

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held via online video, on Thursday 8th of October 2020 at from 7.30pm.

NOTE A PRESENTATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING WAS MADE FROM 7.00PM TO 7.30PM – See appendix 1

Present :

Councillors – William Brooks, Heather Smith, Linda Matthews, Richard Blunt, Adrian Eveleigh, Andy Bliss, Richard Green, Claire Robinson, David Lawty and Charlene Campion
Julian Kirk
Clerk – Caroline Boyden
Five Members of the Public

Welcome from Richard Green, Chairman to everyone.

1. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:
Cllr Squires – bereavement.
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 Green re Solar Park and Cllr Lawty re Community Centre.
4. Public Participation - to allow public participation (3 minutes allowed per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total).
 - 4.1 Parishioners asked why the play had not reopened yet. Cllr Green advised that the PC were following the insurers advice and now putting together an official sign, similar to the one sent in by a parishioner. Further discussions under item 7.3 on the agenda.
 - 4.2 Parishioners the start times of the monthly Parish Council meetings as they would like to attend but the 7.00pm start was prohibitive due to family commitments and a 7.30pm start would be much better. This was discussed and Cllr Campion proposed a three-month trial of a 730pm start which was accepted and will start from November 2020.
NOTE the Chair permitted members of the public to discuss item 7.3 – Play Area.
5. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 10th of September 2020, having been previously circulated were proposed as a being a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Brooks and seconded by Cllr Eveleigh. 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 still awaiting 2 quotes and the Clerk advised that a decision has to be made at the November meeting to get the application in.
 - 6.2 Market Lane Survey – The Clerk advised that there was no update from Highways or Cllr Squires.

Signed :

Date :

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Highways – Cllr Blunt reported that industrial type work was taking place at the back of the bungalow (Thornmore) on Folgate Lane at the last meeting and the Clerk had reported this to the Enforcement Officer and send their reply to all councillors.– could be car repairs. Cllr Blunt thought that this would come under a retrospective planning application.

Enforcement Officer

Willow Trees – Cllr Blunt raised this issue again as the ownership of the trees was still in question and Highways had advised the trees belong to the property owner and had sent an official letter requesting cutting back. Cllr Blunt asked for Cllr Squires to challenge this and the Clerk to perform a land registry check. Proposed Cllr Lawty, seconded Cllr Bliss. **ACTION CB**

Crime -Cllr Blunt reported garden items stolen on the Springfield Estate with a parishioner advising access by the thieves via the Community Centre Field.

Lighting – Cllr Bliss advised that the street light at Church Road & Chalk Road was leaning due to the tree on the verge. Clerk to ask Highways to arrange for extreme pruning, as it is thought they own the verge in question. **ACTION CB**

7.2 County and Borough Councillors Reports.

Cllr Kirk confirmed that issues reported to Highways were taking longer than usual.

Cllr Blunt advised meetings were taking place next week at Walpole Highway on the proposed Incinerator. Several key developments were approved on the A47 including a new roundabout at Broadend Road, the roundabout by Elm Hall Hotel to be widened and the roundabout at Guyhirn could be moved. This was confirmed by a parishioner and advised that the works would take place in one hit to avoid extended delays over 18 months.

Cllr Squires sent in the following report:

Battling the weather – The County Council Highways Team dealt with 1,000 call outs over the last weekend in September thanks to the stormy weather. In a 52-hour period, between 5pm on the Friday and 9pm on Sunday, Highways & their sub-contractors cleared 203 trees or broken branches that had fallen onto roads or pavements!

Environment Awards – a couple of weeks ago I was pleased to support a motion by Independent colleague Ed Maxfield to boost the County’s annual eco-awards, which previously had a tiny budget. The Awards try to promote and reward innovation in efforts to help the environment by individuals and groups. After some amendments to the original motion, it was unanimously adopted and both Ed and I will be involved with development of the new style awards.

Back to School - The data is again reflecting positive movement with both the schools that are fully open and pupil attendance and on both we are above the national average. As at 30 September the number of schools that are fully open is 98% (national average is 92%) and pupil numbers stand at 91.8% (national average is 89%).

