

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

NOTE Mr. PA Blandford was voted in as a new Parish Councillor prior to this meeting.

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Richard Green (RG), Andy Bliss , (AB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), David Lawty (DL), Charlene Champion (CC). Cllr Kirk (JK)

Clerk – Caroline Boyden (CB)

7 members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chairman to everyone. Cllr Green was voted to Chair this meeting by DL, seconded CC and all in favour.

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

- a. Bacon and buns on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April from 09.30 to 12 noon at the Parish Hall.
- b. Advised the meeting was not being recorded. Date of agenda onto the noticeboard was raised. Community Centre re 6 representatives from the parish council quoted on the website. To be updated to 1.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr Blunt – other commitments, Cllr Boston (CBN) – moving house.

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. WB – Parish Hall and RG – Solar Battery Application 22/00438/FM

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022 were proposed by AE, seconded by HS and approved by all present at that meeting.

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

- 6.1 Neighbourhood Plan update – to be on the June 2022 meeting
- 6.2 Market Lane traffic proposal – Costs have been approved by Highways and it is hoped the TRO will be set up June/July 2022. JK was thanked for his work on this.
- 6.3 Re-building of the St. Andrews Church Wall costing £20k – this was discussed and clerk to request a quote for the urgent repairs and look for other funding. ACTION: CB JK to send details of another builder and suggested contacting College of West Anglia.

7. To receive reports:

- 7.1 Councillors' reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
  - a. Highways – some of the reported potholes have been repaired and it was agreed to put a link to report potholes on the website and The Crier plus link to the fly-tipping site.

Page 1 of 3

Signed .....

Date .....

WB had a parishioner raise the issue of the electricity box, that blew up last September, at Walnut and Church Road junction has overgrown trees. WB to obtain photographs for highways.

AB advised he has taken a gift to the member of the public who repaired and replaced the damaged village sign. AB also advised that he would be standing down as Vice Chair at the May meeting and RG confirmed he was also standing down as Chairman.

Clerk to find out who is the tenant for the allotment on French's Road as it has been neglected. It was also noted that the footpath has been cleared. ACTION CB/AE

## 7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports

**CLlr Kirk** advised that the Borough are slowly ticking over and £500 of his £1000 allowance had been approved for the Walpole Jubilee events. NCC is slow at present and his next allowance for £10k is due shortly – ideas were requested.

Concerns that the Covid rate is increasing, and ambulances are now waiting hours and getting stuck in other hospital locations which makes reaction times slower.

NCC now have funds available for rehoming Ukrainian families.

## 7.3 Clerk Report:

- a. Working on the year-end financial reports and the Annual Governance & Accountability Return reports.
- b. The play area check lists have been sent out to HS,CC & CBN
- c. A VAT return has been made for £1378.68
- c. Missing fingerboards have been chased again but no update yet.
- d. As the noticeboards had only been repaired last year, replacements to be discussed in 2023.
- e. Defibrillator update – JK was thanked for his help, and we now have a new “guardian” for our machine, Mr. Andy Pover and he will check on a regular basis.

## 7.4 Community Centre – no update available.

## 7.5 Village Crier – some issues with the back page but out on time and a new delivery person in place.

The website reported 525 views in March- Home – 165, planning 108, minutes 90, parish council 57, Financial statements 21, agendas 19, news 19, contact us 10, crier 8, and annual reports 4. CC reported that the Facebook page now has 184 followers.

## 7.6 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – no change from last month.

## 7.7 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – no change from last month.

## 7.8 SAM 2- On Mill Road incoming for the first time in March and average speed = 38.2mph with 12,016 vehicle counts. The top speed recorded was 60mph in a 30mph limit. Full details will be on the website.

## 7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

- a. Request for the removal of a gravestone in St. Peters churchyard had been received and advised that they contact the diocese of Ely.
- b. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the grant application by the Parish Hall, proposed CC, seconded AE and all in favour.

## 8. Planning:

### 8.1 Applications:

**17/01605/NMA** – Non Material Amendment to consent given for new dwelling on land adjacent to Hawthorne Lodge, Police Road. As there were no documents on the planning portal, the clerk had contacted the agent and he advised the NMA related to the removal of the chimney. This was supported as proposed CC, seconded DL and all in favour.

**22/00438/FM** – Development of an energy storage installation and association development opposite Walpole Sub Station. As comments had to be received by Borough by 5pm on the 7.4.22, this was discussed in full online, and questions were answered by the Developer. Support given with agreed comments and agreed by all.

9. Finance:

- 9.1 Approve payments and record receipts for March 22. proposed DL, seconded HS and approved by all present.
- 9.2 Approve bank reconciliations and statements for March 22. proposed by AE, seconded by HS and approved by all present. Bank Reconciliation shows £52,939.38
- 9.3 Approval of payments for April. Proposed DL, seconded HS and approved by all present. It is minuted that the early meeting date has caused some issues with payments received after the meeting and the clerk will look at 2 dates for payments per month.
- 9.4 The clerk produced the Annual Review Report for 21/22 with explanatory notes. This was accepted and approval proposed by DL, seconded AE and all in favour.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

- a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- b. Church wall update
- c. AGAR review and approval

11. Next Meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting from 7.00pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 at the Parish Hall, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting ended at 20.07