

Page 80 (2023/24)

Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 2nd April 2024** in **The Parish Office at 7.00pm.**

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Nigel Sutcliffe (Vice-Chairman), Shirley Everett, Barry Girling, Jenny Girling, Mike Reed, Willie Weston & Iain Wolfe.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield

Public:- 1

Did not attend:- 0

1. Apologies for absence were **accepted** from; Alban Donohoe, Samantha Arlow & Judy Pegden. Also, County Cllr. Michael Dalby.

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 Tuesday 5th March 2024 are signed as a true record.

4. Chairman's Announcements – Having attended the online webinar re. Digital switchover update the chairman gave a brief update on the session as had the district councillor in her written report. Analog is due to be switched off by the end of 2025 and all telephone providers will contact their customers ahead of the switchover, although we are most concerned with how vulnerable people will cope with this change.

5. Reports from County & District Councillors;

5.1. *County Councillor* – Michael Dalby's report was read by the Clerk and advised; Highways road surface dressing programme now being underway and that Rural Community Green Spaces are to be rejuvenated through new government funding.

5.2. *District Councillor* – Victoria Holliday had submitted a report in advance.

6. Open Public Session – None.

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

7.1. **PF/24/0332 & LA/24/0333** – *Proposal; Internal and external works associated with renovation of dwelling at, Ivy House, 121 High Street, Blakeney. Resolved;* No Objection.

7.2. **PF/24/0348** – *Proposal; Erection of two-storey front extension, raising of roof of single-storey side extensions, insertion of dormer windows on front and rear and external alterations at, 29 The Pastures, Blakeney. Resolved;* Object for the

Page 81 (2023/24)

following reasons; i) Overlooking of the neighbouring property, resulting in privacy issues, ii) Overdevelopment of the site which lies within the Conservation Area.

7.3. **LA/24/0372** – *Proposal; Works including replacement of all guttering, down pipes, waste pipes to the exterior of the building, repairs and repainting of windows and repairs to roof at, Friary Farmhouse, Cley Road, Blakeney. Resolved; No Objection.*

7.4. **RV/24/0519** – *Proposal; Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission PF/23/1149 (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) to allow enlargement of, and lowering in height of, rear extension at; Avalon, 8A Morston Road, Blakeney. Resolved; No Objection.*

7.5. **PF/24/0470** – *Proposal; Erection of 1.5 storey extension to front elevation of dwelling, single storey extension to rear, pitched roof to existing garage and new dormer windows to front and rear; replacement roof materials at, Cobbles, New Road, Blakeney. Resolved; No Objection, subject to the CPRE Standard Light Pollution Clause being adhered to.*

8. FINANCE

8.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £10,263.14 are to be paid.

8.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** – None.

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

9.1. Blakeney Surgery – Cllr Nigel Sutcliffe.

Since my last update the Annual Parish Meeting took place on the 7th March 2024 and was well attended by local people. At that meeting presentations were given by our Chairman, District Councillor, MP and myself. Sadie Parker representing the ICB also gave a presentation and took questions on the proposed closure of Blakeney surgery and the issue of mitigation as outlined in the HMP submission to close the surgery. The questions raised at the meeting were insightful and searching in nature and most were taken away by the ICB to provide answers, and we have now received those and they have been placed on our website. Sadie Parker reminded everyone present that no decision had yet been made by the PCCG regarding the request from HMP to close the surgery.

A number of local representatives had also attended the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NHOSC) meeting held on the 21st March 2024 where the issue of closure and of the process of how we have got to where we are was discussed by that group who represent Norfolk County Council and can submit 'her call-in powers' to the Secretary of State. A

decision regarding this was not made since the ICB reminded the NHOSC that no decision had yet been made to close the surgery. A submission is to be made to this Committee, on all of the above issues, which has been prepared by Dr Archer. In addition, a paper on governance issues has been prepared by Alexandra Hooper of Stiffkey Parish Council which will also be submitted.

At our APM in 2023 I introduced Healthwatch and their role in the process, and considered them as a new ally in our campaign to keep the surgery open. In the discussions we had with them they were supportive of our position and undertook a public survey on our behalf which revealed some useful data not least of which was a desire by those surveyed to keep the surgery open. They then became distant from us and the next thing we knew they were advising HMP on what they needed to do to close. They provided the chair of the open meeting held on the 1st August 2023, who you will recall informed everyone present that he was a retired GP, that he understood where HMP were coming from and that their Patient Consultation Phase, of which that meeting was the start, was more comprehensive than needed to undertake. Many attendees at that meeting felt the chairmanship was less than impartial.

Healthwatch also staffed drop-in centres during the consultation phase and more importantly they have validated the data gathered by HMP, a fact which had been used by the ICB in their presentations to the PCCG. I feel the lack of impartiality and objectivity by Healthwatch, Norfolk is of concern.

Healthwatch, Norfolk is funded by Norfolk County Council and their role, ‘..is to hold the health and social care system to account on behalf of all..’ . Their objectives include:-

1. Providing information and advice to the general public about local health and social care services.
2. Making the views and experiences of members of the general public known to health and social care providers.
3. Enabling local people to have a voice in the development, delivery and equality of access to local health and social care facilities.
4. The promotion of high standards by health and social care providers.
5. Providing training and the developments of skills for volunteers and the wider community in understanding, scrutinizing, reviewing and monitoring local health and social care services and facilities.

Have Healthwatch have stepped out of their remit with regards to HMP. Who initiated their change in actions was it HMP, the ICB or whoever?

Resolved that BPC raises the lack of independent objectivity by Healthwatch, Norfolk as a formal complaint with Norfolk County Council.

10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None.

11. CORRESPONDENCE –

- 11.1. **Village/Business Signage Board** – It has been confirmed that solid colours are to be used (as opposed to pastel, noted previously).
- 11.2. **Resolved** that we draw up a draft consultation document for consideration, along with a list of proposed consultees, based on the recommendations from the **Traffic Matters Working Group** regarding the future operation of the village hall car park.
- 11.3. **Resolved** that we adopt the updated draft **Memorandum of Agreement** between BPC & The National Trust.
- 11.4. **Resolved** that we proceed to explore and obtain more detail on possible installation of **CCTV** on the quay to cover the Carnser & dinghy park area, following the theft of a number of kayaks in 2023. Blakeney Harbour Association to be approached and asked if they would take the lead on this and its funding.

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

PF/23/2598 – Southgate, Wiveton Road, Blakeney – *Granted.*

PF/24/0186 – Fairland, Morston Road, Blakeney – *Granted.*

PF/23/2177 – Curlews, Morston Road, Blakeney – *Withdrawn.*

LA/24/0282 & PF/24/0281 – Morgan Cottage, 97 High Street, Blakeney – *Granted.*

Meeting closed at 8.31pm.

Chairman _____