

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held via online video, on Thursday 11th of June 2020 at from 7.00pm.

Present :

Councillors – Richard Green, Andy Bliss, William Brooks, Heather Smith, David Lawty, Richard Blunt, Claire Robinson, Linda Matthews (19.07), and Adrian Eveleigh (19.31).
Clerk – Caroline Boyden
Borough Cllrs Julian Kirk & Richard Blunt

One Member of the Public

Welcome from Chair Cllr. Green to all.

1. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:
Cllr Charlene Campion & Cllr Ben Matthews – both due to work commitments.
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, 14th May 2020, having been previously circulated were proposed as a being a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Bliss and seconded by Cllr Lawty. Unanimously agreed by those present at the meeting.
6. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
 - 6.1 Tree Planting – Suggested locations: Cllr Lawty suggested the dog leg at the Community Centre, Cllr Blunt to discuss the area on the corner down the Marsh Road with the owner, Cllr Brooks to confirm the Swingfield site. Cllr Green to discuss the area on Pigeon Street.

ACTION WB, RB & RG

The Woodland Trust will provide trees free of charge and Clerk to contact Cllr Squires to find out what type of trees are available.

ACTION CB

Cllr Smith commented on the recent removal of trees on Pyecroft Lane and Clerk confirmed that there were issues with roots and overgrown foliage.
To be carried forward to August meeting.
7. To receive reports:
 - 7.1 Highways – Cllr Matthews raised the issue of the large pothole on Church Road and Cllr Brooks said it had been marked out for repair but had been missed. Clerk will contact Highways.
CB to contact Highways with a picture to be provided.

ACTION CB

Cllr Green requested that the Clerk contact Highways regarding the state of the road at Cranny Field Chase, off Mill Road as it is in a bad state of repair. **ACTION CB**

Cllr Blunt stated that the overtaking bays along Marsh Road were in a bad state of repairs, but it was thought that one of the areas was a private drive.

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports –

Cllr Blunt advised that the Covid 19 information updates were being sent out weekly. The first Planning meeting took place on the 1st of June with another on the 15th and 29th. Applications were on the increase. All meetings are virtual now including regeneration and cabinet with a full council meeting due shortly. Retail shops can reopen from next Monday, 15th with social distancing in place, which may cause the smaller shops problems.

7.3 Community Centre – Cllr Lawty advised that the work on the car park was still awaiting a start date.

7.4 CB reported that In May the website was viewed 571 times:

The top 10 viewed pages were:

Home: 138

Crier: 115

Coronavirus/Covid-19: 81

Planning Applications: 67

Latest News: 35

Parish Council: 25

Walking: 24

Agendas: 13

Minutes: 10

Contact Us: 8

7.5 The latest edition of The Crier is now available online. Cllr Matthews reported that the next edition maybe printed.

7.6 Footpaths & Circular Walks– Cllr Eveleigh reported that another sign had been turned round and the areas that were now becoming more overgrown. Cllr Bliss proposed the quote received from Mr. Powers for £400 to clear Eastlands Bank and then £110 to maintain Eastlands Bank, Stickfast Lane, Munceys Lane and East Croft Field Track. The quote was seconded by Cllr Brooks and unanimously agreed. Clerk to advise Mr. Powers to go ahead when nesting birds had gone and request a quote on the area on Marsh Road towards Wisbech Road. **ACTION CB**

Cllr Eveleigh mentioned that the Follens Road Sign is covered by overgrown hedging and Clerk to request Rangers to attend to at their next visit. **ACTION CB**

Cllr Bliss advised that he had written to Environmental Health regarding the amount of dog waste next to the kennels on the byway. Copy of the email to be forwarded to Cllrs Blunt and Kirk. **ACTION AB**

7.7 Community Fund Group – Cllr Bliss updated that he was working with a builder and the ground for the benches had been marked. The builder is looking to arrange the concretedelivery.

7.8 The Clerk had contacted Kate Roma at the Churches Conservation Trust, regarding the lack of clock chimes, but nothing can be done until the church opens again.

7.9 The Clerk had been contacted by a Parishioner regarding hard standing in a track off of Church Road and by another Parishioner regarding overgrown trees on Pycroft Lane. Advice and contact details were given re Church Road and Highways have removed the overgrown trees. The issue raised by several councillors on the rocks which are on the verge at S bend near School Road and the Clerk arranged for Highways to come out where they confirmed that there is a danger and will be contacting the owners.

8. Planning – No new applications or decisions to date

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments and record receipts – See appendix A Payments & Receipts.

Proposed acceptance Cllr Matthews, seconded Cllr Smith, unanimously approved.

9.2 The internal audit has been completed

To receive the Internal Auditor’s report and consider any recommendations - none,

To approve the 2019-20 Annual Governance Statement and to approve the 2019-20 Statement of Accounts and a vote on the AGAR was unanimously accepted with Cllr. Smith proposing and Cllr. Bliss seconding.

9.3 The forms to transfer the other 2 remaining accounts from Barclays to Unity are awaiting signatures.

9.4 It was agreed to set up a direct debit for K & M Lighting as the cost is the same each month.

Next Meeting to take place on the 9th of July at 7.00pm via online video.

Meeting ended at 19.49 pm