NFRS Virtual Open Day - On Saturday 3 October, people from across the country tuned in to Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service’s first virtual open day. More than 3,000 people viewed the two-hour event on You Tube, including school groups and cub scouts/ brownie packs. It was the first time such an event had been held and it was a mixture of live interviews and recorded demonstrations on fire safety and rescue work. If you ‘attended’ the service would be really grateful to hear your feedback at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/virtualopenday/>. Many of the videos are still available to view at Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service’s Facebook page if you would like to gain insight into the work of the service.

Covid – Most NCC staff continue to work from home for the foreseeable future. We have been told that the Council chamber is not safe to be used while there is still a risk of Covid transmission due to there being no ventilation. The ventilation will now be updated along with the disabled access facilities as part of the upgrades to County Hall, but this is unlikely to be ready until after the May 2021 elections.

Signed :

Date :

While rates of infection in West Norfolk are still relatively low, they are rising. The number in Great Yarmouth are significantly higher and if that continues, we are likely to see a local lockdown in Great Yarmouth in the not too distant future.

You may find these links useful:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases>

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/cases?areaType=ltla&areaName=King%27s%20Lynn%20and%20West%20Norfolk>

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=47574f7a6e454dc6a42c5f6912ed7076>

Public Health continue to monitor the situation, we can all help the situation by continuing to follow current guidelines. Stay safe all.

Highways – I’ve been having some issues with Highways not responding to my queries recently and I have a large pile of complaints and issues that need fixing. In many instances I’ve been told that potholes have been fixed and when I drive round and see them, they’ve just been painted around in white paint. If there are any issues that you haven’t had responses about, please send me a list as I’m going to send up to the Highways Manager at County Hall. I’m concerned about the condition of several roads and with winter drawing in, there is more potential for accidents, particularly for cyclists.

Care Leavers – I took over the chairmanship of one of the Corporate Parenting sub groups a couple of months ago. We have been looking at a mentoring program by councillors for care leavers, we have now decided to set up and run a pilot program with 7 councillors (myself included) involved to see how it goes and find out what works and what doesn’t, before rolling out the program to all councillors after the 2021 elections. We take our Corporate Parenting roles very seriously and this will expand on that and create opportunities for councillors to get involved more with helping those in our care.

Local Government Reorganisation – After much gossip and to-ing and fro-ing, the long awaited white paper for re-organisation of councils to form unitary councils and possible devolved areas is now likely to be delayed until the New Year, so at this time we expect County Council elections to continue as planned in May 2021.

Boundary Changes – The current suggested changes are not due to take effect until the 2025 elections so will not affect any elections next year. The changes to Marshland North Division are simply, that the Division will take on Terrington St John, but lose Tilney All Saints instead. All other villages will remain.

- 7.3 Play Area - It was agreed that the Play Area should reopen, and the Clerk had sent the proposed signage to Borough for amending clearly stating that the equipment is not cleaned, and it is the parents/carers responsibility to keep children safe. 4-6 signs to be ordered when approved. Proposed Cllr Everleigh, seconded Cllr Campion, motion carried. The Clerk advised that Fenland Leisure were due to commence 12-16th of October. Cllr Bliss mentioned the 2 rolls of matting and to ask Fenland if they could lay this too. The quote from Fenland for replacing 3 items of equipment in “poor” condition was discussed and a parishioner mentioned that one of the swing seats requires attention. Cllr Campion stated that replacing these items would make the area look much smarter and reflect on the village. It was decided to obtain another quote for metal rather than wood items as they should last longer. Cllr Green suggested that we discuss this project again at the December meeting, to look at a decision in time for next Spring.
- 7.4 Community Centre– Cllr Lawty advised that the new car park had been well received. No clubs are back at the centre as yet, but a gymnastic group were using it on Wednesday evenings. A Fish & Chip van will be offering takeaways on Wednesdays, from 5 – 7.30pm on a trial basis, starting 14th October Cllr Lawty advised that a quantity of old parish council information required checking before correction destruction.

