

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on Thursday the 5th of January 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), Charlene Campion (CC), Paul Blandford (PB)
4 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 asked if they could comment on **22/02078/0** and agreed by CJ. They had not received any notification from the planning office regarding the new build and it will block all the light to their garden and leave a view of a brick building. The street notification had been put on the wrong side of the road.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs James (family), Kirk (Covid)

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 1st of December 2022 were proposed by WB, seconded by RG, 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.

6.2 Strimming – Chalk Road, Market Lane, Wisbech Road, Walnut Triangle and Village gateways – photographs from AB were discussed and copies to be sent to clerk to request rangers action. ACTION AB/CB

6.3 Project Swingfield/Almshouses area – AB to obtain a quote from Mr. Neal.

6.4 Allotment update via the clerk – all large allotments are paid up to date. The smaller allotment payments are due this week with 3 received to date. Clerk to follow up and notice to be put in the Crier re available plots. ACTION CB

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Councillors' reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.

a. AB produced a photo of the bus stop on Wisbech Road which was flooded due to lack of gully cleaning – copy to clerk to add to list for Highways. ACTION AB/CB

b. AB raised the issue of dog and rubbish bins with people leaving black bin bags by and on waste bins. Notice to be put in the Crier and on the Facebook page ACTION AV/CC

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Date

- c. CC had received requests for the new date for the West Drove Road repairs, but no updates received to date.
- d. Replacement streetlight still awaiting connection date.
- e. CJ reported that 2 residents on French's Road had reported an increase in HGV's and RG advised this could be down to collections/deliveries to farmers due to the sugar beet collections and should soon be back to normal levels.
- f. HS advised that the repairs/maintenance to the Playground had started this week.

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-

RB reported that Borough are busy with budgets which should be decided within the next two months.

7.3 Clerk Report –

Working on the allotments, especially the new small plots. Attended GDPR training updates and training/information the forthcoming elections in May.

Andy Wallace has been chased again regarding the onsite meeting discussed last October.

7.4 Village Crier/social media/Website–

The Clerk advised of an increase in the cost of printing the Crier by 52.00 per issue, bring the total to £473.00. The editor has advised that more advertisers are in the pipeline.

Deadline for the next issue will be 16th of January 2023.

CC advised that there was a small increase in hits on the fb page with positive reports on the Christmas Tree Festival.

7.5 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – nothing to report.

7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – Nothing to report.

7.7 SAM 2- update from AE re by the school sign – 65mph recorded on the 12th December at 12.55pm but the average speed was 25.6. The second unit had to be removed from Church Road due to the pavement works.

Units are not on Walpole Bank and Chalk Road. The Folgate Lane post is in place with the Pyecroft/Chalk Lane post awaiting installation.

7.8 Neighbourhood Plan update – Mr. P Cotton:

Mr. Cotton advised that the uptake of the online survey was poor and stressed all councillors should be completing the survey. He requested a two-week extension to the 26th of January to give more time for residents to complete. This was approved.

Mr. Cotton has been door knocking on Church Road and found that a majority of residents read the Crier when they need local information or advertiser details. RB advised that the various support groups need to help the drive and we do not have a reason to drive it through i.e., a large development.

Mr. Cotton strengthened the need for all parishioners to complete the survey which can be accessed from the Parish council website.

7.9 Communications and Correspondence:

- a. Market Lane speed reduction update – no further information to date
- b. Planters – AE had sent details of new planters to all councillors and it was decided that further discussion is required with the Dole Charity as on their property.

8. Planning:

8.1 Applications:

22/02078/O | Outline application for one new dwelling at Kemal, Chalk Road. As discussed under public participation earlier in the meeting, it was proposed to object to this as considered an overdevelopment of the site. Proposed AE, seconded WB and all in favour.

22/02265/FM | Proposed development of an energy storage installation and associated development to allow for the storage, importation and exportation of energy to the National Grid at land opposite Walpole substation, Walpole Bank. This is the 3rd such application and the issues of fire/storage safety etc., as discussed at our December 22 meeting are still very relevant. The landscaping was raised as needs to be high enough to hide the structure from the road and include hedgerows and trees. It would be good to see the 2 previous applications built first to enable judgement to be made. A point was raised that the area was becoming a battery storage dumping ground. Objections proposed regarding fire hazards etc., by CB, seconded CC and all in favour with RG & RB abstaining.

8.2 Decisions: (For information):

22/00104/TPO | 2/TPO/00262: Remove fallen tree and replace with a Walnut Tree | Walnut Tree Farm Walnut Road Walpole St Peter Norfolk PE14 7NR – TPO approved

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

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 Church Walk footpath update – currently under construction.

8.5 22/00556/RM – drainage issue re dyke being filled in at land SE of Helian House, Walnut Road. Cllr Blunt concerned regarding draining off the road surface and to keep aware.

9. Finance:

- 9.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for December 22. Proposed CC, seconded AE and all in favour. Bank Reconciliation shows £48,306.70
- 9.2 Approval of payments for January – 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 CC and all in favour.
- 9.3 Draft budget & precept for 23/24. The budget was approved with a 10% precept increase. Proposed WB, seconded HS 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 – update re highways.
- b. AB re project Swingfield/Almshouses – quotation.
- c. AB/AE re planters on Almshouses land.
- d. ENSO Energy update from CJ.
- e. Donation to the British Legion.

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

11. Public Participation –

- a. Church volunteer group at St. Andrews Church – issues with parking and removable bollard to be discussed.
- b. CC will try for litter picking again.

- c. AB raised the use of the projector again but need broadband. RB advised that there may be some funding available soon on this.
- d. Concern regarding the new footpath on Church Road taking away some of the road width to be reviewed upon completion.

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.32

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Date