

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held via online video, on Thursday 15th of May 2020 at from 7.00pm.

Present :

Councillors – Richard Green, Andy Bliss, William Brooks, Heather Smith, Charlene Campion, David Lawty, Richard Blunt, Claire Robinson, Ben Matthews, Linda Matthews, and Adrian Eveleigh.

Clerk – Caroline Boyden

Borough Cllrs Julian Kirk & Richard Blunt

County Cllr Sandra Squire

One Member of the Public

Welcome from Chair Cllr. Green to all.

1. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:
None
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, 16th of April 2020, having been previously circulated were proposed as a being a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Campion and seconded by Cllr Brooks. Unanimously agreed by those present at the meeting.
6. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
 - 6.1 Village Gates – Speedwatch Co-ordinator has contacted NCC Highways and Westcotec for quotations. for further discussion -no update.
 - 6.2 Tree Planting - Cllr Squires confirmed that the planting would be starting on County owned land and to raise again in the Autumn. Cllr Blunt raised the rules and regulations of land usage and tree availability. The Woodland Trust will provide saplings free of charge. Cllr Squires to advise at next meeting. **ACTION SS**
Cllr Green suggested that the type of trees should be considered and Cllr Bliss suggested Maple. Cllr Brooks suggested considering the area on Swingfield Road to replace the ones that are dying off. Cllr Green suggested that a register of possible sites would be the way forward with Cllr Bliss advising that the Parish Online mapping system could be used. Suggested sites to be discussed at the June meeting.
Cllr Campion stated that we could promote this to parishioners via the Crier and website.

6.3 New Allotment requests – Cllr Ben Matthews advised no update at present and Cllr Robinson had contacted the Borough regarding any availability, but they had all been allocated. Some availability at Terrington St. Clements and perhaps Wisbech but it was considered too far to travel.

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Highways – Cllr Bliss raised the issue of the recent pothole repairs being substandard and further repairs were continuing this week. Cllr Brooks advised that Highways are not dealing with the middle of the roads which require attention. CB to contact Highways **ACTION CB**

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports –

Cllr Squires advised that not much was happening since the lockdown and all areas of help and support were working to provide a full service.

Cllr Blunt reported that the first cabinet meeting would be held on the 20th of May via Zoom with streaming on YouTube where applicable. The first Planning meeting will be on the 1st of June with 2 others in June to clear the backlog. Borough employees were working from the Town Hall as it offered more space. Site visits were now starting again this week and regulations are coming out very quickly e.g., builders can work now when they want to including weekends.

7.3 Community Centre – Cllr Lawty advised that the work on the car park was just awaiting kerbing to be available.

7.4 CB reported that the website had been viewed 545 times in April:

The top 10 viewed pages were:

Home: 147

Crier: 142

Planning Applications: 34

Parish Council: 31

Coronavirus/Covid-19: 31

Latest News: 30

Walpole Calendar: 27

Agendas: 21

Minutes: 18

Walking: 13

7.5 The Crier deadline is this coming Sunday and it will be available online. Cllr Robinson to provide some images plus the painted pebbles and VE day celebrations. The Fun Day in June is cancelled.

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 advised that a quote had been requested by The Clerk from Brian Powers, but nothing could be done now until the bird nesting had finished. Clerk to provide the quote and also ask Mr. Powers to look at the area on the Wisbech Road end of the duck pond. **ACTION CB**

7.7 Community Fund Group – Cllr Bliss advised that he had a builder who might be able to help with concreting the benches in place. **ACTION AB**

7.8 Cllr Bliss had received several requests from parishioners for the St. Andrews church bells to start again chiming the hour etc. CB to contact Kate Roma at the Churches Conservation Trust. **ACTION CB**

7.9 The Clerk had sent out the insurance quotes and it was agreed to continue with the existing provider. Proposed by Cllr Eveleigh, seconded by Cllr Brooks, unanimously approved.

8. Planning – No new applications but the decision received to approve the application for a side and rear single storey extension, new garage, and summerhouse at 5 Marsh Road.

9. Finance

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

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

9.2 Clerk advised that the year end and audit will be completed by the end of next week and will take the accounts to the auditor. Scribe is now set up and fully running – Cllr L Matthews to have viewing access.

ACTION CB

9.3 Clerk advised that the Market Lane speed survey commenced a week after the lockdown and had been assisted by Cllr Squires in questioning the benefit at this time.

9.4 The Home Active Norfolk pack was discussed and to be put in the Crier, on the website and a link on Facebook.

ACTION CB

9.5 The Unity Bank is working well with authorisations taking place within 48 hours. Cllr Green requested to be added when face to face meetings take place again along with Cllr Ben Matthews.

Next Meeting to take place on the 11th of June at 7.00pm via online video.

Meeting ended at 19.48 pm