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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023** in **The Scout Hut at 7.00pm.**

**Present:-** Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Nigel Sutcliffe (Vice-Chairman), Samantha Arlow, Alban Donohoe, Barry Girling, Jenny Girling, Judith Pegden, Willie Weston & Iain Wolfe.

**Clerk:-** Tracey Bayfield

**Public:-** 4

**1. Apologies for Absence** were ***accepted*** from; Shirley Everett & Mike Reed.

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

**3. *Resolved*** that the **Minutes** of The Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 are signed as a true record.

**4. Chairman's Announcements** – None.

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

5.1. *County Councillor* – Michael Dalby had circulated a report in advance. *BPC asked that with regard the 'Bid to boost Norfolk's 3bn tourism economy'; that visitor parking is accounted for.*

5.2. *District Councillor* – Victoria Holliday; NNDC has limited reporting in a quiet period. The Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan referendum on the 14<sup>th</sup> September has unfortunately not been dealt with in the best way by the electoral team at NNDC, and there are concerns that some voters will potentially miss out due to their circumstances and the very tight timescales.

**6. Open Public Session –**

- *Member of public referred to article in GVN from BPC in response to Alistair Lindops article, re. Macmillan Mighty Hike, asking for BPC to publish a correction in the next issue.*
- *Graham Gower Smith (Norfolk Constabulary Beat Manager Holt) introduced himself, as Blakeney will be under his domain.*

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

7.1. **PF/23/1330** – *Proposal; Single storey extensions and external alterations to dwelling at; Charnwood, Pintail Drive, Blakeney – **Resolved to ratify; Object** as overdevelopment of the site.*

- 7.2. **PF/23/1577** – Proposal; Installation of two dormer windows (front and side), enlargement of first floor rear windows and rendering of property at; **8 Langham Road, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.**
- 7.3. **LA/23/1640** – Proposal; Internal and external works including reinstatement of west elevation window, replacement flat roof incorporating flat roof light and external soil vent pipe to south elevation at; **16 Westgate Street, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.**
- 7.4. **PF/23/1673** – Proposal; Alterations and extensions to single storey dwelling including replacement roof with higher ridge and dormers to form a one and half storey dwelling at; **Midsummer Cottage, Old Rectory Lane, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.**
- 7.5. **NP/23/1753** – Proposal; Erection of agricultural storage building at; **New Barn Farm, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.**
- 7.6. **PF/23/0969** – Proposal; Demolition of existing bungalow and garage; Erection of 2 no. two-storey dwellings and outbuilding (home office) at, **Three Gables, 8 New Road, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.**
- 7.7. **PF/23/1657** – Alterations to office/storage building, comprising the installation of solar panels and rooflights on the south facing roof slope and alterations to windows and doors to the north elevation at, **Hilltop Retreats, Langham Road, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.**
- 7.8. **PLANNING APPEAL HEARING** ref: **AP/23/0015 (original no. PF/21/1524)** – Proposal; Change of use and extension to existing storage barn to form new dwelling and enable rare chalk grassland creation system including re-location of existing access at; **Storage Barn, Morston Road, Blakeney.** The Hearing will open at 10am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at NNDC offices Cromer. **Resolved – BPC will send a representative.**
- 7.9. **PF/23/1825** – Erection of single storey holiday lodge at, **Hilltop Retreats, Langham Road, Blakeney. Resolved – Object;** i) this application is for a permanent dwelling (there is already a residential house on this site) as opposed to a static caravan, ii) it goes against the revised permission granted for this site, in accordance with an associated application no. PF/20/1347, which allows occupancy from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> January in any year only, this is for all year round occupancy, iii) we see this as further overdevelopment of this site in the AONB.
- 7.10. **PF/23/1791** – Installation of replacement oil tank at, **Hill House, New Road, Blakeney. Resolved – No objection.**

## **8. FINANCE**

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8.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £ 17,821.03 are paid.

8.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** –

- Clean audit completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 confirmed by the **External Auditor**, PKF Littlejohn LLP.
- The Blakeney & District Wildfowlers have advised that they are no longer able to continue with the upkeep of the **Blakeney Duckpond** and are considering handing it back to the landowner, but wish to ask BPC if they would be interested in running it first. *(The Clerk has asked BDWA that BPC would need to know precisely what this would entail in terms of costs, manpower, insurance, land management, regulations and legislation etc, and would welcome this in writing and attendance at a meeting by BDA before this could be considered.)*

8.3. Members were in receipt of the annual **Play Inspection Report**.

**9. Written Reports from Representatives on Other Committees/Groups** which have met recently if applicable.

9.1. **Blakeney Surgery** – *Cllr Nigel Sutcliffe*.

The last month has been incredibly busy with regards to the Surgery but let me first deal with a letter that Steffan Aquarone sent to us as the result of his visit last month regarding fundraising in relation to a new surgery build. His letter explains how this can be done and his support is clear. May I suggest at this stage in what we are doing it is not the time to go down this option, but it could be viable for the future one we have a result on the future Blakeney surgery. I would suggest we defer it relevance to a future date once the decision is known about the surgery early next year.

Since the public meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 a small group has evolved to deal with the ongoing issues. The group comprises from BPC your Chairman and Vice-Chairman, your District Councillor and two retired GP's from HMP. They have met regularly to discuss options and come up with actions to move our cause forward. Your District Councillor has been at the heart of this and deserves our thanks.

