



WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of meeting TUESDAY 9th May, 2017

PRESENT Cllrs. Barber, Lunken, Kinnair, Bloomfield, Dunn and 40 members of the public.

APOLOGIES Cllr. Belson, and Cllr. Roberts.

1	AGENDA
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1.1 Maggie Barber was re-elected, unopposed, as Chair. Proposed by Cllr. Bloomfield and seconded by Cllr. Kinnair. The election of the vice chair was postponed until the next meeting when all councillors should be present.

1.2 Kevin Boardley, Clerk, was elected as the Responsible Financial Officer, unopposed. Proposed by Cllr. Barber and seconded by Cllr. Lunken.

1.3 Apologies: Noted above.

1.4 Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 11th April, 2017 were confirmed and signed.

1.5 TO RECEIVE PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF MEMBERS. None.

1.6 TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION. None.

1.7 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

A significant number of the 40 members of the public who attended the meeting, put forward views on the proposed Wattisfield Road development (planning application 1352/17).

There was a request for the applicant to be invited to a Public Meeting to give a presentation on the development and to allow local residents to discuss this.

Cllr. Barber asked for the email addresses of all in attendance in order to ease communications and acknowledged the obvious strength of opinion and the numbers of people present.

It was noted by one member of the public that this proposal will definitely go to the Mid- Suffolk Planning Committee and that members of the public can attend those meetings.

Cllr. Barber explained that the meeting with Steven Bainbridge of Evolution, see Parish Council meeting held on 11th April, was a last minute request and that he attended as a member of the public to speak at Public Open Forum and to discuss with Councillors the proposal for up to 22 houses, including affordable units on the land adjacent to Broad Meadow. This will be a separate planning application to 1352/17 currently proposed for Wattisfield Road.

There was a request to Cllr. Fleming to provide information on how many houses MSDC has to build and the distribution of these and how much of the need was already met by applications elsewhere in the locality.

There was a comment about the accuracy of the planning website with a suggestion that a comment had appeared with an incorrect date.

Another member of the public asked what the plans and projections were for SS0858 as the map on the planning website was so small as to be unreadable.

Another comment was about the importance of the village putting together a Neighbourhood Plan which is the mechanism that the Government put in place when removing many previous planning controls in order to give local residents a voice in the planning process and to hopefully counter balance uncontrolled development.

Cllr. Barber explained that the reason that Walsham was the target of such large development planning proposals was that MSDC do not have a demonstrable 5 year land supply. This leaves the Council less able to control the demands coming from central government to build more houses.

Cllr. Fleming explained that putting together a Neighbourhood Plan is not a quick process but in other villages/areas, has enabled local residents to successfully challenge planning applications in the Courts. Walsham would need to band together with other villages in the locality to make this happen.

Members of the public at the meeting were in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan being developed by the Parish Council but Cllr. Barber explained that this was not just a project for the Council but for the village community. The Parish Council could probably co-ordinate but sustained effort would be required from concerned individuals.

The Public Open Forum raised many concerns which can shortly be viewed in more detail on the Parish Council website at <http://walshamlewillows.suffolk.cloud>. This is the response the Parish Council had started to prepare before the meeting and including a number of additional areas of concern that were raised at the meeting.

In summary the concerns raised were broadly about the following:

- The size of the development and impact on local infrastructure and services which it was felt would not cope.
- The fact that the proposals do not meet Primary Village Requirements
- The impact on residents' quality of life and the fabric of the already poorly maintained roads of increased traffic particularly in Wattisfield Road and the Street but also in the village generally.
- The impact on the environment generally and also specifically with regard to particular sites of environmental interest.

2

PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

plus any received after the publication of this agenda

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 1352/17

Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved except access for the erection of up to 60 dwellings.

Location: Land west of Wattisfield Road, Walsham-le-Willows.

ACTION: Objections have been noted and the Parish Council is preparing a response to the District Council based on the views expressed at the meeting. See Public Open Forum, 1.7 above.

