

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on Thursday the 2nd of March 2023 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Blunt (RB), William Brooks (WB), Claire James (CJ), Paul Blandford (PB). Clerk. Cllr Kirk. 6 members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chairman to everyone. Vice Chairman Cllr Bliss chaired the meeting.
Public Participation – to allow public participation (3 minutes per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total). Agenda items only.
A member of the public asked about the public being allowed to speak during planning if they had a relevant comment. Cllr Bliss advised this was allowed with permission of the Chairman.
2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs Campion (family), Cllr Boston, Eveleigh, Smith – illness, Cllr Green, Cllr Lawty – holiday.
Cllrs Blunt delayed to 19.57pm
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 2nd of February 2023 were proposed by CJ, seconded by PB, 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
The clerk had a quote from Blackamore for £126 for 3 cuts. Proposed PB, seconded WB and all in favour.
 - 6.3 Vehicles parking on the footpath at St. Andrews Church – AB had sent out images of the new gates now in place and the request for a heavy-duty padlock and parking post were proposed by CJ, seconded by PB and all in favour.
 - 6.4 Parish Council Meeting reports in the Crier had been raised at previous meetings and to prevent any further queries, it was decided that the clerk will send a precise of the meetings to the Crier from February 23 onwards. Mrs Irene Hunter was thanked for all her hard work and support over the last 40 years.
7. To receive reports:
 - 7.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
 - a. PB gave a review of the increase in litter in the village and Dunces Lane was named as a large number of dog poo bags were just left. A suggestion of dog bins at the start and end of the lane was requested for the next meeting agenda. ACTION Clerk

It was also mentioned that rubbish does blow out of open bins.

- b. The replacement streetlight on Church Road is now in place but awaiting switch on.
- c. Grit bin on Church Road is still on its side but as it is full, it requires emptying, re siting and then refilling. AB & WB to look into this. ACTION AB/WB

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-

JK confirmed that the Market Lane speed limit of 40mph should become effective from the 20th of March as advised by Highways.

The litter problem raised by PB is the same in other parishes and he was on a litter pick last weekend with 20 bags collected.

The mobile library faces some cuts due to lack of support.

7.3 Clerk Report –

Small allotments are now all tenanted expect for plot 1 which requires drainage.

Calls in February were 23 with 19 emails.

Working on policies & procedures for the internal audit and the last day for payments this month will be the 28th. Information on the election on the 4th of May on the website.

7.4 Village Crier/social media/Website–

The Clerk advised more new advertisers for the Crier were received in February increasing revenue by £144.

7.5 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – no update.

7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – The damage to the Christmas Tree was raised and it is hoped that the tree will grow back.

7.7 SAM 2 reports – Folgate Lane incoming from 17.1.23 to 8.2.23. 85th percentile speed was 33.7mph with the average speed of 26.4mph taking into account slow moving traffic. The top speed was 55mph and total vehicles 2,867.

Market Lane incoming from 17.1.23 to 15.2.23. 85th percentile speed was 34mph with the average speed at 28.9mph. Top speed was 55mph and total vehicles 24,442.

7.8 Neighbourhood Plan update – Mr. P Cotton:

Mr. Cotton stressed that the information regarding Call for sites, Green Spaces and Non designated heritage assets have to be discussed and decisions made by the Parish Council and be reviewed at the next meeting. ACTION ALL

The clerk has maintained details of the NDP spend and currently £4432 remains. Clerk to chase Collective Community for their final invoices of the financial year. ACTION CB

The last NDP meeting was held in February with PB attending on behalf of the parish council and he thanked the committee for their hard work. The survey only had 29 returns and the fact that the increase in CIL money from 15-25% was seriously affected by self builds which do not have to pay this money. The parish magazine was not ideal for information on the NDP and in future, the Committee will use distributors and pay out of the funds.

CJ offered to put any items onto the Walpole Wingers Facebook page to increase coverage.

NOTE Cllr Blunt joined the meeting (19.57)

7.9 Communications and Correspondence:

- a. Market Lane speed reduction update – as advised under 7.2 (JK)
- b. Donation request has been received from the First Responders in our parish for equipment and uniforms. WB advised he has put a request for £1k to the Sutton Bridge fund and they advised that the request has to be completed by the East Anglian Ambulance Service.

- (7.2) Cllr Blunt – Regarding the First responder request for funds, he suggested that they contact the Borough Council who have funds which could be accessed.
 The BCKLWN budget has been approved along with all precept requests. Council tax bills are in the process of being issues. It was stressed that all services will be maintained and that the IDB takes a good chunk of their funds.
 The Medworth Incinerator (Wisbech) has held public meetings last week and some excellent speeches were made against the project including key issues of traffic management.
 Cllr Blunt had followed up on a parishioner’s issue with traffic on Walpole March.

8. Planning: (at time of agenda issue)

8.1 Applications: 23/00265/CU – Change of use of bungalow from a dwelling (c3) to a children’s home (c2) for up to three children at 10 Folgate Lane, Walpole St. Andrew. This was discussed in some detail and issues were raised regarding the age of the children, how the 2 bedroom bungalow could sleep them with a carer, previous history, where the children are coming from, if any young offenders and it was agreed that we need more information to be able to make any decisions. Members of the public present also raised concerns. It was stressed that the parish council appreciates that children are entitled to a safe home. ACTION Clerk

8.2 Decisions: **22/01376/F** | REMOVAL OF CONDITION 5 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 20/01995/F: Proposed dwelling in association with horticultural business | Plumridge Nurseries Mill Road Walpole St Peter – Application permitted.

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

23/00005/REF - Outline application for a new residential development | Land Adjacent Roseville Chalk Road Walpole St Peter Norfolk – Appeal lodged

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 in progress 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 in progress against Refusal.

9. Finance:

9.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for February 23. Proposed PB, seconded CJ and all in favour. Bank Reconciliation shows £43,512.14

9.2 Approval of payments for March – due to the meeting being so early in the month, the clerk will issue a further payment listing later in the month. Proposed WB, seconded CJ and all in favour.

Clerk advised that all payments for March will be paid by the 28th due to the year end.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

- a. NDP items
- b. Dog bins on Dunces Lane
- c. Replacement of stolen post boxes.

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

11. Public Participation –

- a. The improvements on Church Road were liked and it was noticed that the school children were cycling on the road.
- b. The question why Parish Council allotment land was not being offered for the battery storage facilities as it would provide a source of income was raised again. As advised by RG at the February meeting these companies involved liked to deal with land owned by single owners and they prefer larger plots.
- c. At the crossroads on Marsh Road and King Johns Bank a van and car are regularly parked causing visibility issues. It was advised that this was a police matter and it had been reported. Mud on Pidgeon Street, the attitude of the cabling workmen had improved and they are now cleaning up daily. Suggestion that the councillors look at “15-20” minute City on u tube as concern that King’s Lynn will turn into a split town. Cllr Blunt advised that this was not going to happen.

12. Next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 6th of April 2023 at the Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.44