

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 4th of April 2024 from 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), Janet Luck (JL), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Andy Bliss (AB), Charlene Campion (CC), Richard Green (RG), David Lawty (DL) and the Parish Clerk.
Borough & County Councillor Julian Kirk (JK)
12 members of public

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Public Participation –
 - a. Issues with the increased HGV traffic on King John Bank with concerns on the weight on the ditches etc. The traffic Management Plan that was part of the planning application is not being adhered to and there is no signage in place at all. The enforcement office at Borough are not helpful and hoping the Parish Council can help. The lorries start at 6.30 instead of 8.00am and this has been going on since last November. AB advised that he had attended the recent meeting, and the contractors seem to be very open to comments. The member of the public advised that there have been 5 different contractors on site, so it was difficult to get any concerns raised. Just need the signage. JK advised that this was on-going with enforcement/planning.
 - b. Pylon meeting on the 25th of March – unfortunately this date clashed with our NDP meeting. A further meeting is being held tomorrow at 2pm at West Walton Village Hall with Liz Truss attending, who is against pylons.
2. Apologies received by Cllrs Blunt and Brooks.
3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
4. Declarations of interest – none
5. Minutes approved from the meetings on the 7th of March 24 proposed by CJ, seconded HS and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 NDP – Paul Blandford advised that the meeting held on the 25th of March was well attended and there are now 6 members on the steering committee. CCP summarised the current position and there was nothing to be gained from another call for land. The Draft Plan is now available on the website and the next meeting will be on the 30th of April. from 7pm – home venue due to costs of hiring the community centre. He requested that the parish councillors read the draft plan before the 30th and make any comments. This is very important. Cllr Lawty stated that a separate meeting was needed to discuss what is not in the plan and handed out details on this matter. As the parish councillors had not had time to review these details, it can be added to the comments for the draft plan.

6.2 Verdant Energy and ib Vogt presentation – AB attended, and Cllr Brooks had a lot of questions which they took away for comments. It was very communitive, and they were encouraging groups to contact them for funding. Approximately 40 people attended. Trampoline quote to be considered.

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Highway – CJ advised that the hedge has been cut back on corner of Police Road but has not improved visibility and residents asked if a mirror could be installed. Clerk to send Andy Wallace’s details to CJ. ACTION: Clerk AE raised the question of the horses on Police Road re change of use from agricultural to equestrian.

CJ advised that the 2 pot holes reported on West Drove Road had been filled in within 2 weeks.

7.2 County and Borough Councillor’s Reports:

JK reported that there should be grants available for the D-Day 80 celebrations and asked if anything was being arranged at the Walpoles. Enforcement have advised that the ditch on Walnut Road, where the flooding is occurring, was filled in before the houses were built. The situation will not improve until the ditch is cleared. Our end of West Drove has residents complaining about the pylons and JK will be at the meeting tomorrow as advised under item 1b. JK offered to help towards costs of a mirror (7.1)

7.3 Clerk Report: Small allotments – Plot 2 is still vacant but 2 interested residents have come forward. Time sheet – averaging 9.8 hours a week since January 24 – DL proposed reverting clerks hours back to 11 and CJ seconded this with all in favour (AB abstained). Attended some training on earmarked reserves and advised that the invoices from the Community Centre had been questioned as the invoice for tonight’s meeting was sent on the 12TH of March with a due date of the 15th of March. An email has been sent.

The CIL funding information for the play area has been completed, returned to BCKLWN and confirmation of payment within the next 7 days has been received. Increase in calls regarding complaints re the HGV’s on King Johns Bank from residents – road surface damage, ditches, speeding etc.

Now working on year end reports followed by the AGAR.

Cllr Blunt had called asking for Cllr Bliss to contact him regarding the planning committee meeting next Monday and also that he has requested a statement from planning regarding Folgate Lane planning applications

7.4 Village Crier, Social Media, and Website reports:

Crier – AE advised that there is still one delivery route vacant, and CC offered to help but all deliveries should be made by early next week. Short on volunteers. 2 new advertisers and no lost ones. Pick up points were suggested but difficult for some people to collect. It was suggested to reduce the editions to 4 a year but this may affect advertisers. JK offered to help deliver and AE to let him know along with another member of the public. Both were thanked.

