

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Community Centre, Summer Close, Walpole St Andrew on Thursday 8th February 2018 at 6.30pm.

Present Vice Chairman – Cllr James Whitaker
Councillors – Andy Bliss, Richard Blunt, Adrian Eveleigh, David Lawty, Lynne Newman, Steven Rowell and Jo Drew (*arr 7.15pm*)
Clerk - Emma Bateman,
Parish Hall Committee Chairman - Les Street
12 Members of the Public

21/18 Election of Chairman

As the Vice Chairman, Cllr Whitaker, was present he will act as Chairman for the meeting.

Cllr Whitaker proposed election of a Chairman is postponed until the Ordinary Parish Council meeting. Agreed.

22/18 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Green and County Councillor, Cllr Sandra Squire. Cllr Drew had advised that she would be a late arrival.

23/18 To receive a presentation from the Parish Hall Committee regarding proposals for the Parish Hall

Mr Street gave a power point presentation on the history and proposals for the Parish Hall. The Hall has been in existence since 1924 and the object of the Parish Hall Charity is for maintenance of the hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Walpole Parish and the land and building is held in Trust for the purpose of a Parish Hall. There are a number of regular users of the hall on a weekly, monthly and bi-monthly basis with around 6598 person visits, in addition to the regular clubs there is a Flower and Produce Show, Apple & Produce Group, Flower Festival, charity events, coffee mornings, Pony Club events, Polling Station use, fundraising events, quiz nights, parties and wakes with around another 500 persons using the hall. A building survey has shown that the walls are deteriorating, the roof is in need of replacement, damp and woodworm is evident. The Parish Hall Committee has set up a Building Committee, is in the process of registering the land, set up a fundraising committee, in process of gathering as much information as possible regarding client responsibilities, local authority regulations and getting quotes from architects, demolition companies and builders estimates of costs. The Committee will seek out all opportunities for grants and funding. The Parish Hall Committee would like to apply for a total grant of £30K from the Community Contribution made to Walpole Parish from Baywa Re, developers of the solar farm at Rose & Crown Farm, with an initial grant of £5K to enable architects plans to be drawn up and planning permission to be sought and the remaining £25K to be pledged towards the project as it develops. The total project costs will be in the region of £291,112 or if piling is required for the foundations, in the region of £321,112.

Councillors discussed points with the Parish Hall Committee. It was noted that the Borough Council is supportive of improvements to community buildings, in principle, and this proposal is to keep the same footprint and specify the use of the outside verge as parking which has been habitually used as such, but due planning processes must be followed.

24/18 Parish Councillors to discuss the proposals with the Parish Hall Committee

Cllr Blunt asked if the Hall is beyond repair. Mr Street advised that a Surveyor has visited the Hall and carried out a detailed report. The walls and roof are in a very poor state, the walls are unaligned and will not be suitable for a new roof, the best option advised was to rebuild.

Councillors discussed the usage of the Hall with Mr Street and members of the Committee.

Councillors discussed that the Community Contribution was for community projects (not general running costs of the parish)

Cllr Drew arrived at 7.15pm

Cllr Blunt asked if the Parish Hall Committee would request any further funding, over the £30k request, from the Community Contribution. Mr Street advised that this would not be the case.

Councillors asked from where will the rest of the funding be found? Mr Street advised that the Committee will make applications to all possible funding bodies, grant providers, local businesses, hold fundraising events. There is a strong and committed committee and a lot of local support. Applications to the large funding organisations have yet to be made. Many funding organisations are happy to match fund if there are reasonable pledges in place.

Mr Street reiterated that the Parish Hall's constitution states that the land and building must remain in trust as a parish hall for the community.

It was added that the registration of the land with the Land Registry is in process but some alterations to the Parish Hall Committee's constitution needs to be done prior to registration.

A copy of the building survey was requested.

Cllr Whitaker thanked Mr Street and the committee for the presentation.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm