

Page 71 (2022/23)

Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 7th February 2023** in The Scout Hut at 7.00pm.

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

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield

Public:- 2

1. Apologies for Absence were ***accepted*** from: Alban Donohoe & County Cllr, Michael Dalby.

2. There were no **Declarations of Interest & 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 10th January 2023 are signed as a true record.

4. Chairman's Announcements –

- Update on the **Neighbourhood Plan** – this is now with NNDC, who are deciding what action to take in response to the recommendations made by the examiner and what further modifications are considered necessary.
- **Glaven Valley Area Conservation Review** - two additional public meetings have been arranged for **Thursday 9th March**, at: The Venue, Holt: 4:30-6:00pm & Blakeney Village Hall: 7-8pm. NNDC Officers will be accompanied by representatives from Purcell, authors of the appraisal, to explain the process and answer questions. The public consultation period will now end on **Friday 31st March 2023**, instead of Friday 20th January.
- **Dinghy Park Management Committee** met on 24th January, key points; compulsory registration, tags instead of stickers and winter works nearly all completed.

5. Reports from Police, County & District Councillors –

5.1. *Wells Safer Neighbourhood Police Team* – Advised that no longer routinely attend Parish Council meetings. Blakeney and the surrounding villages remain an extremely low crime area.

5.2. *County Councillor* – Michael Dalby had submitted a NCC generic report.

5.3. *District Councillor* – Victoria Holliday had submitted a report in advance, no Blakeney specific items.

Page 72 (2022/23)

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

- *Just to reiterate the desire for BPC to submit an application to NNDC to make the Harbour Room and associated land an Asset of Community Value, as due to national RBL branch closures, this could become vulnerable in the future.*

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

Planning Applications (ref. no's shown); **and other planning related items.**

7.1. **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** – OBJECT; to the relocation of the air source heat pump, which will impact upon neighbours, and we also have concerns regarding the proposed additional window for bedroom 2 which will overlook a neighbouring garden.*

7.2. **RV/23/0014** – *Proposal; Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 6 (parking) of planning permission PF/21/1805 (demolition of redundant garages and erection of 3 dwellings with associated parking) to allow for amended parking arrangements for all properties at, Land East of 21 Queens Close, Blakeney. **Resolved** – No objection.*

8. FINANCE

8.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £17,122.05 are to be paid.

8.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** – Brief update on the figures to date.

- **Certificate of Lawful Development application** – for the existing use of the land for vehicle parking at The Dinghy Park, has been submitted in conjunction with The National Trust.
- **Precept 2023/24** – NNDC have advised that they reported the wrong tax base, which has now changed from 549.77 to 545.19. The result being that the Blakeney Precept request of £45K means that a Band D property will increase from £81.85 to £82.54, ie. an increase of 0.69p in the annual Council Tax for a Band D property. BPC has to confirm that they wish to remain with a Precept figure of £45K as resolved in January. **Resolved** that we do wish to remain with £45K.

Page 73 (2022/23)

- Following completion of the improved **Vehicle Access** to the overflow field on Langham Road, via the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme, a new/additional metal field gate is being sourced.
- **Parish & District Council Elections** – The notice of election will be published on Tuesday 21st March 2023. This will mark the start of the period in which candidate nomination forms can be submitted by those who wish to stand for election on 4th May. All applications have to be hand submitted to NNDC by 4pm on Tuesday 4th April and full details may be found on the NNDC website.
- **Police & Crime Commissioner** for Norfolk, Giles Orpen-Smellie will be attending our Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 4th April.
- **Charitable Trusts webinar** – Clerk and Chairman to attend this event on 15th & 22nd February.
- **Scout Hut** – Discussion with regard the ‘local lease’ and its expiry commenced with the Scout Group (SG) in 2018, 2019 brought about a new Group Scout Leader and everything changed. Feb 2020 the SG were prepared to sign a 2-year agreement (in the hope that Beaver, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders would return), Covid also hampered progress, as SG individual members were unable to hold virtual meetings. Most of the SG Exec left, and has run on skeleton personnel. They had been aiming to hand the hut over in good condition to BPC, compliant for community use. They had been misinformed over building work via one of their key Personnel, ie. they need planning permission for the emergency exit/disabled access ramp, which they have since learned does not meet with building regulations, and also sadly a burst water pipe in December, which has resulted in an insurance claim. The depleted group are dealing with these issues as best they can. In the meantime, there is no current agreement in place, and BPC have had to seek legal advice from the start, over the ‘local licence’ (which is not a legally drawn up document) and the legality/implications of this, being out of lease, land registration and how best to move forward. This is a slow ongoing process, with much to consider. The SG is a registered charity, BPC is not, still much work to be done.

