

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 2nd November 2023 from 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), David Lawty (DL), Claire James (CJ), Charlene Campion(CC), Heather Smith (HS), Janet Luck (JL), Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Blunt (RB), and Adrian Everleigh (AE)
County Councillor Julian Kirk (JK)

15 member of public including Paul Blandford and Paul Cotton in respect of NDP.

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Public Participation – no public contribution at this point.
2. Apologies, Richard Green, Clerk, and William Brooks.
3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct. Chas read out some points of the Code of Conduct and reminded everyone they should read and familiarise themselves with the content particularly in relation to respect, bullying and harassment, public interest, and the impression we give when acting as a Parish Councillor.
4. No declarations of interest.
5. Minutes discussed from October's meeting. HS raised point about 9.2 of the minutes in that it stated that DL had proposed payments correct and all were in favour except DL who had a declaration of interest. This was believed to be a typo and would be raised with the clerk. DL also asked for the clerk to check notes as RB had talked about us having up to 80 houses in relation to the NDP and DL wants the minutes correct. RB challenges as he did not say 80 houses. Minutes have not been signed off.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 AB said it was for the rangers to deal with Brambles. They have not been out as far as we are aware. Clerk to chase Rangers.
 - 6.2 PB said it was disappointing a meeting could not be arranged. Please try to organise a date. PB suggested a quorum of councillors attend. CC proposed and AE seconded. All in favour except DL who did not want to vote.
 - 6.3 CC suggested the £1500 had been agreed in the budget for the year, however, CB reminded her of the Code of Conduct. DL agreed. RB proposed the church are written to again and be advised that we must have a copy of their income/expenditure. HS seconded this. All in favour except DL.
7. Reports
 - 7.1 Street lamp on Walnut Road/Church Road triangle not working. CJ would look at number and see if she could report online.

RB raised road collapsing on Church Road (Walnut Road End) where the cars are parked in front of Townsend Estate. It is falling away and will need raising with Highways.

7.2 RB – CIL money had come through.

RB advised on 10 Folgate Lane that the update was that it had been delayed due to a difference of opinion between the applicant and the planning officers.

RB had been in discussion with St Andrews Church to try and push forward although there were a lot of issues.

JK – New herris fencing at the pole hole on West Drove North.

Suggested CB raise the issue about the Walnut Road/Church Road junction to Highways.

JK advised there is an available grant for warm meals this winter and the application needs to be sorted this week. Tilney All Saints did last year and created a lovely community.

JK – there is a bit of money left in Grant for local groups if anyone wants to apply online.

7.3 Due to illness no report available.

7.4 AE reported his wife is 'getting on' with the Crier. To be put on next Agenda to discuss costs etc. FB page has been compromised – CC thinks it is due to dog fouling!

7.5 AE went to Moat Fabrication re footpath signage, but nobody was there. JK can help with Grant. Signs are all still up at the moment.

7.6 Nothing to report

7.7 Play area – signs are on their way. Options of the 2 quotes discussed but there is no hurry. DL proposed one with a trampoline and it was pointed they both have that option. CB suggested we all look at the website and email Janet with our options. It was decided we would look at the equipment for ages 1-5.

7.8 Mill Road both ways but out – max 60, the 85th Percentile was 38.5, average 31.7. DL wanted to know the time of day. It was reported that the 60 could be emergency services.

7.9 Chalk Road – out Max 50, 85th Percentile 32.2 and average 26.4.

7.10 RB reported he attended the Community Centre AGM as did other Parish Councilors. He was delighted with the new team, and we owe them support. He said that RB and RG are holding trustees but suggested a couple of people join. RB asked for volunteers and CJ and CC raised hands. All were in favour. Chas had spoken to Jade the Chair and the future looked bright.

AB reported the wreaths had been obtained for both churches and were £20.00 each but we normally donate also. AB proposed £60.00 each but DL suggested £100.00 each, RB seconded this, and all were in favour.

AB raised the issue of the bus service and said that there was no route to Terrington. Documents forwarded by email, but everyone was encouraged to email MP to support.

Planning working party – Clerk had raised the issue that some Planning Permission's had been missed. AB suggested projector brought back for plans and it was suggested a projector should be purchased to be attached to a beam in the room to display the plans. Suggested PC fund it with CIL funding. CJ and CC can negotiate between two. DL suggested we bring this to next meeting.

- 23/01692/F – CC identified a night time buzzing. AE was unsure if for existing or new connections. DL proposed we go back to ask for more information. Seconded by AE and all were in favour with the exception of RB who abstained.

23/01380/F – extension but original building is not there anymore. How has this been permitted!

23/00595/BOC – enforcement, this is not in our parish.

- CB read out payments/statements etc. Proposed correct by AB and seconded by AE – all in favour.

CJ read out savings which would be made if the clerk dropped the hours to 8 hours a week. Approximately £900 this financial year remaining would be saved and approximately £3500.00 for 2024/25. It was reminded that the extra issues the clerk has to deal with cost us extra money due to her extra time. It was decided that contact with clerk was to be kept to a minimum. Contact CB as Chair as the first port of call.

On the budget, it was requested by RB if we can keep the mandatory payments together and keep the one-off payments together just to simplify the sheet and make it easier for us to understand. The new working party should work well together.

The large amount of money for the grass cutting and maintenance of the Swingfield was discussed and perhaps the need for further quotes as it does seem like a lot.

The new signature – The clerk has a new mobile number and so the signage may need to be changed.

- Next months Agenda should include the £1500 grant for the WSP church, Crier, Village Hall – DL wanted adding as he said the agreement is up. (Gill Henderson said this is not until March 2023 but he disagreed). Cockle shells for the allotments.

- A member of the public commented on the clerk’s proposed reduced hours, and it was advised that the clerk doesn’t want all of the precept spent on wages. CC advised she cannot simply put the phone down on parishioners who may be calling about recent events.

Jade – happy to put ideas together to help with suggestions for playpark. Please email to Janet.

Allotments have still not got cockle shells.

Minutes kindly taken by Cllr James

Meeting closed 20.40 – next meeting 7th December 7pm.

Cllrs Campion and Blunt will not be in attendance.

PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 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 October	£ 47.95	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
K & M Lighting – Holt Close lamp repair	£ 264.00	
BCKLWN election costs	£ 1874.17	
British Legion Poppy Wreaths/donation	£ 200.00	

NDP Payments:

Collective Community Planning	£ 1800.00
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Signed

Date