

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held via online video, on Thursday 12th of November 2020 at from 7.30pm.

Present :

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

Councillors - Julian Kirk and Sandra Squires

Clerk – Caroline Boyden

Four Members of the Public

Welcome from Richard Green, Chairman to everyone.

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).
 - 4.1 Thanks were given for opening the play area and the repairs on the swings. However, there is a large amount of dog mess on the field. Parishioners have picked up some of this themselves and one child had a fall into some. Cllr Matthews will be putting this problem in the December Crier and it was mentioned that the land is owned by the Community Centre not the Parish Council. Cllr Campion advised that there was an increase in other areas of the village and Cllr Blunt thought it should be put on the Facebook page, with Cllr Matthews suggesting the Community Centre page as well.
 - 4.2 The owner of the property with 2 planning applications for discussion advised that he has been running the business for the last five years and there would be no additional noise or traffic. He had been told that he did not require planning for the outbuilding and apologised for this.
 - 4.3 A thank you for the cleaning of the memorial was given and Cllr Matthews will check the photographs on Facebook to add to the Crier. It was suggested that posters be available on noticeboards for support for the lonely and those who may need help with shopping etc. Cllr Blunt agreed that some parishioners did not have the technology to go online for help and we should be keeping an eye on our neighbours plus the helpline information in the Crier is most helpful.
5. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 8th of October 2020, having been previously circulated were proposed as a being a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Eveleigh and seconded by Cllr Brooks. Unanimously agreed by those present at that meeting.
6. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
 - 6.1 50:50 Partnership 21/22 – Cllr Bliss advised that the white gates would show up much better with the dark evenings and Cllr Campion stated the need to keep them clean as important to give a good image.

Discussions took place on if the village name should be included, placings on both sides of the road, and location including where the 30mph commences and Cllr Green suggesting “welcome to the Walpoles”. Cllr Campion asked where the name would be sited on the gates – top or middle and middle considered best. Cllr Lawty questioned the upkeep and during a debate 2 years ago it was decided not to go ahead with gates due to costs and maintenance. Cllr Blunt advised that this was now part of the 50:50 partnership scheme and therefore only 50% of the costs would be applicable. Cllr Campion advised that many local villages now have these gates and Cllr Lawty stated that some villages were not maintaining them, and they were actually falling down and then questioned where the funds were coming from. Cllr Eveleigh advised that parishioners had been in favour of the gates and requested them.

Cllr Green advised that the funds could come out of the Solar Fund or the Parish Council main account. Cllr Blunt proposed the white gates via the 50:50 partnership, taken out of appropriate funds and this was seconded by Cllr Campion. 9 in favour, 1 against, motion carried.

Cllr Bliss suggested that Welcome to the Walpoles should be on the gates and this was passed with all in favour. The application has to be returned to NCC by the 4th of December. **ACTION AB/CB**

6.2 Neighbourhood Plan Scheme – It was decided to wait until the new year and Cllr Blunt advised that councillors could do any research online including the White Paper. Revisit in Spring 2021.

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Willow Trees – Cllr Blunt raised this issue again stating that the response from Highways was absolute rubbish. Cllr Matthews advised that NCC had cut these back 4-5 years ago. Cllr Blunt asked if Cllr Squires could take this further with Highways, which was agreed and the clerk to send the paper trail to Cllr Squires on this matter. **ACTION CB/SS**

Cllr Squires stated that there were issues with Highways and an official complaint had been raised. Cllr Campion raised the theft of heating oil in the village at Cllr Matthews house and this will be in the next Crier. Cllr Bliss advised that a litter of puppies had been stolen from the kennels at Weatherholme, Eastlands Bank and Cllr Green that a JCB was stolen from Mill Road.

Cllr Blunt congratulated Cllr Squires on her recent commendation from the LGA on behalf of the Parish Council.

7.2 County and Borough Councillors Reports.

Cllr Blunt advised that the Borough were working hard on getting the numbers down of Covid and also were offering a great deal of support. Cllr Stuart Dark advised that the increase in Norfolk was mainly due to particular factories in isolated areas. However, there was no such reason in West Norfolk, and we need to work together. The message Hands, Face & Space was reiterated, and the situation was still very serious even though a slight improvement was shown in the latest figures.

Cllr Campion advised that attitudes were of concern and gave the example of collecting children from school and social distancing and she was having to self-isolate due to being in contact with a Covid positive person. Covid has been reported on Springfield. Pictures of local people going to Springfield to see the Christmas lights were on Facebook.

Cllr Blunt asked to be advised of any blatant ignoring of the shutdown. Cllr Eveleigh advised that he and his wife were on call again for safety officers again at the QE Hospital.

Cllr Blunt advised to stay at home as much as possible and only make essential journeys.

Cllr Squires discussed the following report:

You still have time to have your say on Norfolk County Council’s budget proposals for next year. Consultation on the Council’s proposed share of Council Tax and its savings proposals will take place up until 14 December 2020, at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget.

