

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 from 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CBN), William Brooks (WB), David Lawty (DL), Claire James (CJ), Richard Green (RG), Charlene Campion (CC), Andy Bliss, (AB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Heather Smith (HS), Jan Luck (JL), Richard Blunt (RB) and the Parish Clerk.

14 members of the public

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Public Participation.  
Chas reminded all present that we will not tolerate talking from members of the public in the background of the meeting.
  - a. Owners of Bustards Farm – Planning ref: 23/01521/F - Replacement dwelling. The new dwelling will comprise a 2-storey, 5-bed property and will involve the demolition of an existing 2 storey dwelling which is located on the site. Advised of their family situation and why the application is required. Clerk advised that the Parish Council had already made their comments (confirmed 28.9.23 (no observations)).  
NOTE. Upon checking this application, it appears that an extension has been granted by planning to the 7<sup>th</sup> of December for amended plans.
2. Apologies: Cllr Julian Kirk.
3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
4. WB declared a declaration of interest in finance – 6.3 & 9.2.
5. Minutes approved from the last on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September meeting – proposed by AE, seconded by DL and all were in favour.
6. Matters arising:
  - 6.1 Overgrown footpaths/verges – Stickfast Lane has now been cut but not sure who did the work! Dunces Lane has been partly cut. Blackamore have cut some verges on School Lane, Walnut Road, and Chalk Road but Police Road requires urgent attention including brambles. Proposed AB, seconded AE, and all in favour. Clerk has reported light problem in Holt Court.
  - 6.2 NDP – Mr. Cotton advised that he is standing down as Chair and Paul Blandford will take over. Clerk advised that notification had been received today with funding to be paid within next week. It was agreed that a special meeting be held with the Steering Group, Parish Council and Collective Community present to review the call for sites, affordable homes allocation etc., and the Housing Needs Assessment. Clerk to send this information out again to all councillors. ACTION CLERK

- 6.3 Grant request from St. Peters Church – after much discussion, some heated, the meeting was halted for 5 minutes from 19.40 to 19.45. Issues raised regarding the budgeted item, lack of accounts provided as required under the grant request form and what the grant is actually for -equipment or maintenance?  
It was finally proposed that the accounts are provided before the next meeting by RG, seconded CC and all in favour except for WB who abstained. To be on the next agenda.

7. Reports:

- 7.1 CC -Light by 8 Folgate Lane is not working and clerk to report. ACTION Clerk  
AB - Lots of white lines have appeared on different road locations and it is hoped that these are a sign of Highways work to commence soon.  
DL -A deer had been reported as road kill to the Borough and it was removed within 10 minutes. CJ- The 30mph sign on Walnut Road near the new development has been knocked down and it has been reported. AB raised the lack of regular public transport in our villages and the opportunity to access released funds from the Government. It was agreed to write to the MP and copy Cllr. Kirk.  
ACTION Clerk  
CC mentioned the issue with some members of the pubic being unable to hear softly spoken councillors at the meetings. This has been raised in the past and it is hoped that the acoustics at the Community Centre room are an improvement.
- 7.2 Cllr Blunt gave an update on 10 Folgate Lane with a legal opinion now received and a meeting has been scheduled for next week. He apologised for the delay. Our CIL application for the playground work will be discussed tomorrow. The Gunthorpe Solar Farm appeal has been passed. Small grant scheme mentioned as sent out by the clerk – any applications need to be received by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. West Norfolk Wins Community Lottery is set up to support local community projects and is well worth supporting.
- 7.3 Clerk Report: Playground signage ready for collection once payment is made. AGAR has been approved by the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn and certification received. Annual invoices have been sent out for the large allotments and all paid in except one. 2024 meeting dates sent out and for the next 12 months, meetings will be held at the Community Centre in the separate room. NDP has taken up a lot of time recently. Small grants scheme as per email sent out, along with the West Norfolk draft corporate strategy and the notice of planning department updates on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. .gov.uk email address has been raised recently but not yet law and would suggest we wait as it will be an additional cost.
- 7.4 Crier - The latest edition of the Crier has been delivered. CC reported that the FB page has 248 followers and doing well. Website had 592 views during September with Home, planning, minutes, Crier, Community Centre, NDP, PC, Agendas, Contact and useful info in the top 10.
- 7.5 Footpaths/circular walks – alternative signage still being looked into but could be expensive.

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – no update

7.7 Play area –JL continues to make weekly reports and undertake basic maintenance where required. Awaiting decision on the CIL application. The hedge is very overgrown and now dangerous for children. CBN to speak to school again CBN Thanks to AB and AE for cutting back the brambles near the equipment. The litter bin is never locked, and this is down to the refuse collectors.

7.8 SAM - AE reported the signs have been relocated and data will be available at the next meeting.

7.9 a. Ranger visit in November – AB stressed the lack of work undertaken following previous requests and clerk to chase. ACTION. Clerk

b. West Norfolk Befriending donation requests – clerk explained that they visit the lonely and vulnerable residents, and it is run by volunteers. It was agreed that a £50 donation be made, proposed CBN, seconded DL and all in favour.

c. NCC tree offer – unfortunately no land available for this.

d. Slow Ways national walking network – coastal only.

e. CC re litter picking assessment – a lot of work and not sure if residents will help.

f. Confirmation that JL will take over the guardianship of the defibrillator and also the weekly checks as agreed with AB.

## 8 Planning:

8.1 APPLICATIONS: 23/01676/LDP – single storey rear extension within 4m of detached house, 8 Folgate Lane - – RB advised this is a lawful development application and not a change of use. For our information only. No residents had been advised.

8.2 CBN advised of the decisions and no new enforcements or appeals.

AB advised that a retrospective planning application for St. Andrews Church should be received soon.

## 9 Finance:

9.1 September bank statements/reconciliation/payments & receipts – proposed by AE and seconded by AB – all in favour.

£34,764.57 in our 2 bank accounts with £11,335.87 in the Solar Fund account.

9.2 October payments proposed correct by CJ, seconded by AB and all in favour except DL who had a declaration of interest.

9.3 Half year financial review discussed, and the recent allotment payments have improved the funds to £12,046 over budget but the share of the playground costs yet to come.

Finance working party – to meet via zoom to review and discuss the 1<sup>st</sup> draft budget before the next meeting.

## 10 Next month's agenda:

Draft budget to review

Grant application for St. Peters Church

Planning Working Party

11 Public participation:

- a. Parishioners raised an issue on Folgate Road whereby a resident had tapped into the mains electricity. UK Network had been on site and refused entry to No. 10 but gained access to No.8 .
- b. The new Parish Hall will have a defibrillator fitted.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting closed 20.36 – the next meeting is on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023 from 7.00pm at the Community Centre.

Page 4 of 4

Signed .....

Date .....

PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER 2023

K & M Lighting	£ 30.60	Standing Order
HMRC	£ 163.00	Standing Order
Clerk Salary	£ 652.10	Standing Order
EE mobile	£ 18.48	direct debit
SSE	£ 93.72	direct debit
Clerk Expenses September	£ 25.00	
ECS cloud storage	£ 16.50	direct debit
Walpole St. Peters churchyard invoice	£ 1500.00	(for discussion)
Parish Hall x 2 (Sept/Oct)	£ 36.00	
Command Pest Control	£ 216.00	
PKF Littlejohn	£ 378.00	
ECS Signage	£ 76.80	

Signed .....

Date .....