

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 11th May at 7.00pm.

Present – Chairman - Cllr Richard Broden
Councillors – Andy Bliss, Jo Drew, Adrian Eveleigh, Richard Green, David Lawty, Janet Luck, Lynne Newman, James Whitaker.
Sandra Squire – County Councillor
Clerk - Emma Bateman, Irene Hunter - Press
Six Members of the Public
Chris Poulton and Luke Murray from Solar Associates

77/17 Election of Chairman

Cllr Broden stood down as Chairman. Cllr Whitaker took this item on the agenda and requested nominations for Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Lawty nominated Cllr Broden as Chairman, Cllr Eveleigh seconded. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken and Cllr Broden was unanimously agreed as Chairman.

78/17 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Broden resumed chairmanship of the meeting. Cllr Whitaker stood down as Vice Chairman. Nominations were requested. Cllr Newman nominated Cllr Whitaker, Cllr Broden seconded. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken and Cllr Whitaker was unanimously agreed as Vice Chairman.

79/17 Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Blunt.

80/17 Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations.
The Clerk advised of an interest in 92/17 Planning

81/17 To appoint representatives for weekly checks of

1. Open spaces – Cllr Bliss
2. Swingfield and St Andrew's Churchyard – Cllr Bliss
3. Play park – Cllr Whitaker

82/17 To nominate the Parish Council representatives for the Community Centre Committee posts

Cllr Broden proposed Cllr Lawty, seconded by Cllr Luck. Agreed. Cllr Lawty proposed Cllr Whitaker, seconded by Cllr Luck. Agreed.

Cllr Broden proposed Cllr Luck, seconded by Cllr Eveleigh. Agreed. Cllr Luck proposed Cllr Drew, seconded by Cllr Broden. Agreed.

83/17 Standing Orders – to review the Standing Orders

The Parish Council reviewed the standing orders adopted in 2015 and is satisfied, proposed by Cllr Luck, seconded by Cllr Broden. Agreed.

84/17 Financial Regulations – to review current Financial Regulations

The Parish Council reviewed the financial regulations adopted in 2015, amended in January 2017, and is satisfied, proposed by Cllr Broden, seconded by Cllr Bliss. Agreed.

85/17 Programme of Meetings – to accept the proposed dates of future meetings

The second Thursday in each month at 7pm in the Community Centre, Summer Close, Walpole St Andrew.

2017 – 8th June, 13th July, 10th August, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, 14th December.

2018 – 11th January, 8th February, 8th March, 12th April, 10th May.

Councillor surgeries will be held on the Friday preceding the council meeting.

86/17 Minutes – to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 13th April 2017

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 13th April 2017, having been previously circulated were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.

87/17 Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting

None raised

88/17 To discuss planning applications No 17/00725/F and 17/00712/F with representatives from Solar Associates.

Chris Poulton and Luke Murray from Solar Associates gave a presentation regarding a proposed planning application for a Battery Storage installation at Model Farm, Walpole St Andrew. They explained the reason for the proposal and that the planning application is currently in consultation at present, should it be successful the project should take approximately 8 weeks to install, in two phases of 4 weeks to run concurrently, but it could be up to 4 years before the project comes to fruition. The life expectancy of the installation is 25 years. The batteries have a life of 10 years and will be replaced on this basis.

There was a discussion with the councillors and members of the public were invited to speak. There were concerns raised regarding transport and access. The residents on French Road have been subject to considerable traffic movement in relation to the works at the National Grid Sub Station and the On Shore Wind Farm Sub Station and feel that the area has become saturated with electricity installations. There were concerns regarding the state of the roads and the amount of concrete going into a green field site. Chris Poulton advised that there will be a total of 60 deliveries. The four residents in attendance were against the proposal for the installation at this site and would prefer it elsewhere and raised concerns regarding the use of a green field site for this project.

89/17 Public Participation – to suspend the meeting to allow public participation

No members of the public wished to participate further.

90/17 To receive Councillors reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues and street lighting faults

1. Caravans and rubbish has been dumped on green space on Chalk Road – report to planning enforcement.
2. Pothole o/s Bangla, Chalk Road
3. Sign at Chalk Rd/Church Rd has fallen down.
4. Grass verges at Police Rd/Wisbech Rd need cutting, obscuring visibility.

91/17 To receive a reports from:

1. County and Borough Councillors reports – Councillors welcomed and congratulated Cllr Squire. Cllr Squire advised that she has only been in post 4 days and had little to report at present.
2. Councillor Surgery report – Cllr Lawty advised that no public came to the surgery proposed one more surgery, if no-one attends then, a new time could be trialled at 6.30pm prior to the meeting commencing at 7pm. Agreed.
3. The Community Centre report – Cllr Luck advised that there are more activities and clubs continuing and extending use. The outside maintenance is completed and the committee is waiting for a topology report for the car park.
4. Village Crier, Social Media & Website Editors reports – There are 2 vacancies for Crier deliverers.