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service is working with Norfolk Constabulary and NCC’s Road Safety Team to share information and awareness for Road Safety Week, which starts next Monday (16).

Due to the current lockdown, face to face awareness events are not possible but we are using external media and our own social media messages to share advice to the public.

The theme this Road Safety Week, which is organised by national charity Brake, is there is no need to speed. We know that road traffic collisions are the biggest killer of young people aged 5-29 worldwide and that speed is a factor in many of the collisions in Norfolk. The fire service and police attend road traffic collisions every day and see the real impact that speed can have on our communities. More details about the campaign are at www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk

The gritters are out – On Tuesday 3 November we saw temperatures drop below zero and the county’s gritting fleet set out on the first gritting run of the season. This year Norfolk’s 48 strong fleet of gritting trucks features seven brand-new vehicles which are on their inaugural grit run. The winners of a competition for Norfolk schoolchildren to choose names for the seven new gritters are set to be announced next week. Each full gritting run in Norfolk sees 2,200 miles of road treated. All A and B-class roads and some C-class roads are treated with a focus on commuter and major bus routes and as far as is possible one route into all villages. People can check which roads are on the council’s gritting routes for the 2020/21 season on the map at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting. On the same map people can find the locations of around 1,900 grit bins in the county that are filled by the County Council and which people can use on public pavements, cycle paths and roads.

I went on one of the 1am gritting runs a couple of years ago, it was interesting to learn about the challenges they face, especially as the gritting teams also have a day job in the Highways Department. So, during cold weather are working many hours, day and night.

Covid-19 Weekly Update

District data for the week to November 6 (previous week’s data in brackets)

Breckland: 76 (118)

Broadland: 113 (64)

Great Yarmouth: 165 (170)

King’s Lynn and West Norfolk: 136 (116)

North Norfolk: 46 (30)

Norwich: 84 (91)

South Norfolk: 86 (60)

Outbreaks:

Care provider settings: 39 (35) outbreaks.

Businesses or workplace settings: 15 (8) outbreaks

Education settings: 15 (10) outbreaks

Bearing in mind that the level in KLWN last Tuesday, was 88 cases per 100,000. We appear to be on a pretty steep trajectory. It is so important to get the message out to follow the current guidance.

Services: The following will continue as face-to-face services throughout the next month:

Social care visits and support for vulnerable people - children, families, and adults

Home care, Schools, School crossing patrols, Household waste and recycling centres,

Registration of births (registration of deaths will continue by phone)

Bus and park and ride services for key workers and school pupils

Fire and rescue services

The following will cease face-to-face services and, where appropriate, will offer some elements online:

Museums, Libraries, Weddings, Adult learning

Covid-19 in schools - This is the first week of the start of the new national restrictions, and the data indicates that all schools in Norfolk are open and attendance is 91.5% which is on par with the attendance rates prior to half term. Numbers are increasing and as of today there are 117

education settings where a positive case has been recorded. This is made up of 96 situations, 11 outbreaks and 10 clusters. An Education Covid support team has been set up to support all education settings.

Norfolk Assistance Scheme: With residents who are extremely clinically vulnerable being told to stay at home unless they have a medical emergency and many people being impacted by the month long lockdown, the NRF are working together to offer support, emergency food and other supplies in the coming weeks to those who need it.

As well as the support available in accessing food, medicine and befriending services, there is also help available for people who may be struggling financially, due to the effects of Covid-19 or otherwise. This is through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS) which aims to support people through difficulty by awarding funding, which can be a cash donation or used to make specific purchases. People should apply directly to the scheme online, or by calling 01603 223392 (option 5).

Please share details of the Norfolk Assistance Scheme as much as you can. It is important for people to know that help is available if needed. The scheme can help with cash, mobile phones, food, even provision of white goods.

Covid Marshalls – We have been asked to keep an eye on premises in our wards & divisions and report anything that we see that concerns us, and to ask if Parish Councils will do the same. This is not a vigilante exercise and no-one should challenge any shop owner or person they see behaving as they should not, any such concerns should be reported to the council & they will send the Covid Marshalls in to check on things. For the time being, any concerns can be reported to: cllr.stuart.dark@west-norfolk.gov.uk although next week there will be a section on the council website for reporting, to make life easier.

Highways – still as ever, I have major concerns about the state of the roads and the poor state of some of the repairs. This is an ongoing battle with Highways, if you have any outstanding issues, please let me know.

General – Most of the council are working at home still and will be for the foreseeable future. Generally, this is working very well but it can mean some delays in getting responses as some staff are being once again being re-deployed to Covid response. The council leader recently wrote to the Chancellor requesting that he does not forget about Norfolk and that the council needs more investment to be able to maintain services in the long term. The Independent Group at NCC have submitted a motion to the next council meeting calling for care workers to be paid the real living wage and for a better deal for travel pay and overnight care work. If Covid has taught us anything, it is that care workers are undervalued, yet have been on the front line providing continuing services and they deserve a fair deal.

