

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on
Thursday the 2nd of February 2023 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Chas Boston (CBN) Andy Bliss (AB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Richard Green (RG),
Richard Blunt (RB), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), David Lawty (DL) Claire James
(CJ), Paul Blandford (PB). Clerk
5 members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chairman to everyone.

Public Participation – to allow public participation (3 minutes per speaker, up to a maximum
of 15minutes in total). Agenda items only.

A member of the public questioned why Parish Council allotment land was not being offered
for the battery storage facilities as it would provide a source of income. RG advised that the
companies involved liked to deal with land owned by single owners and they prefer larger
plots.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs Campion (family),
Cllrs Kirk and Blunt delayed.

3. To remind all councillors of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
The Chair reminded all councillors of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.

4. Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for
dispensations. None

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th of January 2023 were proposed
by WB, seconded by PB, and approved by all present at that meeting.

6. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:

6.1 ENSO Energy update – CJ has no update but will chase again.

6.2 Strimming – Chalk Road, Market Lane, Wisbech Road, Walnut Triangle and Village gateways

It was decided that the clerk contact our contractors for a quote. ACTION CB

Update on Highways meeting by AE – a site visit with Andy Wallace has taken place and the
list of items for attention were viewed – awaiting an update from Andy Wallace. Includes
the puddles on road surfaces, potholes, gateways, new footpath on Church Road and
trod, the missing 20mph sign on Springfield Road and drainage on the Walnut Road new
development.

6.3 Planters – AB advised that the Almshouse charity will replace the planters.

6.4 It was agreed to donate to the British Legion of £80.00 – proposed DL, seconded AB and all
in favour. ACTION CB

6.5 Project Swingfield/Almshouses area – Quote for the work has been received from Mr. Neal
for £3920.00. Proposal to accept the quote by AB, seconded by PB and all in favour except
for DL who objected.

7. To receive reports:

- 7.1 Councillors' reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
 - a. Potholes by Eastleigh House on the Chalk Road bend have been reported by PB. Washdyke potholes also reported again. It was suggested that details of claiming back on tyre/wheel damage caused by potholes, should be in the next edition of the Crier. Pothole on Springfield to be reported by AE. 2-3 cars parked the wrong way on Walnut Road junction with West Drove North are causing problems with oncoming traffic and this also to be reported in the next Crier as it is illegal.
 - b. CBN advised reports from residents – light flickering on French's Road – clerk advised that this has already been reported. Mud on the roads after highways work completed and the signs require cleaning – Clerk to request Highways to action. ACTION CB Police Road, Wisbech triangle – no give way markings or signs? To report. ACTION CBN NOTE – Cllr Kirk joined the meeting. (7.41)
 - c. New footpath on Church Road still has the grit bin to re-site and the 30mph signage to re-install.

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-

JK reported that a member of the public had written to him complaining about the road closures not being advised, HGV's on French's Road and why were the residents not consulted. Cllr Blunt has followed up on this and offered to visit the resident to discuss further. JK had also received the complaints regarding the new path on Church Road. Duck pond corner – signage now in place. West Drove North – the road has been improved regarding the water retention. NCC – a public consultation is due regarding the proposed Mayor. All MPs are against this, and any gains of office were queried. Recycling centres to close on Wednesday afternoons as part of the budget cuts.

7.3 Clerk Report –

The new street light on Church Road now has a date from UK Power Network for the end of February. May Election information as send out this morning with update from Cllr Blunt later in the meeting.

The new allotments have issued with plots 1 & 2 due to excess water and plot 1 tenant moved to plot 10. Plots 3,4,6,7,8,9 & 10 now taken and rental income is £342.50 to date. Fly tipping reported on Eastlands Bank by the A17 – also reported by JK.

A marked increase on contacts by residents during January.

Starting on updating the Information Audit and Asset Register ready for the year end.

7.4 Village Crier/social media/Website–

The Clerk advised new advertisers for the Crier have increased revenue by £393+ Interest in the Crier have been received by Walpole Highway and Walpole Cross Keys who are both looking to have copies for their parish and to include items relevant to their areas. Donations for both would be required.

