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Minutes of the **BLAKENEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019** which was held on **Thursday 15th March 2019** at 7.00pm in Blakeney Village Hall.

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman of Blakeney Parish Council)

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield (Blakeney Parish Council Clerk)

Public Attendance:- Total 45. With 35 of those present being on the Electoral Roll for Blakeney.

1. **Welcome by the Chairman** – Rosemary Thew welcomed all those present and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies for absence were received from; Nigel Sutcliffe, John Seymour, Don Glaister, Alban Donohoe.
2. **Resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 15th March 2018 are signed as a true record.
3. **Guest Speaker(s)** –

The Emerging North Norfolk District Council ‘Local Plan’ – District Councillor; Karen Ward.

The Conservation Appraisal is now completed and the final document is due to go to Planning Policy Working Group on 15th April for final sign off. Thanks to everyone who gave feedback.

The draft Local Plan will go out for a public consultation period of 6 weeks, commencing 7th May. We are also consulting on a revised Design Guide, which will complement the Conservation Appraisals already in existence. Due to changes in the NPPF there will also be a call for smaller sites, which can take 5 – 10 units, 10% of our total housing now needs to be on these smaller sites, so approx. 2,000 homes over the next 20 years.

You will notice in the draft Local Plan that we have made some policy tweaks which should help affordable housing schemes. It is hoped that it will be easier for communities that wish to undertake affordable housing to do so and to also protect areas of importance.

Whilst we are very keen to broaden the range of affordable dwellings and to provide more accommodation which is affordable and accessible, we feel that the general housing target is too high and that we need a better mix of dwellings ie. suited for our demographics. We are exploring how we can influence government policy on these matters.

We are in the process of setting up a property company which will enable NNDC to start house owning again, and through this company we want to support the growth of more small local builders. We are also looking at what policy changes we can make to broaden the types of local homes we can offer. For example,

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Affordable Housing rent, is currently defined as market rent less 20%, which in places such as this is still not affordable. We are looking to see if it is possible to have affordable rents which are multiples of local income instead.

The Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Chairman; Sam Curtis.

The aim of this presentation is to demonstrate how the process has led to where we are now and to show how the initial consultation and surveys have led to the policies that the group have drafted to date.

The Village has started planning for the future. It is all about letting the people who know about & care for an area plan for it. A neighbourhood plan is led by the residential and business community, not the Council and is about land use and development, building neighbourhoods – not stopping growth. Much work has gone into get to the point we are at now, and your input so far has been invaluable, please continue to feed in via our consultation events and we will share via our newsletters. Be a part of planning for the future of Blakeney, all of our meetings are advertised on the parish council website and are open to the members of the public to attend. The draft plan is well underway and we hope to be able to bring it to Public Pre-Consultation very soon.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Dr. Marie Strong has been in the role now for 11 years and does all that she can to support and enable Blakeney Parish Council with the hard work that it puts in for this village. I attend as many of the monthly parish council meetings as possible and am here for the community as a whole.

- 4. PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY FUND** – Each of the following groups were presented with a grant from the fund for which they were most grateful and group presentations and brief reports followed.

Blakeney Area Historical Society – The grant will be used to reinstate subscriptions and purchase suitable books and publications to further the aims of the centre.

Blakeney Conservation Duckpond – The money will be used to repair the existing nesting boxes, as they are rotting, as have been there for some years now, with the bottoms of many falling away. We also need to make new boxes as shore up the banks of the pond.

Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team – This grant will go towards consultations with regulators and stakeholders on the initial design for the Blakeney Channel that we have commissioned from Exo Environmental Ltd during 2018. The minimum fee for obtaining the necessary consent from the Marine Management Organisation is £2,500, and could be higher.

Glaven Caring Centre – This grant will go towards the purchase of a new bath hoist. As we now own our premises we will incur additional costs, such as all the

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utility bills, repairs and maintenance of the building safety checks, ie. all the day to day running costs.

Blakeney Primary School PTFA – We will use this money to provide outdoor learning all year round no matter what the weather by purchasing outdoor clothing/gear, this will enhance the children’s outdoor play experience.

Coastal Rowing Association Blakeney – The grant will be used to pay for authorised users to attend a tailored first aid training equivalent in level to the HSE Emergency at Work course. They will learn how to assess and manage incidents and assess and treat different injuries and events. The course will include CPR and how to use a defibrillator. This will enhance the safety of each excursion, other users of the harbour and those living in and visiting Blakeney.

Little Nippers Toddler Group – Blakeney Pre-School closed in 2013 due to lack of support from the government, however Marny decided to carry on the Toddler Group which had always ran alongside the pre-school as there was no other provision in the surrounding area. The numbers have fluctuated over the years, but is used by local families. We did have some support for the first 4 years via a link teacher but again this was stopped due to a lack of funding, hence we are entirely self-sufficient. This money will help us with materials and equipment for our sessions.

Blakeney & District Scout Group Executive Council – This grant will go towards decoration of the main hall.

Blakeney Village Hall Trust – The money will be used to improve the non Blakeney Player controlled stage lighting. The existing 4 outdated halogen lights at the front of the stage will be replaced by new led spots and 4 new led lights will be located to the rear so that the whole of the stage can be illuminated. These new lights will not require access to the loft, but will be controlled by switches on the stage and will enable the depth of the stage to be used by orchestras, schools and other groups. Going forward our next big fundraising project will be to refurbish the toilets in the village hall.

Pam Peake – for the ‘Battle’s Over; A Nations Tribute Event last November. It took over 5 years of research to pull this together. Many thanks to the Parish Council for paying for the cost of materials to pull this display together. It was very well attended and well received by the community.

In addition to those listed above grants were also given to; Blakeney Bingo, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Open Spaces Society, Wells Community Hospital, North Norfolk Community Transport Scheme & Age Concern North Norfolk.

5. OTHER COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS:-

- i) Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society – A report was read, which gave an outline of their past year.

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- ii) St. Nicholas Church Blakeney – A report was read, which gave an outline of their past year. The church has been very busy, lots of very good outreach work has taken place. We interviewed 3 candidates for the role of Vicar to the benefice and are pleased to announce that we have appointed Richard Lawry. A service will be held on 20th May to formally welcome him and will be attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- iii) The Red House Land Trustees thanked the Parish Council for their continued support, which financially offset the insurance and maintenance costs.
- iv) Blakeney Parish Council - Report for the past year was presented by the Chairman and hard copies were also available to take away, including the Accounting Statement for 2017/18. The report covered; BT Mast on Mariners Hill, Neighbourhood Plan, Bollards, Norfolk County Councils Parish Partnership Funding Scheme, Traffic Management, Sewage & Parking and will be printed in full in the pages of the GVN.

6. OVER TO YOU; OPEN SESSION:- A chance for those present to comment on any items already discussed.

- Traffic congestion & a One Way System – A parishioner had asked for this to be an agenda item. *An update had already been given and hence there was nothing further to add.*
- Edward Hackford, formally thanked the chairman Rosemary Thew, for all her hard work as chairman of the Parish Council, which consists of far more than just attending monthly council meetings.

There being no additional points or questions raised, the meeting was closed.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman _____