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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024** in **The Parish Office/Parish Room**.

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Nigel Sutcliffe (Vice-Chairman), Jenny Girling, Barry Girling, Judith Pegden, Mike Reed & Iain Wolfe.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield

Public:- 0

Did not attend:- 0

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

**2. Declarations of Interest or requests for dispensations** from members in relation to any item on this agenda;

- *Cllr Nigel Sutcliffe – A potential pecuniary interest in 7.3. in time.*

**3. Resolved** that the **Minutes** of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 are to be signed as a true record.

**4. Chairman's Announcements** – to be read later.

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

5.1. *County Councillor* – Michael Dalby had submitted a report in advance, which touched upon the Government intervention needed to resolve Norwich Western Link issue, Norfolk winter gritters out across the county, New poetry project launching across Norfolk and Highways to inspect the rotten 30mph sign on New Road, just past The Pastures.

5.2. *District Councillor* – Victoria Holliday had submitted a report in advance, covering; Leisure, Planning, Benefits, Housing, Environment, Net Zero, Finance, Customer Service, Blakeney Surgery, Boiler Upgrade Scheme, Mobile phone coverage and Tech Skills for Life, plus English Devolution White Paper – emerging thoughts.

**6. Open Public Session** – to allow members of the public and councillors with prejudicial interests to address the meeting with regard any item on this agenda only. (*Maximum of 15 minutes and up to 3 minutes per participant.*)

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

*Cllr Iain Wolfe arrived.*

7.1. **PF/24/2194 & LA/24/2254** – *Proposal; Alterations to single storey rear extension to replace a pair of windows with bifold doors, partially block existing door to form window, replace single-glazed window for matching double-glazed window and extend terrace, and LA/24/2453* – *Proposal; Internal works including stud work*

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*dry lining wall with sound insulation, at 147 High Street, Blakeney. Resolved;* No objection.

7.2. **PF/24/2262** – *Proposal; Change of use from dwelling (Class C3) to a commercial holiday let (no use class) at, 39 Morston Road, Blakeney. Resolved;* Object. This application goes against the adopted Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan, and we therefore object, unless the applicant can confirm compliance with ‘Policy 3’ of said Plan which addresses ‘Change of Use: Residential to Holiday Let Accommodation’.

7.3. **NNDC new Local Plan Revisions** to address the Planning Inspector’s interim findings. **Resolved** that we **object most strongly** to the revision seeking to allocate agricultural land west of Langham Road (BLA01/B; section 2 of the draft plan) for the building of an additional 30 dwellings.

This is in addition to the site already allocated in the existing North Norfolk Local Plan for houses to be built on land south of Kingsway off the Langham Road (BLA04/A) which is also for 30 houses, some of which will be affordable housing. This is to meet a government new build housing target, but with no thought to individual locations. There are 721 homes in the parish, 314 are holiday or second homes and 15 are empty. The village does not need more.

NNDC state that the ‘Large Growth Villages’ have a number of services but the range is often limited and only Ludham, Mundesley, Briston and *Blakeney* include a Primary School, convenience shop(s), doctors’ surgery, some public transport, some limited local employment, and a limited selection of other services such as a public house, church, post office, and village hall. They act as limited service hubs for other nearby villages. NNDC need to be reminded that Blakeney no longer has a doctor’s surgery and therefore no longer meets this definition.

In recent years there has been considerable infill development, a quick count, and we believe that a total of 100 houses have been built/already in the pipeline, in the village replacing just 5, which we consider to be huge growth for the size of the village. We have concerns over whether our amenities and infrastructure can cope with this.

Whilst we note that this is classed as a ‘Strategic Site’, it does of course go against our adopted ‘Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan’, unless these properties are for Principle Residence only. 46 households are currently on the Housing List with a local connection to the parish, and this proposal would not address this need.

It should also be noted that NNDC previously considered this site and discounted it, stating that; “residential development on the site would have a high level of detrimental impact on the character of the Langham Road approach and would have a high detrimental impact on the wider character of the southern part of the Blakeney as the open farmland set against the village and coastal marshes would be lost etc, etc.”

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Blakeney Parish Council therefore believes that the inclusion of a new allocation of a further 30 dwellings in the revised draft plan is not needed and should be removed.

**Chairman's Announcement;** Now that all members expected this evening are present, I have been asked by several members of the Parish Council to remind us all of our adopted Standing Orders in relation to *Rules of Debate of Meetings*, in particular with regard the number of times a councillor may speak (ie. once) in the

debate of a motion, other than if permission is given by the chairman or points 1 to 6 of said Standing Orders.