Website – Pete was again thanked for his dedication to the website and a review of 2022 gave 5,200 views with top 5 of Home, Planning, Minutes, Parish Council & Agendas.

January 23 views – Home, Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan, Planning and Crier.

NOTE Cllr Blunt joined the meeting (7.55)

7.5 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – Some work has taken place on Stickfast Lane re cutting back. Clerk to chase Blackamore.

7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – Problems with vehicles driving through the footpath by St. Andrews church. To add to next agenda. ACTION CB

7.7 SAM 2 reports – AE reported that 1 unit on Walpole Bank had a top speed of 65mph in a 40mph, with 5611 vehicles and average speed of 35.1mph (18.12.22 – 17.1.23)
The second unit on Chalk Road from the same period reported a top speed of 55mph in a 30mph limit with 8977 vehicle counts and an average speed of 26.6 mph. had to be

7.8 Neighbourhood Plan update – Mr. P Cotton:

Mr. Cotton advised that the results of the survey were disappointing, and a full report was due.

The design codes report updates were also due this week and will be discussed at the next NPD meeting later this month.

7.9 Communications and Correspondence:

a. Market Lane speed reduction update – JK advised no update, and he will chase again.

b. Overflowing bins at St Peters Church reported by a visitor to the clerk and WB is sorting this out.

c. Request from Age UK for a donation. £50 agreed, proposed DL, seconded AE and all in favour.

(7.2) Cllr Blunt – Regarding the correspondence as raised by JK earlier, on a residents complaints regarding the closure of roads etc., he has asked the enforcement officer to look into this and he has offered to meet the resident. He will look at the mud on the road as the developers should pay for this.

Budget - £4.50 increase on Band D. The Borough Council receive 7% of the council tax with 3% of that to IDB. The budget will go to cabinet next week and full council on the 23rd of February.

Elections – from the May 23 elections, photo ID is required for voters:

“For the first time, residents in King’s Lynn and West Norfolk will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year’s local elections. Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK or EEA drivers’ licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person’s bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/ or by completing a paper form.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission’s website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID.”

8. Planning: (at time of agenda issue)

8.1 Applications: NONE

8.2 Decisions: N O N E

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

23/00005/REF – outline application for a new residential development, land adjacent Roseville, Chalk Road – Appeal lodged.

22/00047/REF | Retrospective planning application for partially constructed side porch, raised patio, detached garage, new access and change of use of a small part of the existing agricultural grassland, to host the proposed garage | Cley Cottage The Marsh Walpole St Andrew WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7JG – appeal against Refusal.

22/00013/REF | 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 – Appeal against Refusal.

8.4 **22/02078/O** – Application withdrawn for 1 new dwelling at Kemal, Chalk Road.

8.5 DL raised an issue with Borough Councillors “calling in” applications as requested by the PC but they were not requested by the PC. Also, the other side of Walnut Road by the new build has started to collapse.

9. Finance:

9.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for January 23. Proposed AE, seconded PB and all in favour. Bank Reconciliation shows £47,571.74

9.2 Approval of payments for February – due to the meeting being so early in the month, the clerk will issue a further payment listing later in the month. Proposed HS, seconded CJ and all in favour.

9.3 Qtr. 3 financial report discussed and proposal to accept by AB, seconded CJ and all in favour.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

- a. Strimming required – corner of Chalk Road, Market Lane and Wisbech Road plus the Walnut Triangle and village gateways – quote for work
- b. ENSO Energy update from CJ.
- c. AB re vehicles on St. Andrews Church footpath.
- d. PC meeting reports in The Crier.

Any other items to be sent to the clerk 8 days before the next meeting date.

11. Public Participation –

- a. A question was made regarding the Solar Fund monies, and it was explained that this was granted a few years ago for use on public projects e.g. Community Centre car park and donation to the Parish Hall rebuild. It was also explained that a letter went out to all residents at the time asking for their comments and the Community Centre and Parish Hall were key projects raised.
- b. Information was requested on the battery storage facilities including fire safety/response – invite a fire officer to address a meeting? Residents need to be aware of any potential issues.
Road damage – advised that the contractors are liable to ensure the roads are in the same state as when the works commenced.

12. Next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 2nd of March 2023 at the Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.45

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Signed

Date