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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 4th October 2022** in **The Scout Hut at 7.00pm**.

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Nigel Sutcliffe (Vice-Chairman), Samantha Arlow, Jane Armstrong, Alban Donohoe, Shirley Everett, Barry Girling, Jenny Girling, Edward Hackford, Willie Weston & Iain Wolfe.

Also; District Cllr; Victoria Holliday.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield

Public:- 0

1. Apologies for Absence were received from County Cllr; Michael Dalby.

2. Declarations of Interest;

Cllr Jane Armstrong – Pecuniary Interest in item no. 8.6 as the landowner.

3. Resolved that the **Minutes** of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022 are signed as a true record.

4. Chairman's Announcements –

- NALC have once again reminded Councils of the need for members to have a dedicated email address and we will need to revisit this.
- Myself and Nigel Sutcliffe are now both fully trained for the Community Speedwatch programme and are assisting with the Langham scheme, in the hope that a visit will be reciprocated by the team, in Blakeney.

5. Reports from Police, County & District Councillors –

5.1. *Wells Safer Neighbourhood Police Team* – No report received.

5.2. *County Councillor* – Michael Dalby had circulated his report in advance which focused on the 'NCC Cabinet' to consider further savings to address the budget gap.

5.3. *District Councillor* – Victoria Holliday had circulated her report in advance.

Planning - Nutrient neutrality - nutrient calculators and mitigation calculators are being reviewed by Natural England so progress is being made. Planning improvement plan - consultation is promised with towns, parishes and residents. I will keep you informed as to the timing. An 'Officer on call' service has been launched to support the Customer Services Team on planning issues and provide professional advice where needed. Responses have been collated on the new Local Plan and are available on <https://northnorfolk-consult.objective.co.uk/Kse/36705/peoplesubmissions/section/>

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The new Local Plan should be submitted next spring. The Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal will soon be coming out for public consultation.

Coastal - A Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Document has been produced in conjunction with East Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and the Broads which will guide development in and near coastal erosion risk areas.

Housing - The number of affordable homes will be lower this year at 52 but next year's pipeline is 354. There is £3.85million available for energy efficiency works to make homes warmer. Do apply via norfolkwarmhomes.org. There are grants available to adapt your house to make it more suitable, contact the Integrated Housing Adaptations Team at NNDC. 2687 households are waiting for housing, 46 households are in temporary accommodation, wherever possible in NNDC homes rather than temporary accommodation.

Leisure - Key stakeholders including NNDC, RNLI, the Coastguard have been discussing jet ski use. Essential sub structure works on Cromer Pier begins early October.

Environment - There have been teething problems with new waste collection rounds, missed bins, bins not being placed back correctly etc. Contact me with problems as Serco customer service not always forthcoming. There was a national flooding exercise in September involving NNDC. Two unexplored ordinances in Blakeney and Mundesley were dealt with in August.

Finance and legal - Eastlaw are working on a rent guarantor scheme to enable homeless residents get deposits together for private rented accommodation. The provisional outturn for NNDC for 21/22 is a £616k surplus.

Customer service - There has been a significant increase in calls to NNDC over the summer as a result of the canvass forms and bin collections changes. The team is depleted so wait times have increased and will remain so until new staff are recruited. The new public conveniences in Wells should be open end of September.

I've spoken to Planning about two issues some of you have raised, decision notices not being sent to parishes and site notices being put up late and in the wrong place. Regarding the former, officers are looking to see if this could be automated (in which case they would consider), and regarding the latter, there is an opinion that it would be preferable to contact neighbours directly. I'd be interested to hear your views on that.

I'm thrilled to report we have two new Community First Responders in Stiffkey, thanks to the hard work of the Stiffkey Parish Chair. I have been asked to look for a pilot site for an inflatable lifting cushion in the community to help with parishioners who have fallen and are otherwise uninsured and would otherwise have to wait a long time for an ambulance to help them get up. Initial response seems that this would best rest with community first responders and I would be interested to hear your views.

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I've pushed for benchmarking of NNDC performance to see how our district is performing against 15 other districts similar in terms of geography and demography (such as East Devon, South Lakeland, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk). I'm pleased to say these are now included in our regular performance updates. Here are a few I thought would interest you;

- We are fifth best amongst our group in terms of numbers of affordable homes delivered.
- We are fourth worst in terms of total households on the housing waiting list.
- We are fifth best in terms of council tax collected.
- We are fourth worst in terms of percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.
- We are second worst in terms of time taken to process housing benefit change events but seventh worst in terms of time to process new housing benefit claims.

There's a lot of detail behind these statistics, sometimes there's a good reason, and it's not always comparing apples with apples, but it gives you a flavour. Ask me if you want to know more.

Resolved that item no. **11.1. (Blakeney Surgery)** would be brought forward and dealt with earlier, whilst our District Cllr was still with us. (For the purpose of these minutes, it remains listed as item no. 11.1. below, to correspond with the published agenda.)