CC advised that there were still hacking issues and she was very concerned about continuing with the FB page. Clerk reported that the new website had 398 viewings last month.

- 7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE advised that the Eastland Bank sign is now up again, and the Marsh Road sign is still visible.
- 7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – AB advised that the signage for the playground will go up next week.
- 7.7 Play area – JL advised that the play area work has been completed with the exception of the new grass to be laid. She was thanked for all her work and AE asked if the quote could be checked as there was wood chip in one area which should be the resin.
- 7.8 SAM reports – AE advised that the damaged unit will be taken to Westcotec for repair via JK, who also offered to pay for the damage.
 Wisbech Road School sign from 01.3.24 to 29.3.24 reported total vehicles 19863 counts, average speed 26.7mph in the 30mph limit. Maximum speed 45mph on the 4.3.24 at 21.05
 At the last meeting a member of the public asked if the speed unit had ever been on West Drove and AE has checked and it was on 8 times. Unit now on Church Road.
 NOTE CC left at 8.10pm due to illness.
- 7.9 Communications/Correspondence:
 Letter from Voltwise Power re battery storage proposal – this is to rent 1.8 acres of Parish Council land over 35 years offering £90k per year, index linked. At the end of the term, the land would be returned to its original condition. This was discussed and our interest was proposed by DL, seconded CJ, with all in favour and RG abstaining. Legal advice to be sought. ACTION: clerk/CJ

8. Planning – to consider Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements.
 Any applications received after the date of this agenda and before the meeting date will be considered.

8.1 Applications: None

8.2 Decisions:

23/02051/DISC_A | DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS 15 AND 16 OF PLANNING PERMISSION

23/02051/F: Variation of conditions 2, 7, 13 and 14 attached to planning permission

22/01616/FM: Installation of a Synchronous Condenser facility with associated infrastructure access and landscaping. | Rose Hall Farm Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7JD – Discharge of Condition Final Letter.

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

23/00064/REF | 1st floor Extension and alterations to existing dwelling | Cedar View Walnut Road Walpole St Peter – Appeal allowed

24/00047/UNOPDE | Unauthorised Operational Development | West Elm Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY – Case Closed

24/00032/UNOPDE | Unauthorised Operational Development | 10 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY – Pending Consideration

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for March proposed CJ, seconded AE and all in favour. Bank Balance at the end of March was £32860.12 including £11,414.44 Solar Fund money.

9.2 To approve payments (to date) for April – proposed AE, seconded JL and all in favour.

9.3 Year-end financial review. This was discussed and acceptance proposed AE, seconded CJ, and all in favour.

9.4 Approval of J. Raby as Internal Auditor and AGAR to be available at the May meeting.

10. Public participation:

A pot hole by his home was filled in for the third time recently and the operatives actually covered a crisp packet and can of drink over with the filler. When asked if they were going to pick the items up, told it was not their job!

Pavement parking on Church Road is now causing a problem. CB advised that this was not something the PC can take on but advised that they contact highways via the link on the website and report it directly.

11. Items for next agenda – NDP, AGAR, Funding from JK

12. Next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the 2nd of May 2024 from 7pm at the Community Centre.

Meeting closed 20.31 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

PAYMENTS FOR APRIL 2024

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| K & M Lighting | £ 30.60 | Standing Order |
| EE mobile | £ 18.48 | direct debit |
| SSE | £ 93.72 | direct debit |
| ECS cloud storage | £ 16.50 | direct debit |
| Clerk Expenses February | £ 47.95 | |
| Community Centre | £ 34.32 | |
| HMRC | £ 132.00 | |
| Clerk Salary | £ 528.30 | |
| Defib Warehouse | £ 346.80 | |
| Online playgrounds | £21223.32 | |
| Online playgrounds | £15494.40 | |
| Internal Drainage Board | £ 284.23 | |
| BCKLWN dog bin emptying | £ 1256.11 | |
| BCKLWN rubbish bin emptying | £ 234.03 | |

Signed

Date