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 1400/17

Proposal: Alterations and extensions to existing bungalow

Location: Hunters End, Wattisfield Road, Walsham-le-Willow.

ACTION: The Parish Council made no comment.

NOTICE OF APPEAL FOR PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 5001/16

WATTISFIELD WINES, THE STREET, WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS.

The Parish Council noted the appeal.

3

PLANNING OUTCOMES

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 0948/17

Proposal: Prune Weeping Willow and Robinia to previous pruning points

Location: Sideways, The Street, Walsham-le-Willows

Mid Suffolk District Council did not wish to object.

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 1003/17

Proposal: Cedar – C1 on plan – Fell

Location: The Beacons, Ixworth Road, Walsham-le-Willows

Mid Suffolk District Council did not wish to object.

4

REPORTS

4.1 Towards the end of the Public Open Forum Cllr. Fleming presented her report

Cllr. Jessica Fleming explained about the transition of planning web site to a new platform, the impact of this and how to submit comments until this is complete. Cllr. Fleming also advised that given this disruption to the normal process, she would put in another request for an extension to the deadline for the receipt of comments and views on planning application 1352/17. Prior to any extension being granted for this, the deadline is 15th May.

Cllr. Fleming’s report also addressed the work that is going on to develop a Local Plan. Details of both these issues can be found on the Parish Council website at <http://walshamlewillows.suffolk.cloud>

4.2 Play Area

Parish Council agreed to the quote for work to the ditch at £650 plus vat
ACTION: Clerk to send another request for AGM date.

4.3 Footpath Warden

Nothing to Report

4.4 Tree Warden

Nothing to Report

4.5 Clerks financial report and request for payments

A report of income and expenditure against budget to 30th April was presented.
It was noted that the Play Council have not yet paid in the cheque for £2555.
All cheques were passed for payment and duly signed.

CHEQUES PASSED FOR PAYMENT			
1	T Hunter	£109.92	Street cleaning
2	A Clancy	£323.08	Clerks wages/expenses
3	A Clancy	£36.00	Travel Expenses
4	Namesco	£28.80	BBMAX Broadband (old clerk email inbox)
5	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	210.00	Annual Internal Audit

5	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH MARCH 2017
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5.1 Community Pay Back Team – work within the village

Cllr. Barber reported having emailed again but still no response.

5.2 Community Emergency Plan

Ongoing

5.3 Local heritage listing

Nothing further. Need to hear from Cllr. Belson

5.4 Water in Wattisfield Road

No known problems at the moment

5.5 The development of a Neighbourhood Plan

Importance of this raised at Public Open Forum. Cllr. Fleming promised support to help the village to get this off the ground.

6	CORRESPONDENCE
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6.1 Traffic Notice

ACTION: Clerk to place notice in Observer

7	OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
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7.1 Clerk Broadband (BBMAX)

Given the small cost, will be kept for another year so that email address can be monitored to ensure all senders are transferred over to the new address and that nothing is missed.

7.2 Better Broadband

Cllr. Barber updated on correspondence with Suffolk Better Broadband. Currently, the works for the properties that are connected directly to the exchange are in the fifth of eight phases to the second contract, which equates to being ready for service by June 2018.

The slightly later timescale is due to the complexity in unpicking and re-routing a range of copper lines, as opposed to a simple upgrade of an existing flexibility point (cabinet). The new structure is called Walsham R7, and is currently going through the planning and design process in BT Openreach.

8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN
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7.1 Request for additional litter bin (Tom Shaw)

After consideration, the Parish Council are unable to supply at this time but will review again at the budget setting meeting.

7.2 Dog Fouling

Cllr. Bloomfield received a complaint about fouling on the footpath alongside the sports club.

9	MEETING CLOSED AT:	21:35
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Kevin Boardley
Proper Officer & Clerk to Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

Maggie Barber – Chair - Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council

Signed: _____