that in response to the **Street Lights** public consultation, which asked for views on whether to switch off all lights permanently or to place them all on a timer, we note the responses and we will work to place all our street lights on a timer.
- 11.2. **Resolved** that as a result of the previous decision we will now work on the **Replacement Street Lighting** program. Timers are added at the time of manufacture at no additional cost, as advised by T T Jones Electrical. We will seek further information with regard the concrete posts, ie. any chance of them being retained/modified, and confirmation that the new lanterns would not be too bright, and will also try and obtain a second quote. We will also seek to obtain 50% grant funding towards this expenditure.

*Cllr Edward Hackford left the meeting at this point.*

- 11.3. **Resolved** that the BPC/NT Working Group representatives will raise the following item at the next group meeting with the National Trust in February 2023. This being in respect of income from **Blakeney Carnser Car Park**, what is an appropriate split of income between Blakeney Parish Council and The National Trust, based on the National Trust Land Registry entries, which do not appear consistent with the current arrangements.

Meeting closed at 9.14pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_