6. Open Public Session – there were no members of the public.

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

- 7.1. **PF/22/2245** – *Proposal; Conversion of dwelling into two separate dwellings with associated external alterations and new boundary treatment at, Bliss Blakeney, Morston Road, Blakeney. Resolved* – No objection.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1. **Resolved** that the **Accounts** totalling £14,435.40 are to be paid.
- 8.2. **Clerk/RFO Report** – Brief update on the figures to date.
- 8.3. **Parish Partnership Funding**; having received information from NCC ahead of the December 2022 deadline; **Resolved** to apply for the following in addition to any items previously agreed;

i) **Bournes Corner Parking Spaces**

ii) **Village Gateways**

iii) Ask Morston PC & NCC what the outcome was with regard the request for a trod at the top of the **Morston Hill** a few years ago, ie. it is in the parish of Morston. We recall that there were land ownership issues.

8.4. Any possible applications to the **Coast Resilience Grant Scheme** – extremely tight deadlines; **Resolved** could it help with the corner of The Carnser if time permits.

8.5. **Resolved** to ask ‘Secret Gardens’ to add the mowing the **Langham Road Verge** (site of intended new Trod) ahead of the PP Trod Scheme being implemented this winter.

Cllr Jane Armstrong left the meeting for item no. 8.6.

8.6. **Resolved** that having considered the reply from the owners of 39 New Road, with regard the chestnut paling fencing & associated costs along **Sheila’s Way Footpath** that we offer £500 as a full and final settlement.

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

- **Blakeney Village Hall Trust** – Cllr Jane Armstrong – The BVHT noted that they were awaiting to hear further from the Parish Council, once legal advice has been received. They are also looking into possible energy savings, having received an ‘Energy Audit’. The toilets after the Party on The Pastures (21st August) weekend (which coincided with a 2-day booking of the Blakeney Craft Group had not been left in a satisfactory condition. *(The Clerk confirmed that on the day of the POP, our cleaner had gone in at lunchtime, and the Clerk had been told that the Hall Hirers ie. BCG had locked the hall up once their event had ended, ie. the toilets were not used outside of their hire time, ie not used at all in the evening, just the public convenience in the car park.)*

10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS –

The following question was received from Cllr Jane Armstrong.

- i) Further to the survey of Blakeney’s **Public Benches** last October/November, please could you outline what cleaning and maintenance has been carried out since then and also if any work is planned over the next few months.

ANSWER – Other than broken seats replaced, there has been no cleaning or maintenance work. A local contractor had been appointed, but sadly due to his extremely busy work schedule, did not manage to fit in this work before going off long term sick a couple of months or so ago.

Another local contractor has recently confirmed that he may be able to help us again, hence I will share the details with him as soon as I am able.

11. CORRESPONDENCE –

- 11.1. **Level of service at Blakeney Surgery - Resolved** to i) Send the letter as drafted by Cllr Sutcliffe to the GVN etc, encouraging residents to write to Holt Medical Practice, ii) accept the offer of a follow up meeting by our MP Duncan Baker, iii) Ask what the full/proper report says, in relation to the state of the Blakeney Surgery & iv) Share this with our neighbouring parishes/newsletters as before.
- 11.2. Cllr. Jane Armstrong in relation to **Street Lighting** – In the light of the current energy situation and the increasing cost of electricity, would Blakeney Parish Council consider turning off the streetlights which are under the Council's control for part of the night. (The lights are currently on from dusk til dawn.) This would reduce electricity consumption and would also be in line with Blakeney's Dark Skies Policy. **Resolved** that we obtain costs of changing the street lights to run from 'Dusk til Midnight and from 6am til 8am'.
- 11.3. **Street Lighting clean and visual inspection 2022** and defect list and quotes for replacement items were received ahead of forthcoming budget consideration. **Resolved** that we get the light at the junction of Coronation Lane/Back Lane fixed, to run from 'Dusk til Midnight and from 6am til 8am' subject to cost, and that we apply for a quote to change the whole street lighting stock to LED, with the reduced timing, and apply for grants for this work, and simultaneously, via the pages of the GVN, ask our residents if they feel any of the current street lighting stock should be removed for good and not replaced.
- 11.4. Following the request from 'Threshold Sports' to use the **Parish Playing Field** for parking for the 'Mighty Hike Marathon' and to swap the event location to the Overflow Car Park on Langham Road it was **resolved** that the event itself is to remain on the Playing Field, (no parking on the playing field), our overflow can be used, not suitable for coaches (a handful of which can park on Wiveton Road), and we will put the organisers in touch with Friary Farm Caravan, should they wish to enquire about additional parking in the village.
- 11.5. Review of all signage in the village in line with the **NNDC Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan document. Resolved;** i) Produce a 'You are Here' map, which details the village, ii) Produce a business map/sign, which lists the businesses in the village, iii) Steve Soanes to produce a 'mock up', iv) Something cohesive on railings, v) Fingerpost sign, formalised, may need planning permission, vi) Revisit the NNDC Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan.

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Meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Chairman _____