

Walpole Parish Council

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Community Centre, Summer Close, Walpole St Andrew on Thursday 10th October 2013 at 7.00pm.

Present – Chairman - Cllr Richard Blunt
Councillors - Rosa Blunt, Richard Broden, Richard Cousins, Richard Green, Emma Hanslip, Maureen Patrick, Annie Treen, James Whitaker & Pat Wiseman.
County Councillor Fred Agnew, Borough Councillor Tony Wright.
Emma Bateman – Clerk, Janet and Peter Luck – Website and Crier
Ronan Clarke and Al Morrow (7.00pm to 7.30pm)
Matthew Hunter (7.00pm to 7.45pm)
Iain Miller

170/13 Proposed Solar Panel Installation pre application information meeting.

Ronan Clarke, Elgin Energy and Al Morrow, Philips Planning Services attended the meeting to inform the Parish Council that there is a proposal to apply for planning permission for a 150 acre solar panel installation on the border of Walpole Parish and West Walton Parish with approximately half the installation within each parish boundary on grade 2 agricultural land. The application will possibly be submitted in November 2013 and will take about 4-6 months for consultation and a decision to be granted. The solar panels are less intrusive than wind turbines and the land can still be used for grazing (sheep). The proposal is for the panels to be installed for 25 years and after that the land can be returned to agriculture. There would be a substation which will connect to the National Grid which will be sited 400-500 metres away from housing and deer fencing will surround the area, approx. 2.4-2.5m high with a 10cm gap between fencing and ground level for wildlife. Access to the site would mean the installation of a new ramp sited between the Cattery and the Rose & Crown houses, panels will be 800mm above ground level and a flood risk assessment has been carried out. There will be landscaping along the borders and all existing public rights of way will be retained. There will be a contribution to the local Parish Councils, which is being discussed with the Borough Council. If planning permission is granted the construction will take place next summer for approx. 3-4 months, there will be 2-3 trucks/lorries on average per day accessing the site during construction & 24 hour security during construction. Post construction there will be a visit from one person every 3-4 months to check the site, 2 CCTV cameras on site with a 30 minute response time if there are issues.

Councillors raised concerns about transport of materials to the site and routes to and from and would like to be kept informed regarding the transport route and the contribution to the Parish.

171/13 Public Participation – to suspend the meeting to allow public participation

1. BMX Club – Matthew Hunter advised that the BMX Club has submitted a pre-planning application to the Borough Council who have returned it with a “likely to approve notice”. There are concerns about the ingress and egress as Stickfast Lane is single track but this may be overcome with the Parish Council’s involvement with an access from Springfield Road. A flood risk assessment is required and other documents which the Club is dealing with, the cost for the application is £975, but there are difficulties in contacting the Planning Officer in charge of the application to confirm the fees, the dimensions of the track on the plan need to be corrected as this may affect the planning fee. The BMX Club needs to demonstrate the support of the Parish Council, Police, BCKLWN Sports Development Officers and any other relevant governing bodies. The Club has a grant of £1000 towards the planning fee from Norfolk Community Foundation but it has a time limit of 12 weeks. The Club would like to make a single planning application with the Parish Council for the whole project including the secondary access from Springfield Rd which will demonstrate the support of the Parish Council. The Clerk will check if the Parish Council’s involvement will enable a reduced planning fee and get in touch with someone to draw up a plan of the secondary access. Matthew Hunter advised that once planning permission has been granted the obtaining of funding becomes very much easier.
2. Iain Miller reported the temporary mobile speed sign isn’t working, this has already been reported to NCC.
3. Community Transport – Iain Miller will be meeting Nicky Stevenson from Norfolk Community Transport and Fred Agnew on 15th October at 12pm at The Crown at Middleton, invitation was extended to all parish councillors.
4. Iain Miller advised that there is a mobile Post Office visiting the Wimbotsham village area.

172/13 Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Andy Bliss.

173/13 Declarations of Interest – to record declarations of interest from members on any item to be discussed
Cllr Patrick declared an interest in Finance 177/13.III.a.

174/13 Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2013

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2013, having been previously circulated were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Cousins, seconded by Cllr Broden. Agreed

175/13 Matters Arising – to record matters dealt with arising from the last meeting

1. New Bin – the new bin on the playing field has been installed, a black wheelie bin is inside the housing and it will be emptied on a two weekly cycle.
2. Walnut Tree at School Lane – this has been removed by NCC as part of it fell down and the tree was in poor health.
3. The Chase Lighting Scheme – a site plan has been submitted by Westcotec, the residents will be consulted to ensure they are satisfied with the placement of the columns. Once agreed the lighting scheme will be installed.
4. Children’s Home – Councillors all agreed for Cllr Patrick to speak with the Director of Keys Group, who will arrange a meeting about the children’s home.

176/13 Planning - to consider Planning Applications as listed plus any others received after publication of the agenda.
13/01286/F – Detached dwelling and integral garage at site south west of The Willows, Pyecroft Lane, WSP. Support – proposal in keeping with existing development, house well set back.

177/13 Finance

I. To consider any request for grants and donations if received

II. To receive the Annual Return External Auditors Report

Mazars LLP reported “On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”

Other matters not affecting the opinion of the External Auditor - Members should review the Risk Assessment on an annual basis for both financial and operational risks. The results to be formally minuted.

Cllr Rosa Blunt proposed the External Audit report be accepted, seconded by Cllr Cousins. Agreed.

