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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025** in **The Parish Office/Parish Room**, commencing at 7.00pm.

**Present**:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Nigel Sutcliffe, Jenny Girling, Barry Girling, Iain Wolfe, Mike Reed, Alban Donohoe, Samantha Arlow & Shirley Everett.

**Clerk**:- Tracey Bayfield

**Public**:- 1

**Did not Attend**:- Willie Weston

**1. Apologies** for absence were ***approved*** from; Judy Pegden.

**2. Declarations of Interest or requests for dispensations** from members;

- *Cllr Mike Reed declared an interest in an item to be raised under the Clerks report, ie. signing documents in relation to the Memorial Cottages, as he is a tenant.*

**3. Resolved** that the **Minutes** of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 are signed as a true record.

**4. Chairman's Announcements** – At the NNDC Development Committee last week, members confirmed that they will be undertaking a site visit at 8 Langham Road on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sept, and they also approved the planning application in respect of Land at rear of 'Marigold', 61 New Road.

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

5.1. *County Councillor* – Michael Dalby had submitted a report in advance

5.2. *District Councillor* – Victoria Holliday had submitted a report in advance, in addition confirmed;

- *Our MP has confirmed that there is no money to resolve the parking issue in Queens Close.*
- *Lots of people advised the MP at his surgery last week that they were unhappy with the Pharmabox for a number of reasons.*
- *We have awful phone signal as the 3G has been turned off, the 4G is unable to deal with the increased traffic caused by this and apparently we are supposed to be waiting for 5G.*
- *Under the new Local Plan, certain provisions of the adopted Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan stand, for example principal residency.*

**6. Open Public Session –**

- *Spoke in favour of item no. 7.6. **4 Mariners Hill.***

**7. Planning Items –**

7.1. **RV/25/1638**– *Proposal; Extensions to front, side and rear of dwelling; alterations to front and rear dormers; changes to external materials; and the erection of a detached domestic outbuilding (garden room) without complying with condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission PF/22/2708 to allow for changes to the external materials, door widths and dormer windows and omission of half-gable roof on the left-frontage of the dwelling and omission of bay window at, Sandpipers, 3 Kingsway, Blakeney. Resolved; No objection.*

7.2. **PF/25/1551** – *Proposal; Single storey flat roof infill extension to rear (part retrospective) at, Hedge Betty, 13 Morston Road, Blakeney. Resolved; No objection.*

7.3. **PF/25/1569** – *Proposal; Retention of single storey extension to east elevation of house; 4-bay garage to the south of the main house; outbuilding/summerhouse to the north of the main house; installation of swimming pool; creation of tennis court and associated enclosure and associated landscape scheme at, Larkfields, 144 Morston Road, Blakeney.*

**Resolved; Object** – This development has breached condition 14 of the original planning permission no. PF/19/023 granted by NNDC, ie. *Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, (or any Order revoking, amending or re-enacting that Order with or without modification) no enlargement of or alteration to the dwelling hereby permitted (including the insertion of any further windows or rooflights) shall be undertaken and no building, structure or means of enclosure within the curtilage of the dwelling shall be erected unless planning permission has been first granted by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: The siting, design and extent of any extensions/alterations, curtilage buildings, structures or means of enclosure must be controlled for the benefit of the visual amenities of the locality in order to ensure the satisfactory appearance of the development and to safeguard the character of the countryside and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in accordance with policies EN1, EN2, EN3, and EN4 of the adopted North Norfolk Core Strategy*

7.4. **PF/25/1773** – *Proposal; Single-storey rear extension and erection of detached timber shed at, 2 Samphire Close, Blakeney. Resolved; No objection.*

7.5. **LA/25/1771** – *Proposal; Replacement windows & doors at, The Pightle, Westgate Street, Blakeney. Resolved; Support.*

7.6. *To consider the request to grant permission in favour of a partial closure of the footpath (FP11) directly in front of 4 Mariners Hill, Blakeney and The Friary, Mariners Hill, for a period not exceeding 5 months commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025, to necessitate the movement of building materials to 4 Mariners Hill. A diversion of the footpath will afford access to the top of Mariners Hill across Parish Council owned land and links to an established footpath leading from the Harbour alongside The Guildhall. Resolved; No objection.*

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7.7. **Consultation on Main Modifications to the North Norfolk Local Plan;** consultation period ends on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025. **Resolved** that our comments as per the full council minutes dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 still stand. In addition, the Council wishes to make the following further comments:

a) **Blakeney Doctors Surgery** – this facility no longer exists, further reducing local healthcare provision.

b) **Sewage system** – there is significant concern as to whether the current sewage system can cope with additional demand.

c) **Sustainability of development** – we struggle to understand how the village can sustain further development without major investment in infrastructure and services.

d) **Scale of proposed development** – we feel that the village cannot reasonably cope with a further 60 properties unless there is investment in infrastructure and essential services.

e) **Housing mix** – the Plan must ensure a housing mix that genuinely meets the needs of the locality and its residents.

f) **Affordability** – if additional housing is to be delivered, it must be genuinely affordable and prioritised for local people.

g) **Neighbourhood Plan** – the adopted Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan must be adhered to in full.