Signed :

Date :

- 7.5 Cllr L Matthews advised that the October edition of the Crier had been delivered and had a few spare copies should they be required. There is interest in taking on the Editor role and further details should be available next month.
The Clerk advised that the website top 10 viewed pages were: Home: 145, Planning: 102, Crier: 83, Parish Council: 26 , latest news; 10 , Community Centre: 7 , Agendas: 7 and Minutes: 11, Annual reports/accounts: 6 with Useful Information: 12 .
- 7.6 Cllr Eveleigh advised that the fingerboards was still on the ground at Eastlands and David Mills had approved concreting in place, however still awaiting the amendment.
The Clerk had the quote back from TA Blackamore today for cutting back from Marsh Road to the Wisbech footpath @ £280.00 +VAT. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Eveleigh and passed. Clerk to advise TA Blackamore and also write an official letter thanking him for the work to date. **ACTION CB**
- 7.7 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that 3 benches including the memorial bench were now back in position, but bolt caps were missing on one bench.
It was agreed that the new bench match the existing ones (£459.40 +VAT) and a set of caps are ordered at the same time. Proposed Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr Brooks, motion carried. **ACTION CB**

Cllr Bliss advised that he had purchased tinsel for the Christmas Tree but no update on the new replacement tree as yet.
- 7.8 Communications/Correspondence. Clerk confirmed that the allotment invoices and agreements had been sent out.
The Local Council awards to be deferred to Spring 2021
Lying water on Springfield Road to be reviewed by Cllr Eveleigh and discussed next month.
Ranger visit in November – request the trod gully’s to be cleared out.
Councillor resignation – agreed that the Clerk start the process for the vacancy. **ACTION CB**
Incinerator – as per Cllr Blunt’s report. Wisbech and Fenland are against it, but the final decision will be made by the Secretary of State. Surveys are already being undertaken.
Planning White Paper – See Appendix 2. Cllr Blunt advised that the CIL payments would be replaced with a Local Infrastructure tax upon completion of the building.
Solar Farm – see planning
Cllr Lawty raised the issue of parish councillors not living in the village or even in Norfolk and asked for this to be minuted.

8. Planning – Application received for Installation of renewable led energy generating station and storage.
Proposed for support by Cllr Bliss, seconded by Cllr Eveleigh. Vote to support 6 with 1 abstention. Clerk to update paperwork to Borough. **ACTION CB**

Cllr Brooks raised the status of 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 Walnut Road as the headline now reads 20/01164/F | Retention of detached machine store (with storage above) and retention of external bar with an associated change of use to residential garden residential garden. Cllr Blunt suggested a councillor speak at the planning meeting when this comes up, which could be 2nd of November. Cllr Eveleigh may be available, but Cllr Kirk offered to speak on behalf of the Parish on this application. Clerk to send out our comments to councillors. **ACTION CB**

Cllr Brooks mentioned a building being put up behind the village hall as no planning application has been received. Clerk to check within permitted permission as thought to be a summer house to be used as an hairdressers.

Signed :

Date :

9. Finance

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

October payments:

Name	Reason	£	
C. Boyden	Salary	373.53	
C. Boyden	September Expenses	25	
HMRC	PAYE	93.4	
Littlejohn	External Auditors	360	
Minuteman	Crier printing	405	
Leziate PC	Share of CiLCA training	100	
EE	Mobile phone	20.15	DD
K & M	Street Lighting maintenance	27.54	DD
E-on	Electricity October	63.02	
		1467.64	

9.2 The Bank reconciliation at 30.9.20 was £59,974.40 and the Qtr. 2 financial report discussed and proposed by Cllr Eveleigh, seconded by Cllr Lawty, agreed by those present.

9.3. The Clerk mentioned the submission form for 2 additional signatories on the Unity Trust Bank accounts, should be completed individually and emailed directly to Unity to save further time.

9.4 The Clerk advised that a VAT claim has been submitted to the value of £610.81

The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th of November from 19.30 hrs via Zoom.

Cllr Blunt requested that the Clerk send out the zoom invites via email as easier to access.

ACTION CB

Meeting ended at 21.09

Signed :

Date :