III. to approve payments

| | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|--------|--------|
| a. | WPFRT | Hall Hire | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| b. | K&M Services | Streetlight Maintenance Oct | 48.31 | 57.97 |
| c. | Realise Futures | Bin Housing | 558.00 | 111.60 |
| d. | Lawnboy | St Peter’s Church mower service and parts | 222.99 | 267.59 |
| e. | CGM | Grass Cutting | 163.25 | 195.90 |
| f. | CGM | Grass Cutting | 102.50 | 123.00 |
| g. | Mrs J Luck | Postage | 6.00 | 6.00 |
| h. | Mrs E Bateman | Clerks Salary & Expenses | 248.11 | 248.11 |
| i. | Mazars LLP | Audit Fees | 200.00 | 240.00 |
| | | <u>Direct Debits</u> | | |
| j. | E.ON | Energy Charge | 66.32 | 69.64 |

Cllr Rosa Blunt proposed all payments be made, seconded by Cllr Broden. Agreed.

IV. to record receipts

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|
| a. | UK Power Networks | Wayleave Payment | 30.78 | 30.78 |
| b. | Mr R Powers | Allotment Payment | 647.64 | 647.64 |
| c. | Mr B Powers | Allotment Payment | 108.54 | 108.54 |
| d. | Mr A Melton | Allotment Payment | 258.85 | 258.85 |
| e. | Mr A Thistleton | Allotment Payment | 927.66 | 927.66 |
| f. | Mr D Thistleton | Allotment Payment | 235.38 | 235.38 |

V. To view the books of Account

Cllr Rosa Blunt looked at the Books of Account.

178/13 Correspondence – to receive items for information as listed overleaf plus any other correspondence received after publication of the agenda

1. NALC Autumn Seminar November 6th Sandringham Visitor Centre
2. NALC AGM Swanton Morley Village Hall 5th October
3. NCC – Putting people first consultation on Budget
4. Henry Bellingham MP – Letter re Detailed Policies and Sites Plan
5. Ordnance Survey – PSMA Agreement

179/13 Headstone Audit for St Andrew’s Churchyard

Councillors received the headstone audit for St Andrew’s Churchyard and all stones are generally safe, two have been highlighted for monitoring.

180/13 Norfolk County Council Budget Cuts

Cllr Fred Agnew reported that there will be £63 million less next year in the budget leading to a total £189 million over 3 years. Cllr Agnew asked for councillors to make comments regarding the cuts. A discussion took place regarding transport for schools – private contractors (taxis taking one child) versus council service i.e. one whole bus taking several children to the same destination; the incinerator at King's Lynn.

181/13 Sutton Bridge B Power Station

Cllr R Broden went to the presentation, there is no funding for the new power station yet, it is dependent on feedback from the consultation, will either be gas or water and gas powered. If B goes ahead, A will be dismantled and there will be several years before any construction takes place.

182/13 WPFRT Sports Field - to discuss the proposed access to the field

Clerk to contact Planning Department to check on planning fees and councillors agreed the Clerk to get professional advice for drawings etc. Proposed by Cllr Cousins and seconded by Cllr Rosa Blunt. Agreed.

183/13 Play Park

Cllr Rosa Blunt advised that the WPFRT is having a lease drawn up for the land so that funding can be applied for. Cllr Blunt will apply to Awards for All. It was agreed to have two projects instead of a single one and the 8-teens section to be the first project as there is no provision for that age group at the moment. Proposed by Cllr Wiseman, seconded by Cllr Cousins. Agreed

184/13 Village Crier and Website – to receive any reports from the Editors

There have been 557 hits to the website in September and 187 so far in October.

185/13 To receive councillors' reports of Villagers' Concerns

1. Play park –hedging from the school needs trimming back.
2. The Chase Footpath – trees are overgrowing from the School and need trimming back, the tree roots are distorting the pavement, report to Rights of Way Officer.
3. Dunces Lane – it was discussed whether Dunce Lane should be included as a safer route to School. Clerk to write to School to ask if it is included, can that inclusion help with NCC having to maintain the route more regularly.
4. Dog Mess – dog fouling is still a problem in the parish and a note to go into the Crier to remind everyone to pick up after their dogs.
5. Norfolk Green 55 Route – the 10.10am from Walpole to King's Lynn has been changed to 10.16am but it often arrives at 10.30am, this gets to King's Lynn later and reduces the time villagers can spend in town before the return bus at 12.45pm. The 5.40pm bus does not enable workers to get home to the Walpoles as they can't get to it in time, could Norfolk Green consider putting it back to 6pm.
6. The waste ground in the village off School Lane has a huge heap of trees and rubbish on the land, Clerk to ask Borough Council if area is a designated dumping ground or is it still agricultural land.
7. Bin at bus shelter Chalk road – is there a requirement for a bin here?

186/13 Highways - To receive reports of road and footpath faults

1. West Drove North – pot hole by council houses
2. School Lane – big pothole
3. Market Lane – are there going to be white lines in road alongside the Princess Victoria to show road area
4. Chalk Road – metal drains standing proud on bend o/s York House and The Shielings
5. Bustards Lane – ask the occupiers of Applegate Cottage and Avalon to trim back hedges
6. Chalk Road – the hedge from Black Barn to Dunton needs trimming back and looks to be highways land.
7. Pigeon Street – hedge o/s The Willows needs trimming back.

187/13 Streetlighting – to receive reports of faulty lighting columns

1. Streetlight o/s Parish Hall not working.
2. Cllr Whitaker will let Clerk know the number of the streetlight on Springfield Road that is out.

188/13 To receive items for the next agenda

Community Transport, Play Park, Sports field, put County and Borough Councillor report on agenda permanently.

189/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 14th November 2013 at 7.00pm in the Community Centre.