Finally – I received a commendation last week from the LGA (Local Government Association) Independent Group at our AGM last week, for services to local government and the community. They only give a few of these out each year so I feel quite honoured and humbled to receive a nomination from my peers in the group.

7.3 Play Area - Cllr Smith advised that the area was being used and Cllrs Bliss and Eveleigh were thanked for their work in bringing the opening forward.

7.4 Community Centre– Cllr Lawty advised that centre was closed but the Fish & Chip van was still coming on Wednesday evenings.

Defibrillator – Cllr Lawty advised that the paperwork/folders was with Maggie Plume for checking and that both Maggie and he wanted nothing to do with the defibrillator. Cllr Matthews queried that the unit was not officially registered and checks to be made on previous

minutes regarding the responsibility. Cllr Lawty stated again that he was not responsible and had never agreed to take responsibility. Cllr Brookes advised that he had accessed the unit via calling 999 with no problems. Cllr Lawty to collect the folders and give to Cllr Bliss for checking. He advised that Maggie Plume did not want to look after the unit. Cllr Blunt requested that use details be added to the Crier. Cllr Kirk sent contact details to the Clerk for the Co-Ordinator for the East of England Ambulance Service Community Responders, and follow up has taken place.

7.5 Cllr L Matthews advised that the deadline for the December edition of the Crier was Sunday 15th of November. This edition will be in colour and include lots of good items and cheer.

The Clerk advised that the website top 10 viewed pages were: Home: 156, Minutes 103, Planning: 94, Crier: 83, Parish Council: 49 , latest news; 26 , Walking 24, Community Centre: 19 , Covid 12, Contact us 11.

7.6 Cllr Eveleigh advised nothing to add from last month.

7.7 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that the new Christmas Tree had been purchased for £50 and was planted. The Swingfield tree now had 3 baubles.

7.8 Communications/Correspondence. Clerk confirmed that the allotment invoices had all been paid.

Cllr Bliss requested the donation for the British Legion regarding the wreaths, be decided and £100 was proposed by Cllr Lawty, seconded by Cllr Eveleigh and all were in favour.

There was one application received for the Councillor vacancy and this had been sent to all councillors by the Clerk. A decision to be made at the December meeting.

Land at 36 Springfield Road was discussed and Cllr Bliss had sent out details showing that it was part of no. 36 and the grass cutting to cease. It was agreed that the proposed picket fence could go ahead and the clerk to confirm in writing.

ACTION CB

Cllr Bliss advised that the bench could move further round behind the trees with the dog bin relocated and he will sent details to the Clerk who will contact Borough for approval.

ACTION CB

8. Planning

8.1 Thornmoor, Folgate Lane – relocate steel building/erect larger building and continued use of garage for business – discussions included concern with the size/height but the large barn next to it was taller and had been there for at least 60 years. Support for applications proposed by Cllr Lawty, seconded by Cllr Campion and passed with 2 abstentions.

8.2 Revised application for the Walnut Road allocated site down from 19 to 11 properties. Cllr Green advised the road access was of great concern and should be like the Church Road build as currently 6 entrances to the road which is considered a potential danger. One entrance/drive is required. Proposal to object on these grounds, Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr Matthews and motion carried.

8.3 33 Springfield Road – garage conversion/single storey extension/porch extension raised by a parishioner and clerk advised the porch extension under investigation with other items being over 6 years old.

8.4 Cotswold's Way, Kirk Road, re overgrown ground land next to property – the parishioner had been given the owners details and thanked Cllr Smith.

8.5 Approval for the new build land adjacent to Eastleigh, Chalk Road – sent out by clerk prior to meeting.

Cllr Blunt advised that the retrospective application for the Erection of detached machine store (with storage above) and Erection of external bar and associated change of use. at Cedar View had been declined.

9. Finance

9.1 To approve the Financial Report for payments/receipts during October and proposed payments for November – proposed Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr Brooks and unanimously agreed by those present.

November payments:

Fenland Leisure: £537.86 / K & M Lighting: £27.54 / EE: £20.15 / e-on: £63.02 /Xmas Tree: £50 / Clerk: land registry £9.00 / Expenses £25.00 / Salary £252.56 / HMRC: £63.00 / Glasdon: £495.43 / M & M Cleaning: £75.00 / British Legion Wreath: £100.

- 9.2 The Bank reconciliation at 30.9.20 was £60,388. proposed by Cllr Bliss, seconded by Cllr Lawty, agreed by those present.
- 9.3. The clerk advised that the additions of Cllrs Green and Eveleigh to the Unity Bank signatories had now been confirmed.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10th of December from 19.30 hrs via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 21.06

Signed :

Date :