92/17 Planning

A. Applications for Consultation with Parish

- 1) 17/00712/F Proposed development of a below ground connection to the local distribution network and associated infrastructure at Crown Farm and Model Farm at Walpole Sub Station, Walpole Bank, WSA. Vote taken: 6 against, 1 in favour, 2 abstentions. Council objects to this application for the following reasons: The installation is inappropriately sited, directly in the view of the three dwellings opposite the field on Frenchs Road. It is unsympathetic to the surrounds. There is strong local feeling that this installation could be better sited elsewhere. Modifications would need to be made for the residents overlooking the proposed site. The access point onto Frenchs Road is inappropriately sited and there are concerns regarding the amount vehicle movements predicted for the installation which will cause disturbance to the residents directly opposite the proposed access, and those along the designated route, and further damage to an over-used and unrepaired country lane.
- 2) 17/00725/F Proposed development of a battery storage installation and associated development to allow for the storage, importation and exportation of energy to the National Grid at Land at Model Farm, Frenchs Road, WSA. Vote taken: 6 against, 1 in favour, 2 abstentions. Council objects to this application for the following reasons: The installation is inappropriately sited, directly in the view of the three dwellings opposite the field on Frenchs Road. It is unsympathetic to the surrounds. There is strong local feeling that this installation could be better sited elsewhere. Modifications would need to be made for the residents overlooking the proposed site. The access point onto Frenchs Road is inappropriately sited and there are concerns regarding the amount vehicle movements predicted for the installation which will cause disturbance to the residents directly opposite the proposed access, and those along the designated route, and further damage to an over-used and unrepaired country lane.
- 3) 17/00769/RM Reserved Matters Application: Development of 5 dwellings at Land South of the Old Police House, West Drove North, WSP. Parish Council supports unanimously.
- 4) 17/00753/F Demolition of small utility room and creation of attachment annex and first floor extension so to better accommodate the full extent of the family at 6, Chalk Road, WSP. Parish Council supports but annex should not be used as an independent dwelling and should remain as a part of the existing.
- 5) 17/00832/F Proposed single storey extension and internal alterations at 5, Moat Terrace, School Lane, WSP. Parish Council supports unanimously.

B. Borough Council Planning Authority Decisions

No decisions received.

93/17 Finance

I. To approve

- i. Annual Governance Statement – unanimously agreed.
- ii. Statement of Accounts – unanimously agreed.
- iii. End of year accounts – unanimously agreed.

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

Nothing received.

III. To consider quotations for Annual Insurance

Quotes were received from Aon and Zurich

Zurich – 2 votes for, 7 against, Aon – 7 votes for, 2 against. Aon will provide the insurance cover for 2017/18. Agreed.

IV. to approve payments

There was a discussion regarding the payments for the Play Park. There had been an issue with the woodchip for the Rotanet play bay and more had to be ordered and supplied at the last minute. Cllr Whitaker proposed that payment is deferred for the Junior Play area and the woodchip top-up until the matter is resolved. Agreed. Cllr Whitaker will liaise with FLP regarding this issue.

			Ex VAT	VAT	Inc VAT
i.	WPFRT	Hall Hire	21.60		21.60
ii.	K&M Lighting	Streetlight Maintenance	53.73	10.75	64.48
iii.	Royal Mail	postage	1.35	0.27	1.62
iv.	FLP Ltd	Play Park Equipment (senior)	20,743.77	4,148.76	24,892.53
v.	Aon	Insurance Premium TBA	813.81		813.81
vi.	HMRC	PAYE	22.00		22.00
vii.	Mrs E Bateman	Salary and Clerical Expenses	244.38		244.38
viii.	E.ON	Energy charge	123.49	6.17	129.66

Councillors agreed all payments be made.

V. to record receipts

i.	Village Crier	Adverts	101.00		101.00
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VI. To view the books of Account

Cllr Whitaker looked at the Books.

94/17 Correspondence – to receive items for information

- 1) Resident Church Rd Concerns regarding the proposed allotments and privacy. Councillors agreed it is outside the PC remit to fund hedging.
- 2) Playsafety (RoSPA) Play park inspection
- 3) Diocese of Ely Permission to repair gate pillars WSA Church
- 4) Speed Watch 19 speeders
- 5) WPFRT Offer of table at community event. Councillors agreed to accept the offer.
- 6) Concerned resident Neighbourhood noise. Resident has been advised to contact the relevant authorities if necessary.
- 7) SNAP Team Issues to report to Safer Neighbourhood Team
- 8) West Norfolk Sport AGM 24th May
- 9) Greenpoints Nominate local charity to received funds from GreenPoints
- 10) Downham SNAP Minutes, next meeting 7th June
- 11) Race Bank Newsletter
- 12) Clerks & Councils Direct Newsletter
- 13) Bulletin War memorials newsletter

95/17 To discuss any updates regarding the Townsend Estate Allotments and access roads and consider the lease from KLWNBC
Councillors discussed and agreed to reject the two leases provided and request one lease for the whole area at an annual rent of £300 and for the access to be sorted out. Proposed by Cllr Broden, seconded by Cllr Newman. Unanimously agreed.

96/17 To confirm continuation of the WPFRT Playing Field and Swingfield grass cutting by the Parish Council

It was explained that the Parish Council has the power to contribute to the maintenance of public open space land even if owned by a separate entity. Councillors agreed to continue with the grass cutting programme.

97/17 Play Park – to receive any updates on the completion of the project.

Cllr Whitaker advised that there needs to be a further bark/woodchip top up of 15m³ at a cost approx. £947 without spreading, and repairs of £828.00. Councillors agreed for the bark/woodchip and repair order. Councillors will arrange to spread the bark themselves.

Cllr Whitaker is looking into the new signage and also suggested there needs to be an official opening. It has also been suggested that the whole area could be fenced. This will need further discussion.

98/17 To consider a subcommittee/steering group to plan future Village projects and consider all the responses to the Community Contribution consultation - Councillors Broden, Bliss, Drew, Eveleigh, Green and Lawty agreed to form a subcommittee and they will agree their own meeting date.

99/17 To receive items for the next agenda

War Memorial – Cllr Eveleigh advised he had spoken with Sheena Campbell from WMT and now has the requirements needed by WMT. Conservation officer has to be kept informed as well.

100/17 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 8th June 2017 at 7.00pm in the Community Centre, Summer Close, Walpole St Andrew, PE14 7JW.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm