

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 1st of February 2024 from 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), Janet Luck (JL), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Andy Bliss (AB), William Brooks (WB), Richard Green (RG), and the Parish Clerk.

Borough & County Councillor Julian Kirk.

8 members of public

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Public Participation –
 - a. With less than 2,000 residents in the Walpoles, why do we need to rebuild the Church Hall when the Community Centre offers excellent facilities. A 12 month delay was suggested to give time to get more evidence. Will be writing to our MP and Bishop of Ely.
 - b. The resident was advised that there is not a Church Hall, but a Parish Hall which has absolutely nothing to do with the Church. Therefore, writing to the Bishop of Ely was incorrect.
 - c. The public meeting held 5 years ago received a unanimous vote to rebuild.
2. Apologies received by Cllrs Blunt, Campion and Lawty.
3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
4. Declarations of interest – None declared
5. Minutes approved from the meetings on the 4th January 24 proposed by CJ, seconded HS and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 NDP – Unfortunately Paul Blandford was not in attendance and CB advised that the turnout at the special meeting was poor. Costs were raised for year 3 as clerk advised that £18k was the limit of funding which normally covered 2 years. Once this has been used, the Parish Council would have to fund and we do not have the available funds to do so.
It was agreed that the clerk contact CCP for an update on exactly where we are and a timeline to completion. ACTION: clerk
2 members of the public where interested in helping and it was agreed that another separate NDP meeting to be arranged before the next Parish Council meeting on the 7th of March. CB to contact Paul Blandford ACTION: CB
7. To receive reports:
 - 7.1 The damaged post on School Road has been reported. The light by the Almshouses is still not working and clerk to chase K & M again.

AE raised the damaged school 20mph sign has still not been replaced – clerk to chase Andy Wallace ACTION: Clerk
CJ raised the ongoing issue of dog mess in the village – to consider motion cameras.
Pot Holes on Frenchs Road not just caused by construction but also farm traffic.

7.2 County and Borough Councillor’s Reports:

Julian Kirk reported that there was a full Borough Council meeting this week and it was dreadful. Problems with sound and some councillors walked out.
County – floods have been a huge problem and JK has involved the IDP and Borough Council on the Walnut Road problem. The development behind April Cottage has caused the flooding issues and Highways will block the end of the pipe. The Flood Alliance have also been involved in this problem along with Folgate Lane.
West Drove is sinking again with the culvert collapsing. No date is yet available for the corrective work to take place.

7.3 Clerk Report: Small allotments issues have been taken over by CB and now sorted. All payments have been made along with a new tenant for plot 2. Still receiving calls on flooding and highways matters and advising residents who to report the problems to.

Time Sheet for January as sent out. 80 D Day celebration details passed round.

7.4 Village Crier, Social Media, and Website reports:

Crier – the loss of 2 delivery people was raised again by AE and JL offered to help. Notice for help will also be put on the Walpole Wingers FB page.

CB advised that there were still problems with the PC FB page, and it looks like we will have to set up a new one.

Website – 536 views in January with Home, Planning, Parish Council, Crier, Minutes, Neighbourhood Plan, Agendas, Reports/Documents, Contact us and Walking making the top 10.

A discussion took place regarding the current NALC website and the WIX site. It was decided to close down the NALC site and put links on it to the WIX site. Proposed CJ, seconded AE, and all in favour except WB who abstained.

7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE reported no problems.

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – no update

7.7 Play area – JL was pleased to advise that the work on the play area would start on next Monday 5th of February for 2 weeks (weather permitting). The clerk has advised the Community Centre and AB will manage the entrance gate.

7.8 SAM reports – West Drove North – the unit stopped thought to be due to the cold weather. AE will check with Westcotec. From 24.12.23 to 16.1.24, 17,839 counts with 85th percentile speed of 45.1mph in a 40mph limit. Average speed 38.1 mph. MAX speed 90mph on 13.1.24 at 19.40.

