

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held via online video, on Thursday 9th of July 2020 at from 7.00pm.

Present :

Councillors – Richard Green, Andy Bliss, William Brooks, Heather Smith, Claire Robinson, and Linda Matthews.

Clerk – Caroline Boyden

One Member of the Public

Welcome from Chair Cllr. Green to all.

1. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:
Cllrs Charlene Champion, Adrian Eveleigh & Ben Matthews – due to work commitments.
Cllr Lawty – Doctors appointment
Borough Cllrs Julian Kirk, Richard Blunt, and County Cllr Sandra Squires – due to Council Meeting.
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.
None.
4. Public Participation - to allow public participation (3 minutes allowed per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total)
None.
5. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 11th June 2020, having been previously circulated were proposed as a being a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Bliss and seconded by Cllr Matthews. Unanimously agreed by those present at the meeting.
6. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
6.1 Tree Planting – To be carried forward to August meeting.
7. To receive reports:
 - 7.1 Highways – Cllr Blunt has asked for the Willow trees at the top of Dunces Lane to be cut back as now overhanging into the road. CB to contact Highways. **ACTION CB**
The Rangers to be asked to cut the grass down by the trod on Chalk Road and cut the hedge by the Follens Road sign as it is covering the sign. **ACTION CB**
The church path requires attention and Cllr Bliss to advise the relevant committee. **ACTION AB**
 - 7.2 No County or Borough Councillors present to give any reports.
 - 7.3 Community Centre– the car park work has commenced, and the drainage is on the school side with gravel to be placed. Cllr Brooks stated that the pre-school would be starting in September.
 - 7.4 Cllr L Matthews requested articles for the next edition of the Crier. Clerk suggested the continued closure of the play area was due to the information provided by the Borough Council.

Cllr Smith raised the question of liability as people were climbing the fence to access the play area even with the closed notices on. It was noted that the Parish Council were not liable as long as the notices were on and gates were closed, as it was the responsibility of the public.

Signage to be checked and if necessary, additional signs added.

Cllr Robinson would like to see a notice regarding the dog fouling around the school.

Cllr L Matthews advised that more parishioners were now aware of the Crier online.

In June, the website was viewed 598 times:

The top 10 viewed pages were:

Crier: 243

Home: 123

Planning Applications: 56

Latest News: 29

Contact Us: 26

Walking: 25

Parish Council: 19

Community Centre: 13

Agendas: 12

Coronavirus / Covid-19: 8

7.5 Footpaths - Cllr Bliss gave an update on the dog mess near the kennels on the byway and a visit by the environmental health, was due within 2-3 weeks.

7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group had not yet met so nothing to discuss.

7.7 The clerk had received two parishioners requiring information and both had been sorted out.

Cllr Brooks mentioned that the Christmas Tree in the churchyard had died and will need replacing – to be added to next agenda.

8. Planning – no applications or decisions

9. Finance

9.1 To approve the Financial Report for payments/receipts during June – proposed Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr Brooks and unanimously agreed by those present. See attached appendix for details.

The Bank reconciliation at 30.6.20 was £63,977.42. The clerk mentioned that Eon had not taken the payment of £65.12 in June and would be taking it in July with the July payment.

9.2 To approve the 50% payment for the wigwag signage. proposed Cllr Green, seconded Cllr L Matthews and unanimously agreed by those present.

9.3 The 50:50 partnership for 21/22 needs to be discussed and agreed. There was a proposal for white gates but this to be discussed further at the next meeting, along with any other projects.

9.4 The quarterly report was reviewed and accepted. The Clerk mentioned that Barclays Bank were still being difficult regarding the closure of the 2 savings accounts but was hoping for mandate details by the next meeting.

9.5 The RoSPA report discussed and CB to contact Fenland to obtain quotes for each issue. ACTION CB

Cllr Robinson asked for any update on the church chimes. Until the church is officially open again, nothing can be done.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 13th of August via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 19.36