### **8. FINANCE**

- 8.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £7,789.80 are to be paid.
- 8.2. *To receive Clerk/RFO Report* – Business Rates for the Parish Room (former Scout Hut) have now been amalgamated with the Parish Office, resulting in a refund by NNDC.
- 8.3. **Resolved** that we sign up to the best 2-year fixed rate deal that we can, based on quotes received, ahead of the December renewal date for **Electricity Supply** to;
  - i) The Parish Office site
  - ii) Trading Sites
  - iii) Street Lights – to be confirmed at a later date.
- 8.4. **Resolved** the following **Coronation Car Park charge fees** ahead of the coming season (other tariffs to remain as they are);
  - **5-hour rate increases to £5.00**
  - **24-hour rate increases to £7.00**
- 8.5. **Resolved** that we recommend (in our discussions with The National Trust) that the **Carnser Car Park charges** ahead of the coming season are increased as follows (other tariffs to remain as they are);
  - **Peak season daily fee to increase from £6.00 to £7.00**
  - **Weekly peak season ticket to increase from £15.00 to £20.00**

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

- 9.1. **BPC & National Trust** – *Cllr Rosemary Thew*; the Working Group met last week; key points were a new N/T 'pilot' machine has been installed, which has new features, ie. paying by app & contactless methods and it will need vehicle registration numbers to be entered. BPC reps and attendants await the outcome of the winter use, being monitored by the N/T over the coming

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months in the hope that any problems can be ironed out ahead of the new season. The erosion of the corner of the Carnser concerns us greatly, the N/T less so. They are going to consider some markers for the edge, and continue discussions with us.

- 9.2. **Blakeney Village Hall Trust** – *Clerk*; attended the AGM and Committee meeting of the BVHT on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov and asked for some suggested dates for

both parties to meet, early in the New Year, and explained the reason to those present at the meeting.

- 9.3. **Personnel Committee** – *Cllr Rosemary Thew*, the committee met last week. Key points are the updating of the Clerks contract of Employment, following the December 2023 NALC revised 'Green Book' model, and confirmation that we feel that the flexible working is going well, just a tweak to be made with regard telephone diversion at certain times, which come about from weekends and annual leave.

## 10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None.

## 11. CORRESPONDENCE –

- 11.1. **Resolved** that we register Mariners Hill, The Pastures & The Playing Field with the Official Film Office for Norfolk, re; **Parish Councils filming locations**.
- 11.2. **Resolved** that we will not consider accepting tenders in relation to the **Trading Sites (2026 – 2029)** which were to offer alcohol as a secondary option in relation to a food concession. These sites to remain alcohol free.
- 11.3. **Resolved** that we leave the users of the **Dinghy Park** to make donations as opposed to bringing in charges, following previous discussions and to monitor this.
- 11.4. Members noted the letter from the outgoing **President of Norfolk Association of Local Councils** re. attendance at the online AGM on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Rosemary Thew will attend on behalf of BPC.
- 11.5. Members noted the information regarding **Crowdfund Norfolk** and would see if any suitable projects presented themselves in the coming months. Norfolk County Council, in collaboration with Crowdfunder, have launched a platform for donation-based funding of grass roots and community-focused projects across the county. NCC will be match funding environmental, sustainability and net zero projects, to a value of £10k. (Conditions apply.)
- 11.6. **Resolved** that we do not discontinue the annual '**End of Season Bonfire & Fireworks Event**', instead we consider the implications of 'Martyn's Law'

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when it comes in, and see how we can work within the legislation required, noting that this may incur costs, but we believe this to be a much-valued community event and that we revisit this item in March 2025.

- 11.7. **Resolved** that we note that there are no current outstanding enquiries with regard short or long term letting of the **Parish Room**, that we chase for a meeting date with representatives of the BVHT, and that we enquire as to whether it would be cost effective to merge the electricity with that of the Parish Office.

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

**RV/24/1921 – 8 Langham Road, Blakeney – *Granted***

**PF/24/1905 – Squirrels, Old Rectory Lane, Blakeney – *Granted***

**LA/24/1881 & PF/24/1880 – 18 Westgate Street, Blakeney – *Granted***

**PF/24/1636 & LA/24/1637 – Burgh Cottage, 5 Mariners Hill, Blakeney – *WITHDRAWN***

**PF/24/2023 – Village Hall, Langham Road, Blakeney - *Granted***

Meeting closed at 9:14pm.

*Chairman* \_\_\_\_\_