

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council to meet with Henry Bellingham MP held at the Community Centre, Summer Close, Walpole St Andrew on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7.00pm.

Present            Chairman – Cllr Richard Blunt  
                         Councillors – R Broden, R Cousins, R Green, A Treen, P Wiseman, J Whitaker.  
                         County Councillor – Cllr A Wright  
                         Henry Bellingham MP  
                         Jon Curtis – BMX Club  
                         8 parishioners

Apologies        Cllrs Rosa Blunt, A Bliss, E Hanslip, M Patrick, County Cllr S Agnew.

## 41/14 Public Participation

Councillors and public discussed the proposed solar facility and it was agreed to invite Elgin Energy to host an information session for residents of the parish. The attending residents expressed concerns and would like further information regarding the proposal.

Councillors and public discussed the LDF proposals and a new proposal received at the parish council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March regarding a new site for development. It was noted that there are at least 12 sites for planning in the pipeline at present. Concerns were raised that there does not seem to be any differentiation by KLWNBC between rural areas and urban areas and more town style development is being allowed in villages.

## 42/14 Discuss Parish Affairs with Henry Bellingham MP

Henry Bellingham arrived at 19:30pm

LDF – Henry Bellingham advised that some parishes are asking for more development to keep the villages vibrant and schools from closing. Second home areas would like to encourage young families in to the areas again. KLWNBC have proposed a figure of 7000 new houses in addition to natural planning development mainly in King's Lynn and on the A10 corridor. A full planning enquiry is to be held for the LDF. Parish Councils can put their cases to the Borough Council at the public enquiry. Henry Bellingham advised that it is a serious matter if the Borough Council is not listening to the Parish Councils views. Henry Bellingham was advised that the bus service through the parish to Wisbech has been terminated and the villages have little infrastructure to support extra development. Two development have recently forced on road parking also.

The Clerk left the meeting at 19.45pm

The minutes were taken over by Cllr Richard Broden

Richard Cousins mention to Henry that the Wendels site was supposed to be family homes and sold as it happens the builder made smaller homes that the county council approved and most are now rented because the prices were too high to sell as 3 bedroom homes.

Richard Cousins also pointed out that the road services we have are inadequate for the Growth Point Strategy the government wants. Poor broadband and roads that are not suitable for more cars than we have.

Henry Bellingham suggested that a meeting be held with Geoff Hall head of planning to come to the village and see exactly what we are talking about. Henry took it on himself to write to him and suggest a meeting with the Walpole Parish Council to discuss our concerns (this needs to be followed up with Tony Wright).

When we discussed the suspension of the bus service to Wisbech and the dramatic cutback in Norfolk Green's service to King's Lynn he stated he was unaware of this and found it unacceptable. He also told us that Norfolk Green has been sold to Stagecoach and he would follow up with Andrew Dart and see if there is anything he can do to improve this current situation and come back to us (this again needs follow up).

Richard Blunt asked John the progress he was making with the council in getting the BMX track started. John told Henry Bellingham and the council that he was coming up against a brick wall as the little funds they have the

council is asking for £975 for the survey which is the same as ground designated Agricultural and that in fact it was Recreational and as such should not be rated as such. Richard Blunt confirmed that in the covenant it is stated as Recreational and not Agricultural. Henry Bellingham has promised to investigate and come back to John and the parish council so this can get moving.

Chairman Richard Blunt asked Henry what the delay with the incinerator decision had been. Henry Bellingham has suggested that there may have to be another vote but is unlikely to occur before the end of April or May after the elections. Henry did state the whole affair has been a disaster, Richard Cousins mentioned if it had been any of us we would be incarcerated for the 'misinformation and the signed deals that had been done by a group of county councillors. Much less the information on termination of the deal in costs.

James Whittaker mentioned his concern with the Sutton Bridge Power Station B and why Power Station A could not be dismantled first and B built on the same grounds. Councillor Broden pointed out that across the country many of this generation plants were being replaced by newer versions but until the new ones are on line, the older ones could not be decommissioned. I mentioned the next meeting for the power station steering committee was April 1st and I would ask for more information and come back.

The key thing from a couple of villagers was why the parish council had approved the 163 acre site for the Photovoltaic panels and the chairman Richard Blunt pointed out that we only had the full details the night before at the parish council meeting with only 21 days to respond. We had approved the plan at the meeting the night before. The villagers asked "why the villagers were not involved in a meeting for such a big venture?" As Richard Blunt pointed out that seldom do any villagers show up at the monthly meeting even though public participation is encouraged. The couple of villagers that expressed their concern for the plan asked that a meeting hosted by Elgin Energy be held urgently so that the full facts could be understood. It was agreed this would be attempted. Another asked if the planned would be bound by Business Rates or not. Henry Bellingham confirmed it was a business and as such it would be governed by Business Rates.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm