

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 from 7.00pm.

Present :

Councillors (members of the public) – Richard Green, Claire James, Heather Smith, Jan Luck,  
William Brooks, Adrian Eveleigh, Richard Blunt, Andy Bliss, Charlene Campion, David Lawty,  
Julian Kirk

Chairman – Charles Boston

Clerk – Caroline Boyden

18 members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chairman
2. Apologies – None
3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11th of May 2022  
Proposed Andy Bliss, seconded David Lawty and agreed as a true record of the meeting by those present at that meeting.

#### 4. Chairman's Report:

Unexpected Spending:

- a. St Andrews church wall, a large expense of over £23,000 but will save money in the long term preventing the need for on-going repairs.
- b. Street lamp repair, hit by a large vehicle and an insurance claim was made for the new light but the costs from UK Power network of over £1500 had to come out of the parish accounts.
- c. The Crier, printing costs have increased, however an increase in advertisers means that this is still viable.

What's New:

- a. Small allotments are now in place and the 9 plots are all tenanted.
- b. The 40mph speed limit on Market Lane is now in place following years of obtaining approvals etc., this was undertaken between the 3 parish councils.
- c. The installation of the white gates at the entrances to the parish.
- d. The purchase of a 2<sup>nd</sup> SAM2 unit (Speed Activated Message) to monitor speed within the parish.
- e. Various speed and hazard signs replaced by Highways.

Projects:

The Neighbourhood Development Plan needs support from all parishioners. This will improve our power when it comes to planning applications.

Highways:

- a. New footpath on Church Road – although comments have been made this was part of the requirement under the original planning application.
- b. Significant repairs to several road junctions.
- c. Various pot holes reported and some have been filled.

Signed : .....

Date : .....

Councillors:

- a. Representation on the Sutton Bridge Power Fund.
- b. Footpath and local walk maintenance and signage.
- c. Christmas Tree.

Future Spending: The playground requires regular maintenance and continued improvements which are very expensive.

Improvements:

- a. Communication between the Parish Council and the parishioners. The Facebook page and website offer regular updates but not everyone has access to the internet and please spread the word.
- b. Understanding planning

Please report any general issues to the Borough Council or for highways, potholes, footpaths, flooding, trees and hedges, use <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem>

5. Borough Councillor's Annual Report:

- 1. Planning remains a big issue with all parish councils and it was suggested that councillors attend planning training. Cllr Blunt advised that as he is on the planning committee he cannot discuss any local applications but can advise on comments and any calling in of applications to take to committee level. He requested that parishioners do put their own comments on the planning portal.
- 2. The Neighbourhood Development Plan is very important giving the parish control over the size of new homes and an increase in CIL income.
- 3. The CIL fund would be a good source of funding for the work required on the playground. Next round is July 23.

Richard Blunt

6. County Councillor's Annual Report:

Over the last twelve months, I have engaged with Highways, Planning, Planning Enforcement, and Environmental Health on behalf of Walpole Parish Council.

- 1. Highways as with other Parishes is always top of the list of concerns from constituents and parish councils. Finally, we have seen the 40 MPH speed reduction signs go up on Market Lane, I am pleased I was able to help in a small way using some of my NCC Councillor Grant to help fund the scheme. I would like to thank Caroline the clerk for keeping the pressure up on highways to make sure this was eventually completed.

I have had regular correspondence with constituents regarding the roads, footpaths including the disruption caused by the Nation Gid work laying cables. I continue to report damaged roads and footpaths.

- 2. I have been in continuous contact with Planning and Planning Enforcement in relation to several issues within the Walpoles.

As always, I am open to calls, messages and emails 24/7 365 and will respond ASAP.

Kind regards, Julian 07816909870

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Norfolk County Council email address: [julian.kirk.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:julian.kirk.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk)

7. Open Forum:

- 1. The entrance and roadway to the small allotments requires levelling and Cllr Kirk advised that the waste shells from fish make a very good and solid base. It was agreed that the plot 1 which cannot be used as an allotment due to flooding, can be made into a parking area.

Signed : .....

Date : .....

2. Dunces Lane is the responsibility of NCC and is impassable – this should be reported to the NCC as per the link <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem> Cllr Kirk will also follow this up.

3. The Folgate Lane planning application ref: 23/00265/CU for change of use of a bungalow to a children’s home was raised by many of the parishioners present. Cllr Blunt to check with the planning officer for an update on the questions raised including:

- a. Fencing is too high and too close to the road – should be 2m from the highway
- b. Access to the rear of the bungalows has been compromised
- c. Is there any proof that the planning notices were put up near the property in question. Cllr Campion did see one, but it could have been removed. None of the neighbours had seen any notices.
- d. The Planning application states no change to outside or inside, however changes have already been made to the outside. Enforcement is now involved.
- e. Ages of the children, involvement of social services and also that fact that there are no facilities need answering, along with supervision on site 24/7?
- f. When asked, the Parish Council are objecting to this application.
- g This application is considered totally unacceptable for the area.

4. Playground – will more bark be made available – answer yes but the Parish Council are also looking at better alternatives.

5. Regarding battery storage – any update on attendance of a Fire Officer to a meeting as serious issues have been raised. It was suggested that perhaps an “open” meeting should be held just on this matter.

6. Gooses Land and Follens Road have recently been gritted but the repairs to the surface did not take place before the gritting and a lot of excess grit was left. Can this not be recycled? Cllr Kirk to look into this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and participating.

The meeting closed at 20.58

Signed : .....

Date : .....