

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held via online video, on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 at from 7.00pm.

Present :

Councillors – Richard Green, Andy Bliss, William Brooks, Heather Smith, Claire Robinson, Linda Matthews, Ben Matthews, Charlene Campion and Adrian Eveleigh, Julian Kirk – Sandra Squires (19.27), Richard Blunt (19.41)  
Clerk – Caroline Boyden  
Three Members of the Public

Welcome from Chair Cllr. Green to all.

1. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:  
Cllr Lawty – Family Illness
2. To remind all councillors of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct  
The Chair reminded all councillors of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
3. Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations.  
Cllr Brooks re Churchyard maintenance fee.
4. Public Participation - to allow public participation (3 minutes allowed per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total)  
A couple of parishioners introduced themselves and advised that they would be seeking planning permission for a new home at the top of Chalk Road and Mill Road. The site has already been fenced off.
5. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, having been previously circulated were proposed as a being a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Brooks and seconded by Cllr L Matthews. Unanimously agreed by those present at that meeting.
6. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
  - 6.1 Tree Planting – Cllr Squires to provide further information upon attendance. Cllr Robinson has completed some research on the Woodland Trust website, where a selection of trees are listed in packs of 105 or 420 saplings. We need to download and submit the form to include grid references, on the website and planting is from November to March. Cllr Robinson to send the link to the Clerk who will send it out to all councillors for discussion at the September Meeting.

**ACTION CR/CB**

Cllr Eveleigh stated that the Community Centre would like a minimum of 80 to go along the footpath/dog leg area by the allotments. Cllr Bliss asked to see a plan of where exactly WPFRT are looking to plant the trees. Cllr Smith raised the point of the type of trees and falling leaves in the autumn. Cllr Brooks would like Oak or Walnut if possible, on Swingfield. Cllr Green suggested we review all options.

Signed : .....

Date : .....

6.2 50:50 Partnership 21/22 – An email had been received from J. Eveleigh giving an update on the meeting with Norfolk Constabulary and now awaiting a meeting with the highways engineer to finalise the locations of the Village Gates. Cllr Bliss raised the issue of cleaning the white gates and other colours to be considered. Cllr Robinson mentioned that a cleaning team from Kings Lynn could be used and will find more information for the next meeting. **ACTION CR**

6.3 Market Lane Survey – It was proposed that a more gradual drop in speed on the section C22/20 from the new proposed 50, to 40 and then into the current 30mph. CB to advise NCC. **ACTION CB**

## 7. To receive reports:

7.1 Highways – The Willow trees at the top of Dunces Lane have not been cut back and CB to contact Highways following the letter to the owner. **ACTION CB**  
Cllr B Mathews advised to check the boundary on the maps and Cllr Bliss raised the land registry could be involved.

Seabank Lane situation was discussed and clearing the footpath would come down to the Parish Council. It was decided to obtain quotes to clear.

Cllr Blunt mentioned the repairs to the Sub Station road at the top of French’s Road and Cllr Green stated that they were excellent but also the “rumble strips” on Mill Road (just out of our parish) were in a terrible state.

7.2 Cllr Squires joined the meeting and was asked about the situation regarding the free trees and advised that the plans are not in place as yet. The Parish would approach the County Council with details of the land involved and the County Council will provide advice, the trees and help with planting during Autumn/Winter/Spring. Nurseries were now growing saplings including the Woodland Trust. Cllr Green advised we would want at least 80 trees.  
The budget has been badly affected by Covid 19 and most of the County Council are still working from home until next February. Services are getting back to normal with some reduced transport on mini buses due to safe distancing etc.

Cllr Kirk advised that a number of Borough Council workers are still working from home, Planning meetings are now online, and all of the Borough play areas, libraries, waste tips and Care Centres are now open, although with restricted services in some cases.

Cllr Blunt advised that everyone is trying to get back to normal, but no physical meetings are taking place. The Government White Paper on planning amendments is being discussed and this would mean that Neighbourhood Plans could be even more relevant being more influential and important.

CB to ask Alex Fradley and Alan Gomm to attend the October meeting. **ACTION CB**  
There are still a small number of grants available for small businesses.

7.3 Community Centre– the car park work has been completed. Cllr Smith raised the waste bin in the play area/community centre had still not been emptied. CB to contact waste disposal. **ACTION CB**  
The centre is reopening shortly, and information had been sent out. It was agreed that we would continue to hold online meetings for another couple of months and then review the situation.

7.4 The colour version of The Crier would be in December. The costs would be met by the Parish Council as proposed by Cllr Eveleigh, seconded by Cllr Brooks and all were in favour. Cllr L Matthews mentioned that there was still an issue with deliveries due to Covid 19. Cllr Campion offered to distribute in her area.

Cllr L Matthews raised the question of a new Editor from January 2021 and a member of the public present could be interested.

The Clerk advised that the website top 10 viewed pages were: Home:150, Crier:121, Planning:82, Parish Council:27, Contact us:19, latest news;15, Walking:11, Community Centre:7, Agendas:7 and Minutes:6 and thanked Pete Luck for his continued work on the website.

Signed : .....

Date : .....

7.5 Cllr Eveleigh advised that the fingerboards were still being turned around again at Eastlands.

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – nothing to report. Cllr Eveleigh asked when the picnic tables and benches would be completed. To be discussed at the next meeting.

7.7 Replacement Christmas Tree for the Church was approved- proposed Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr Smith and agreed. Cllrs Bliss and Brooks to source. **ACTION CB/WB**

It was decided to keep the play area closed as it could not be cleaned daily, or sanitizer offered. The quote from Fenland (£537.86) to cover key maintenance issues was proposed by Cllr Campion, seconded by Cllr Bliss and all in favour. Cllr Campion thought it might be a good idea to put up an official statement as to why it is not open. Clerk to check on any suitable statements. **ACTION CB**

Cllr Kirk advised that West Walton play area was reopening and will be cleaned each week at a cost of £80, via spraying. The Borough use their own staff for cleaning their play areas.

Cllr Green raised serious concern over liability and will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

The clerk had received a notification from a member of the public regarding the street light by Victory Cottage on School Lane, not working and has advised K & M to attend and repair.

8. Planning – No applications or decisions to date.

9. Finance

9.1 To approve the Financial Report for payments/receipts during July – proposed Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr L Matthews and unanimously agreed by those present. See attached appendix for details. The Bank reconciliation at 31.7.20 was £63,557.97 and approved as above.

9.2 The Clerk mentioned that Barclays Bank were still being difficult regarding the closure of the 2 savings accounts but had spoken, written, and spoken again to them and awaiting closure.

9.3 Cllrs Green, B Matthews, and Eveleigh to be added to the bank authorisers. **ACTION CB**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of September from 19.00 hrs via Zoom.

Cllr Campion advised of her absence at the next meeting due to work commitments.

Meeting ended at 20.36

Signed : .....

Date : .....