Wisbech Road from 24.12.23 to 26.1.24 (30mph) 19,536 counts with 85th percentile of 32.6mph and average speed of 27.5mph. Max speed 50mph on 8.1.24 at 16.25

Due to a lack of interest, the Speedwatch has been disbanded and the equipment returned to the police.

JK reported that a member of the public had contact him regarding extending the 40mph on Market Lane into West Drove but a serious lack of funding would prevent this from happening.

7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

- a. Locked gate on the bridlepath as raised by a resident on Gunthorpe Road towards Walpole March. AE advised that this has happened in the past and he reported it to Highways. It is thought that the Environmental Agency have padlocked the gate.
- b. VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme – to forward to Community Centre.
- c. Verdant Energy and ib Vogt – cancelled attending this meeting and it is hoped they can make the March meeting.
- d. National Grid Grimsby to Walpole -open meeting to be held at the Community Centre on the 20th of February between 2 and 7pm.

8 Planning – to consider Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements.

Any applications received after the date of this agenda and before the meeting date will be considered.

8.1 Applications:

23/00899/F - Retrospective application to remove timber fence (2140mm in height) and replace with brick wall 1060mm in height with x7 peirs at a height of 2000mm.

The brick wall is 200mm further back from the roadside than the existing fence at Thornmoor Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HS

No observations proposed CJ, seconded AB and all in favour except HS who abstained.

21/01442/DISC_A | DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 9 OF PLANNING CONSENT 21/01442/FM:

Installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure | Land At East Marsh S of Gunthorpe Road W of Flowers Farm And Frenchs Road The Marsh Walpole St Andrew Norfolk – more information is needed regarding what is condition 9.

8.2 Decisions:

23/02080/F | VARIATION OF CONDITION 3 OF PLANNING CONSENT 21/01442/FM ;

Installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure. | Land At East Marsh S of Gunthorpe Road W of Flowers Farm And Frenchs Road The Marsh Walpole St Andrew – APPLICATION PERMITTED.

23/02070/RM | Application for reserved matters for site frontage and plots 3 and 6 | Land SE of Helian House And W of Walnut Tree Farm Walnut Road Walpole St Peter – APPLICATION PERMITTED.

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

23/00064/REF | 1st floor Extension and alterations to existing dwelling | Cedar View Walnut Road Walpole St Peter – Appeal in progress

24/00008/NIA | Not in accordance with approved plans. | Street Record Hill Farm Lane Walpole St Peter – Pending Consideration

8.4 The Gypsy & Traveller Policy – the 2 sites on the list from the Borough are not in our parish.

9 Finance

9.9 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for January – proposed AE, seconded HS and all in favour. Bank Balance at the end of January was £48,336.00 with £11,414.44 Solar Fund money and £23,000 CIL funding for the playground.

9.2 To approve payments (to date) for February – proposed AE, seconded CJ and all in favour.

9.3 The clerks timesheet for January was reviewed with 6 hours extra worked and the clerk hopes that the next couple of months will allow catch up with the allotted hours.

10 Items for the next agenda to be advised to the clerk 7 days before the meeting on the 1st of February 2024. To include the NDP update

11 Public participation: Roadworks on Wisbech to Walpole St. Andrew the road was closed but no works in place and the diversion does not work.

Batteries stored at the Solar Farm – any update on the fire hazard – JK was asked to look into this.

Frenches Road – construction traffic are using both ways and, along with farm traffic, are causing problems including mud on the road.

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Meeting closed 20.32

Next meeting 7th of March 2024 from 7pm

PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024 (to date)

K & M Lighting	£ 30.60	Standing Order
EE mobile	£ 18.48	direct debit
SSE	£ 93.72	direct debit
ECS cloud storage	£ 16.50	direct debit
Clerk Expenses January	£ 47.95	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
HMRC	£ 132.00	due to change in hours
Clerk Salary	£ 528.30	due to change in hours

NDP Payments:

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Signed

Date