8.3. **Resolved** that the **Community Fund** figure of £2,500 is to be allocated as follows;

- i) Blakeney Area Historical Society - £400
- ii) Blakeney Village Hall Trust - £400
- iii) Blakeney Conservation Duckpond - £400
- iv) Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team (B3CT) - £400
- v) Ruth James (Community First Responder) - £500
- vi) Little Crabs Toddler Group (Blakeney Primary School) £400

- 8.4. **Resolved** to have a recorded vote on the following proposal as a result of receiving the appropriate rescission notice; That the proposed **Trod** along the east side of **Langham Road**, linking the public footpaths near Kingsway and the countryside footpaths, which start near the Scargill's homestead, should be reinstated as a joint project with the Norfolk County Council under the Parish Partnership Scheme. **Resolved via Recorded Vote: In favour;** Rosemary Thew, Nigel Sutcliffe, Edward Hackford, Shirley Everett, Samantha Arlow, Iain Wolfe & Willie Weston. **Voting against;** Jane Armstrong, Jenny Girling and Barry Girling.

Resolved - The proposal to reinstate the Langham Road Trod Parish Partnership Scheme was carried and to use the remainder for the 'Community Project Earmarked Funds' towards our expenditure, thus closing this EMF.

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

- 9.1. **Blakeney Surgery** – *Cllr Nigel Sutcliffe* – We await the response from Holt Medical Practice (HMP) to our questions regarding the future of Blakeney Surgery. The Parish Council have been informed in an email from Holt Medical Practice of their intention to close Blakeney Surgery and HMP have commenced discussion with the Integrated Care Board in that regard. There is a process that now has to be followed by HMP to achieve their goal.

Resolved that our District Cllr. Victoria Holliday will bring the further issues to the attention of our MP, Duncan Baker, and she will try and ascertain the lead person at the ICB dealing with the possible closure of Blakeney Surgery, so that we know who to liaise with, she will also contact 'Healthwatch' (the local health and social care champion for the county). BPC will write to the ICB explaining what dialogue has already taken place between BPC & HMP about providing full medical services at Blakeney Surgery.

- 9.2. **Blakeney Village Hall Trust** – *Cllr Jane Armstrong* – The Trustees met on 18 January 2023. I reported, on behalf of BPC, that, on the topic of legal advice in respect of the Car Park Agreement, there was nothing currently to share with the Village Hall Trustees. BPC have responded to the solicitor's questions and are awaiting the solicitor's response. The Village Hall Trustees' main issue at the moment is pursuing a solution to the, much higher, electricity costs which mean that costs are currently far outstripping income. The Trustees are hoping to solve this issue by a combination of improved insulation, installation of solar panels and modernised heating system. They are obtaining quotations for the above work which are required in order that they can apply for grant funding. The other measure being considered is whether to increase the hall hire charges for "commercial" hirers. (They are not looking at increasing charges for community groups.) Following Edward's notice of resignation

as Chair of the Trustees a couple of months ago, a new Chair, Alex Scott, was appointed at the meeting.

10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None.

11. CORRESPONDENCE –

- 11.1. **Resolved** to apply to NNDC to have the Harbour Rooms premises, including the car park, the green and the buildings which form this site in the High Street, Blakeney, allocated as an **Asset of Community Value**.
- 11.2. **Resolved** to dispose of our old **Gritting Machine** which is no longer fit for purpose, we may be able to obtain something smaller and suitable via any scrap money. Also obtain quotes for 2 new grit bins.
- 11.3. **Resolved** not to put the access code of the front of our **Defibrillator** cabinets, as all calls should be channelled through 999 as advised by Community Heartbeat Trust, thus the patient would be assessed as to the level of treatment required, and the Ambulance Service will know whether or not the defibrillators have been deployed and will update the system immediately, ie. rescue ready/not available.
- 11.4. **Resolved** that we change our domain name/address to **.gov.uk** as per the sector recommendation.
- 11.5. **Resolved** that we invite the following as guest speaker/topic of interest to our **Annual Parish Meeting** which is to be held on Thursday 16th March 2023. In the following order depending upon availability; i) Holt Medical Practice re. Blakeney Surgery, ii) Duncan Baker MP (Blakeney Surgery and other general constituency items), iii) B3CT (although they will be invited as a recipient of the Community Fund, they may like to give a more detailed report), iv) Blakeney Royal British Legion representative.

Meeting closed at 8:56pm

Chairman _____