

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), Janet Luck (JL), Andy Bliss (AB), William Brooks (WB), Charlene Campion (CC), and the parish clerk.

Borough & County Councillor Julian Kirk.

6 members of public

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Public Participation – no public contribution at this point.
2. Apologies received by Cllrs Blunt, Eveleigh, Green and Lawty.
3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
4. Declarations of interest – None declared
5. Minutes approved from the meetings on the 7th December 23 proposed by HS, seconded WB and all in favour who were present at these meetings.

6. Matters arising:

- 6.1 NDP – Paul Blandford had contacted the original contacts who were part of the steering group with only 1 response. He is most concerned that the meeting on the 16th of January 2024 will not be well supported and if residents do not come forward to join, the NDP would have to be ended.
CJ cannot make the meeting but supported the plan and agreed that more commitment is needed from residents. CB hopes volunteers come forward as the plan needs to go ahead.
AB and WB have offered to join Paul on the NDP.

- 6.2 Verdant Energy/ib Vogt have responded to the clerk's invitation to attend a Parish Council meeting and will be at our next meeting on the 1st of February 24 for a short presentation and answer questions. Note, this came in after the issue of the Agenda.

7. Reports

- 7.1 AB advised that the street light no 13 by the almshouses was still in need of attention and clerk to chase.
The pot holes in various areas of the parish continue to cause problems and West Drove could go on until at Feb 24. CB thanks the residents responsible for the Christmas tree. AB advised that he continues to report these on the NCC website with no response other than "life threatening". White marks have been put on Wisbech Road today.
- 7.2 Cllr Kirk advised that April Cottage has been flooded yet again, most probably caused by the development at the back of the property.

The flooding on Folgate Lane will be actioned by the IDB with the dyke needing clearing. The Flood agency at Norwich are looking into the flooding on Bustards Lane and alleged dykes filled in by the farmer.

Two Manhole covers have been reported as showing raw sewage being discharged. Investment at the West Walton pumping station is required and with only 2 lorries a day allowed it is struggling.

Community grant- still has some funds available.

- 7.3 Clerk Report – invoicing for the small allotments will be sent out in January and we have one vacant plot which will be taken by a resident on the waiting list. Increase in calls from parishioners this week regarding flooding and potholes. The draft Biodiversity Policy has been sent to all councillors – acceptance proposed JL, seconded CJ and all in favour. This will be revised throughout the year.

Planning comments – Cllr Blunt advised that it was not the policy of the planning department to extend the comment deadline. Therefore, we need to revert back to our planning policy and all councillors need to make their comments before the deadline when it falls between meeting dates. The policy gives information to members of the public regarding commenting on the portal etc.

- 7.4 The Crier – Cllr Eveleigh advised the clerk that 1 advertiser has been lost but interest has been received to take this slot.

2 delivery volunteers have stood down and we thank them for their support.

Cllr Eveleigh and the editor will cover the February deliveries, but we need to find volunteers to take over the 2 areas.

CC advised that our Facebook page is still out of order. The website was visited 513 times in December with Home, Planning, Parish Council, NDP, Minutes, Agendas, Contact us, Crier, Policies & Procedures and Walking making the top 10.

For 2023, the website was viewed 7411 times and Pete Luck was thanked again for his dedication to running the website.

- 7.5 Footpaths etc. – nothing to report.

- 7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – AB advised that the gravel for the St. Andrews church path will be laid during the new financial year.

AB has taken over the PC laptop and projector.

- 7.7 Play area – JL advised that there was a lot of flooding, but this cannot be helped and that the work on the playground has been advised to start on the 29th of January to the 5th of February. Clerk advised that when the dates are finalised, we need to let the Community Centre know.

- 7.8 SAM reports – Folgate Lane IN from 11.11.23 to 24.12.23 had 3,568 vehicle counts with average speed of 26.8 mph in a 30mph limit. Top speed recorded at 55mph at 06.55am.

Wisbech Road (Cherry Tree Farm) IN – from 11.11.23 to 24.12.23 had 24,543 vehicle counts with average speed of 23.9mph in a 30mph limit. Top speed was 45mph at 16.55pm.

Units are now on West Drove North and Swingfield.

- 7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

- a. Re-siting of dog and grit bins to take place as locations approved by the Borough. Size of dog bin under review. AB to see if anyone is interested in the bin store.

- b. Highways ranger visit – clerk has resubmitted the list of items for the past year.
- c. NALC membership 24/25 – the clerk has sent out the information supplied by NALC with an annual charge of £383.47 This was discussed, and it was agreed to not rejoin – proposed CC, seconded HS and all in favour.

8. Planning – to consider Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements.

8.1 Applications:

23/02139/LB – To remove a section of the name floor and investigate the condition of the Chancel Roof and external renders at the Church of St. Andrew, Kirk Road. This has been “called in” by Cllr Blunt as questions raised regarding no record of monitoring of the floor and query retrospective. It was agreed to support with the condition that flooring is put in within a 24 month period from now. Proposed JL, seconded by CJ and all in favour.

8.2 Decisions:

23/02043/LDP | LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED; Single storey rear extension within 4m of detached house. | 8 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech – Cllr Blunt had sent a message via the Clerk that we need to ensure this is kept to 1:1 ratio.

23/00794/DISC_A | DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 3 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 23/00794/F: Retrospective application for containers for machine stores associated with the land and gravel material covering | Mansefield Marsh Road Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7JN - 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 in progress

23/00646/UNOPDE | Alleged Unauthorised Operational Development | Multi-Flora Walnut Road Walpole St Peter – Status Pending Consideration

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for December – proposed WB, seconded AB and all in favour. Bank Balance at the end of December was £48,493.96 with £11,335.87 Solar Fund money and £23,000 CIL funding for the playground.

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

9.3 To review the quarter 3 report – overall £11,899.54 +variance and this will be on the website.

9.4 To review the 2nd draft budget for 24/25 – agreed a 7.5% precept increase and budget agreed proposed HS, seconded CJ and all in favour.

9.5 To approve the Financial Reserves Policy– proposed HS, seconded AB, and all in favour.

10. Items for the next agenda to be advised to the clerk 7 days before the meeting on the 1st of February 2024.

11. No public participation. CC and CJ advised that they had stood down as the PC representatives on the Community Centre Committee due to workload.

Meeting closed 20.57

Next meeting 1st of February 2024 from 7pm

PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY 2024 (to date)

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 December	£ 47.95	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
HMRC	£ TBA	due to change in hours
Clerk Salary	£ TBA	due to change in hours
Command Pest Control	£ 128.00	
NDP – CCP charges for meeting 16 th	£ TBA	
Community Centre hire charge	£ 34.32	