## **8. FINANCE**

8.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £24,093.61 are to be paid.

8.2. *To receive* **Clerk/RFO Report**.

**Proposed exempted camp site at The Whins, Blakeney (IB/23/0036)** Application Summary:

*Background:* In November 2023, Blakeney Parish Council and Cllr. Holliday submitted objections citing the site's sensitive location (AONB, SSSI, protected landscapes). The Camping & Caravanning Club confirmed a site visit had been made and that comments from local authorities would be considered.

*Update (August 2025):* The Camping & Caravanning Club has confirmed that the **site owner is liaising with North Norfolk District Council regarding SSSI requirements**, which will be followed if the application proceeds. The Club also noted that certificated sites are restricted to five caravans or motorcaravans at any one time, with potential for tent campers, but overall, such sites typically have minimal impact.

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**First Aid Training** - As per the minute of the parish council dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 ie. BPC agreed to offer a BPC funded **Community First Aid** course(s) via Mini First Aid Norfolk (MFAN), the Clerk has contacted MFAN several times, with no response. The Clerk will therefore take no further action with regard this item.

**Suggested Time Saving Tips & Strategies** - As per recent conversations with the Personnel Committee, these are to be borne in mind by members as well as the Clerk.

**Transfer of 1 & 2 Memorial Cottages; *Resolved*** that the two Councillors who will sign the Transfer document on behalf of the Parish Council, over to the Memorial Cottages Trustees are; Shirley Everett & Judith Pegden. *(To be ratified at the October meeting.)*

- i) ***Resolved*** to send the draft **Flexible Working Policy** to Council H.R. & Governance Support (CHRGs) for independent scrutiny.
- ii) ***Resolved*** to forward the draft **Stress at Work Policy** to CHRGs for independent scrutiny.

**8.3. Big Belly Litter Bin – *Resolved to ratify***; Members hereby **approve** funding for a concrete base to support the installation of a fully NNDC-funded Big Belly bin near the ladies' toilets on the quay. This forms part of a wider review of bin provision and aims to improve waste capacity in a high-traffic area over the busy summer months, with the old bin being placed along the quayside adding to the current provision.

**8.4. Future of annual end of season Bonfire & Fireworks Event – *Resolved to ratify***; Following a formal report from the Parish Clerk, Blakeney Parish Council has agreed to **cancel the 2025 Bonfire & Fireworks event**. The decision reflects the growing complexity and compliance demands of delivering the event, including anticipated requirements under Martyn's Law, staffing limitations, finding volunteers to fulfil a number of roles and the Clerk's increasing workload and study commitments. While a provisional date had been advertised and a fireworks provider pencilled in, no financial commitments or contracts had been entered into. Going forward, BPC will reach out to the wider community to gauge interest in taking on responsibility for organising the event from 2026 onwards. Any future delivery will be conditional on full compliance with legal and safety requirements and will require a named lead person to oversee all aspects of planning, delivery, and governance. The Council will make existing planning documentation available to support any prospective organisers, when appropriate.

## **9. Reports from Representatives on Other Committees/Groups**

**BPC & National Trust Working Group – RT** – The new Manager, Peter Nicholson, has been meeting with local groups and may attend the October BPC meeting; N/T

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staff cuts mean no support for Carnser Car Park this season, with the organisation now focusing on nature conservation.

### **10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None.**

### **11. CORRESPONDENCE –**

- 11.1. **Resolved** to forward the information on the installation of **Electric Vehicle Charging Points** to Blakeney Garage and ask if they would be interested in the first instance. BPC thinks such as installation would be of benefit to the village.
- 11.2. **Resolved to defer** a proposal regarding the future use of the **Blakeney Duck Pond** until the author can join us, or we have further information from other sources.

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

**PF/25/0455** – Removal of front porch, replacement windows to front elevation, rear extension to replace existing conservatory, and removal of rear chimney stack at, **Burgh Cottage, 5 Mariners Hill, Blakeney** - APPROVED.

**LA/25/0456** – Internal and external works to dwelling at, **Burgh Cottage, 5 Mariners Hill, Blakeney** – APPROVED.

**PM/25/0651** – Details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale: matters reserved under outline planning permission PO/24/2084 for erection of detached dwelling (self-build) at, **Land at Rear of Marigold, 61 New Road, Blakeney** – APPROVED.

**NMA/25/1714** – Non-material amendment of planning permission PF/20/0807 (Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission PF/19/0923 to allow for alteration to window size and positions; extension to flat roof of veranda on south elevation; window instead of doors to living room in west elevation) to allow insertion of door instead of window on the wet elevation of the dwelling (to regularise the development) at, **Larkfields, 144 Morston Road, Blakeney** – APPROVED.

*Meeting closed at 8:51pm*

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_