We need to remember that the public meeting came as a shock to HMP with regards to the numbers who attended and their hostility to the proposed closure of Blakeney Surgery. Since then, I will summarise the action taken as follows: -

- A rebuttal statement has been prepared to counter the arguments put forward by HMP and it has been widely distributed.
- A petition has been commenced to express the support of parishioners to keep the surgery open. If you have not yet signed it, please do. Patients from

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Holt and Melton Constable are also signing it. The completed petition will be taken to HMP before 30<sup>th</sup> September, and it will then be handed into the ICB.

- A stall was established at the Party on the Pastures on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August to issue stickers to 'Save Blakeney Surgery' to all who attended. The petition was available to sign and the rebuttal statement was handed out to visitors. Banners were made and displayed at the stall – these can now be found on display at the Village Hall car park. The stall was primarily staffed by our District Councillor together with Parish Councillors, a GP from our resistance group and our MP. Its presence was well received by all who attended the event.
- The drop-in sessions have now been extended by HMP to include one at Blakeney Village Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 12 noon and one on the 12<sup>th</sup> September at Holt surgery between 6pm and 7.30pm. All the sessions so far have been visited by a member of the group I mentioned early. It is clear, certainly from the one I went to, that there is universal support for our cause throughout the area HMP covers and I have yet to meet any member of the public who supports the closure of Blakeney Surgery.
- Please do not forget that HMP patient survey is still ongoing to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and if you have not yet completed it, please do so. That Survey is deficient in several areas and is clearly deigned to elicit nothing controversial and to support the closure and nothing else. In relation to it BPC have written to HMP yesterday pointing out their failures and inadequacies, for example, there is no reference to Blakeney surgery at all in that survey. We are asking HMP to make their public consultation more meaningful for the second half of their patient engagement phase. We await to see what they will do. Our clerk has sent you a copy of the letter.
- For the future a definitive document is being prepared to show why Blakeney surgery should not be closed. This will be submitted to the ICB once the public consultation period of HMP has concluded.
- One final point is that some weeks ago an incident occurred at Blakeney Surgery where as far as we are being told a local resident was abusive to the receptionist on duty. Whilst this has been dealt with, we note that HMP were quick to inform the ICB about it. We state without reservation that such behaviour is unacceptable and is not condoned in anyway by anyone involved in this current campaign.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in this process for their support and hard work. It is an important issue which affects everyone.

- 9.2. **Resolved** to reappoint the following Public Representatives to the **Dinghy Park Management Committee**; Steve Roch & Peter Roe.

**10. No COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS** received in advance.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE –**

- 11.1. **Resolved** that in response to the **Government Consultation** on additional flexibilities to support housing delivery, the agricultural sector, businesses, high streets and open prisons; and a call for evidence on nature-based solutions, farm efficiency projects and diversification, that we **Object**; as we believe there are more local concerns than benefits. VH will prepare a precis response on our behalf.

**Confidential Business – Exclusion of the Press & Public – Resolved** that; *Due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (11.2. Scout Hut inc. their charitable elements/finance & 11.3. Appointment of individual for Consultancy work on behalf of Blakeney Charities), it is proposed that the press and public are now excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. (Admission to Meeting Act (Public Bodies) 1960.*

- 11.2. The future operation of the **Scout Hut**. **Resolved** to defer this item until further legal clarification has been sought and to note that the current trustees, do not wish for any cllrs to join them, as had been previously resolved and offered by BPC.
- 11.3. **Resolved** that the Clerk on behalf of BPC & other **Blakeney Charities**, will seek further information regarding the appointment of an individual to take forward work, on behalf of the charities/other projects and bring back to the relevant groups to make the final decisions, noting that in principle BPC are happy with this change, subject to any budget considerations.

**For information only; NNDC Planning Decisions or Updates, or any Planning Inspectorate Appeals since our last meeting; most available on NNDC website.**

- i) **PF/23/0397 – 8 Langham Road, Blakeney** – Rear and side two storey extensions, full remodel and adding insulating skin - **Withdrawn**.
- ii) **NP/23/1490 – New Barn Farm, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney** – Erection of steel framed agricultural store – **Prior approval of the authority will be required for the siting of the barn**.
- iii) **PF/23/1329 – Point View, Saxlingham Road, Blakeney** – Porch to front elevation of dwelling – **Approved**.
- iv) **LA/23/0910 – Melrose House, 107 High Street, Blakeney** – Replacement of windows and doors – **Approved**.

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- v) **PF/23/1209 – 2 Kingsway, Blakeney** – Alterations to fenestration and external materials – **Approved.**
- vi) **RV/23/1263 – Cranford, High Street, Blakeney** – Removal/Variation of Condition – **Approved.**
- vii) **PF/23/1148 – Avalon, 8A Morston Road, Blakeney** – Alterations to garage including modifications to roof to join it to the main roof to accommodate a bedroom in roof space and proposed rear extension – **Approved.**
- viii) **PF/22/1415 & LA/22/1416 – The Friary, Mariners Hill, Blakeney** – Alterations, partial demolition of garden wall and erection of garden shed (internal and external works to dwelling) – **Approved.**
- ix) **NMA/23/1641 – 16 Westgate Street, Blakeney** – Non-material amendment of planning permission PF/22/2547 (external alterations) – **Approved.**

*Meeting closed at 8.57pm.*

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_