

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 from 7.00pm

Present:

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

8 members of public

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Public Participation – no public contribution at this point.
2. Apologies received by Cllrs Kirk, Blunt, Everleigh, Campion and Lawty.
3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct. CB covered the 7 principles - selfishness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
4. Declarations of interest from: RG – re planning applications 23/02051/F & 23/02080/F, WB – re churchyard maintenance and Village Hall Letter on bin relocation, CJ- re Community Centre representative.
5. Minutes approved from the meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November and amended minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> of October proposed by AB, seconded CL and all in favour who were present at these meetings.
6. Matters arising:
  - 6.1 NDP – Paul Blandford raised concerns that nothing had happened since the last meeting with a quorum was to be raised from the Parish Council. It was questioned if the plan was worth continuing due to the lack of support from parishioners. The clerk has arranged for an open public meeting to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at the Community Centre, starting at 7pm. Notices of this to be put on the website, social media, and noticeboards. AB offered to help after the festive season. Clerk to arrange a notice. ACTION: Clerk
  - 6.2 St. Peter's church grant request was discussed following the receipt of their bank statements. It was decided to review the financial situation for both parties in March 24. Proposed RG, seconded AB and all in favour except WB who abstained.
  - 6.3 Planning Working Party – the clerk stressed that we were missing closing dates for comments and that support or objection was not enough as need to have the reasons. RG suggested that we ask planning to extend the comment dates when they fall before our next meeting. ACTION: Clerk
  - 6.4 Projector for use at the PC meetings – the current PC projector is still in working order although does not have Bluetooth. It was decided that we try and use this for planning applications.

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Signed .....

Date .....

## 7. Reports

- 7.1 Clerk has reported the street lights on Frenchs Road and The Marsh for attention. AB advised that the street light no 13 by the almshouses was also in need of attention and clerk to arrange visit.  
The pot holes in various areas of the parish continue to cause problems and West Drove could go on until Feb 24.
- 7.2 Due to absences no reports available.
- 7.3 Clerk Report for November – invoicing for the small allotments due by the end of December. Increase in calls from parishioners regarding speeding and potholes. The Biodiversity Policy has come out of nowhere and the clerk will look at this in more detail for the January 24 meeting. Reminder that reduced working hours start from the 1.1.24 @ 1.4 hours a day Monday to Friday.
- 7.4 The Crier – clerk reported that the advertising rates had been increased by 10% to help cover the costs. A huge thank you to the editor and delivery people for their support.  
Our Facebook page is still out of order. The website was visited 587 times in November with Home, Planning, Parish Council, Community Centre, Minutes, Agendas, Contact us, Crier, Policies & Procedures and Walking making the top 10.
- 7.5 Footpaths etc. – nothing to report.
- 7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group - nothing to report
- 7.7 Play area – JL advised that the hedges have now been cut back and are waiting for the signage to be installed – AB offered to help with installation.  
The new climbing frame and ground cover works have been ordered and work is due to commence January/February 24 subject to weather conditions.  
The Borough Council offer of free cycle stands to be taken up for outside the playground. ACTION: Clerk
- 7.8 SAM reports – Mill Road IN from 8.10.23 to 11.11.23 had 17,569 vehicle counts with average speed of 30.5mph in a 30mph limit. Top speed recorded at 60mph at 11.00am.  
Chalk Road IN – from 8.10.23 to 11.11.23 had 9,552 vehicle counts with average speed of 24.8mph in a 30mph limit. Top speed was 45mph at 15.10pm.  
Units are now on Folgate Lane and Cherry Tree Farm.
- 7.9 Communications/Correspondence:
- Biodiversity Policy as under 7.3 to include the Hedgehog highway project.
  - Email from Elinor Bale on behalf of Verdant Energy – agreed to ask her to attend the January meeting. ACTION: Clerk
  - Cycle Storage offer – under 7.7
  - Email received from a resident regarding the Solar Farm traffic on The Marsh and issues with the road surface. Suggested that images and details be sent to Highways and the Solar Farm owners.
  - Letter received today from Walpole St. Peter Parish Hall regarding moving the bins. It was agreed to obtain the new location images for Borough to approve and just have the dog and grit bins.

- 8. Planning – to consider Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements.
  - 8.1 Applications:
    - 23/02051/F – variation of conditions 2,7,13 and 14 attached to planning permission 22/01616/FM re installation of a synchronous condenser facility etc., at Rose Hall Farm, Walpole Bank, Walpole St. Andrew – Support proposed AB, seconded WB and all in favour with RG abstaining.
    - 23/02080/F** – variation of a condition 3 of planning consent 21.01442/FM – installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility – land at East Marsh S of a solar farm facility. West of Flowers Farm and Frenchs Road, The Marsh. Extension from 35 to 40 years. No observations proposed WB, seconded AB and all in favour with RG abstaining.
    - 23/02070/RM – reserved matters for site frontage and plots 3 & 6 SE of Helian House and W of Walnut Tree Farm, Walnut Road, Walpole St. Peter – support as in keeping with the rest of the properties, proposed JL, seconded WB and all in favour.
    - 23/02043/LDP** | LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED; Single storey rear extension within 4m of detached house. | 8 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech – Cllr Blunt had sent a message via the Clerk that update was due within the next few days.

8.2 Decisions:

**23/01754/F** | Variation of condition 2 attached to planning permission 22/02002/F: Alterations and extension to bungalow forming additional bedroom, garden room and attached garage incorporating a gym room. | Fen Lodge Chalk Road Walpole St Peter – Application Permitted.

8.3 New Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

**23/00064/REF** | 1st floor Extension and alterations to existing dwelling | Cedar View Walnut Road Walpole St Peter – Status Appeal Valid.  
 23/00646/UNOPDE | Alleged Unauthorised Operational Development | Multi-Flora Walnut Road Walpole St Peter – Status Pending Consideration

9 Finance

- 9.1. To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for November – proposed CJ, seconded JL and all in favour. Bank Balance at the end of November was £51,923.11 with £11,335.87 Solar Fund money and £23,000 CIL funding for the playground.
- 9.2 To approve payments (to date) for December – proposed AB, seconded HS and all in favour.
- 9.3 To review the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft budget for 24/25 which includes the staff cost savings – to be agreed at the January 24 meeting. 5% precept increase. ACTION : ALL
- 9.4 To approve the national salary increase and back dated from 1.4.23 – proposed JL, seconded CJ, and all in favour.

10 Items for the next agenda to be advised to the clerk 7 days before the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

11 No public participation.

Meeting closed 20.32 – next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> of January from 7pm.

PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER 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
ECS cloud storage	£ 16.50	direct debit
Clerk Expenses November	£ 25.00	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
Scribe subscription	£ 293.41	
Minuteman – Crier printing	£ 475.00	

Signed .....

Date .....