

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on Thursday the 6th of April 2023 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Chas Boston (CBN Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Green (RG), Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), Paul Blandford (PB), David Lawty (DL), and Charlene Campion (CC) at 7.30pm.

Parish Clerk (CB). Cllr Julian Kirk (JK). 10 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 15 minutes in total). Agenda items only. None

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs Eveleigh and Brooks.

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 March 2023 were proposed by CJ, seconded by AB, 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 Litter and Dog mess – the increase especially on Dunces Lane was discussed and it was decided that education and signage to be considered. Councillors to check on other parishes and bring ideas to the next meeting.

6.3 Stolen post boxes – Royal Mail have been advised of the spate of stolen boxes in our area and AB passed the contact details of a contact at Royal Mail to request an update on replacements.

ACTION CB

6.4 Election updates – The parish will go to an election on the 4th of May.

7. To receive reports:

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

a. The wooden sign at the Chalk Road, Mill Lane, Walnut Road has come off the stand – highways to be advised.

b. Cranny field chase – potholes have been reported but nothing done so far.

c. Mill Lane to Walpole Highway has various large potholes.

d. Allotments – a couple of issues have been raised by the small plot holders and it was agreed to ask a spokesperson to attend the next meeting. The entrance has been badly rutted by a tractor and the clerk advised that the 3 farmers had not been on the site for at least a month.

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-

JK advised that regarding all the potholes mentioned in item 7.1, the highways team should come out again. It was mentioned that no updates had been received since Andy Wallace's visit last year. Once the allotment entrance has been flattened, JK advised that shellfish shells are very good for maintaining the surface. JK will advise on a contact.

ACTION JK

The leader of the County Council is standing down due to illness and the elected person is still going ahead despite the opinion that it is not needed.

The Market Lane speed limit of 40mph is now in place and the additional SAM posts to be considered at the next meeting. 3 unmarked speed vehicles are now patrolling the A47 mainly catching commercial vehicles. The allowance for JK has risen to £11k and suggestions are welcome.

Litter picking was discussed with CC and clerk to find out how much it would cost on the Parish Council's insurance to cover an official event.

ACTION CB

The slip roads on the 147 need to be litter picked and JK advised to contact Martin Chisholm – email to be provided.

Tamar trees will donate a tree for the coronation.

7.3 Clerk Report –

Calls in March were 19 with 13 emails.

Now working on year end and then AGAR.

7.4 Village Crier/social media/Website–

The Clerk advised more new advertisers for the Crier were received in March. CC advised that the Facebook page was doing well with details of the road works etc. The website had 482 views in March with the top 10 – Home, Planning, PC, Minutes, Crier, Agendas, Community Centre, Contact us, Neighbourhood Plan and Walking.

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

7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – no update for this meeting.

7.7 SAM 2 reports (15.2.23-15.3.23) – Mill Road incoming – 12,933 vehicles, 85th percentile speed = 38.3mph in 30mph limit with top speed of 60mph.

West drove North – 21,458 vehicle counts, 85th percentile speed 45.8mph in a 40pmh limit. **Top speed 95mph.**

7.8 Neighbourhood Plan update – Mr. P Cotton:

Mr. Cotton advised that all the grant money for the last financial year had been spend and the clerk had completed the online information. It is hoped that the next round of funding will be available soon and arranged via Collective Community. The 3 areas for discussion are:

- a) Call for Sites to build – 2-3 bed homes were preferred by the results of the survey and this was proposed by AB, seconded by CC, all in favour except DL.
- b) Designated Green Spaces – it was agreed that a register of the land to be set up, proposed AB, seconded DL and all in favour. PB offered to help set this up.
- c) Designated Heritage Sites – again, a register of sites to include the churches and grade listed buildings. Proposed AB, seconded RG and all in favour.
- d) All above to be reviewed at the next meeting.
- e) A question was raised “do we need an NDP” and the majority were in favour. A member of the public advised that this was a powerful document and needed the right wording especially regarding Green Spaces and Heritage Sites. CJ raised that we need to attract the parishioners attention and CC to put on the Facebook page with comments. **Build 2-3 bed homes/Keep green spaces/Recognise Heritage Sites.**

7.9 Communications and Correspondence:

- a. Market Lane speed reduction – overall good news with a few complaints.
- b. Battery Storage – a very comprehensive email had been received from a member of the public which was sent to our MP. Issues raised as item 8.1

8. Planning: (at time of agenda issue)

8.1 Applications:

22/02021/FM – Erection of a renewable battery energy storage system (amended).

Following discussions, it was agreed that our original objections still stand. These include the single-track road totally unsuitable for HGV's, the Battery storage units are unacceptable with fire risks, flooding, light pollution, and the loss of valuable arable land. Proposed DL, seconded CC, and all in favour (RG abstained) The Clerk to ask for a fire officer to attend a future meeting.

ACTION Clerk

NOTE: 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. Following discussions on this application at the March meeting, the clerk had received a response from the planning department advising that the ages of the children were between 11-17 years old and their understanding is that the "supervisor" is not resident but supervision will be covered by shifts and no sleeping accommodation. Planning has asked applicant to confirm that this is the case and to comments regarding the number of bedrooms and number of children in residence. They have also asked for guidance regarding the intended use and would like details of the existing residential children's home in the village.

Members of the public present raised concerns at the number of children and the ages as the village offered nothing for them to do or places to go. Lack of infrastructure, money earning, no support, schooling etc., were raised. Some members of the public who live in the vicinity were terrified.

8.2 Decisions: 21/02242 – Fen Lodge, Chalk Road, APPLICATION REFUSED.

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information): same as last month

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 March 23. Proposed PB, seconded AB and all in favour. Bank Reconciliation shows £23,328.75. The clerk advised that the new financial year would need to be one of caution and that the budget had to be adhered to. DL requested large spends per supplier to be made available.

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

9.3 The Annual Review was discussed with a variance against budget of- £18,699.82 Proposed HS, seconded by PB and all in favour.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:
 - a. NDP –Sites for development 2-3 bed homes, Green Spaces, and Heritage sites.
 - b. Dog mess – ideas for signage etc.
 - 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 recording of meetings was raised. This ceased in 2021 due to poor reception and lack of good recording equipment.

12. The Annual Parish Meeting will be from 7.00pm on Wednesday the 10th of May 2023, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at the Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.42

A closed meeting followed to allow for the annual clerk’s review.

PAYMENTS FOR APRIL 2023

K & M Lighting	£ 30.60	Standing Order
HMRC	£ 163.00	
Clerk Salary	£ 652.10	
EE mobile	£ 18.48	direct debit
SSE	£ 95.84	direct debit
Clerk Expenses	£ 47.95	
Hire of Parish Hall April	£ 18.00	
Defib pads	£ 73.14	paid by clerk
Interflora – (chairman’s allowance)	£ 45.00	paid by clerk
IDB	£ 268.39	direct debit
BCKLWN Rubbish Bin emptying	£ 234.03	

Signed

Date