

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held via online video, on Thursday 10th of September 2020 at from 7.00pm.

Present :

Councillors – William Brooks, Heather Smith, Linda Matthews, Ben Matthews, Richard Blunt and Adrian Eveleigh. Cllr Bliss (19.22)
Julian Kirk
Clerk – Caroline Boyden
One Member of the Public

Welcome from temporary Chair Cllr. Eveleigh to all.

1. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:
Cllr Lawty – Family Illness, Cllr Campion – work, Cllr Squires – illness, Cllr Green –work and connection issues.
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, 13th of August 2020, having been previously circulated were proposed as a being a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Brooks and seconded by Cllr Blunt. Unanimously agreed by those present at that meeting.
6. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
 - 6.1 Tree Planting – Cllr Eveleigh asked if there were any further areas to consider for planting. Cllr Brooks mentioned what when the dead tree had been removed, new planting could take place in the area, however permission maybe required. The Autumn planting has now passed so will have to consider a Spring 2021 planting. The Community Centre confirmed 80-100 and Cllr Smith raised the question of lying water on Springfield Road area. Cllr Eveleigh to find out if any drainage is in position which could affect where the planting takes place. Clerk to add to next agenda for further discussion. **ACTION AE/CB**
 - 6.2 50:50 Partnership 21/22 – Cllr Bliss advised that a meeting had taken place with Andy Wallace from Highways at NCC to discuss the proposed sites for the gates. All four locations, Market Lane, Wisbech Road, Mill Road and West Drove North were approved. The next step is to arrange a meeting with the suppliers and then provide quotes to the Parish Council.
 - 6.3 Market Lane Survey – The Clerk had put forward the additional 40mph as agreed at the August meeting to NCC, with Walpole Cross Keys in agreement. Now awaiting a decision. Cllr Blunt confirmed that the 3 parishes had agreed to pay for the implementation. Clerk to follow up on costings and if the £4600 from Cllr Squires would be available. **ACTION CB**

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 – could be car repairs. Clerk to report to the Enforcement Officer. **ACTION CB**
- 7.1 Allotments - The Clerk advised that the half year invoices were due to go out to tenants this month for payment in October. It was decided to not increase rents due to the current climate and Clerk to send out a letter advising tenants with the invoice. **ACTION CB**
- 7.2 County and Borough Councillors Reports.
Cllr Blunt advised that the ferry was recommencing in King’s Lynn and the Planning Policy from the Government was being discussed. Regarding the planning application for Walnut Road, Cllr Blunt was of the opinion that another application would be placed with changes including a reduction of homes. It was reported that the Pantomime will now not go ahead.
Cllr Squires sent in the following report:
Covid rates are still low in Norfolk, despite the Banham Poultry Outbreak. I know there are issues locally with people being sent miles for testing, that is a national issue and should be resolved soon. Current Norfolk rates are 8.7 cases per 100,000 which is significantly lower than the England number of 19.6 cases per 100,000. But with children being back in school this may rise, although new restrictions may help.
Norfolk has just agreed to take an extra 41 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The government has agreed to assist with the cost of those. I’ve also recently taken over the Chairs role of one of the priority sub groups for Children in Care. We look particularly at care leavers and the issues they face.
Most children have gone back to school now after a staggered start in some cases. We are expecting a rise in Children’s social care referrals to coincide with that and facilities are being prepared to deal with that.
From what I can see, there will be pothole repairs being done locally soon as I have seen some marked up for repair, so that is good.
We have full council a week on Monday, which will again be online as it has been decided that it is not safe to hold meetings in person in the Council chamber as it has no ventilation. So, we will be online until at least February.
- 7.3 Community Centre– Cllr Eveleigh advised that the Hall was opening again and had a number of people looking to hire it. If a hirer wishes to take our slot on a Thursday, the Parish Council would have to look at alternative days when we get back to face to face meetings. It is believed that Mondays and Tuesdays are currently available.
- 7.4 Cllr L Matthews advised that the deadline for the October issue was this Sunday 13th and going to print the following week. There is interest in taking on the Editor role and further details next month.
The Clerk advised that the website top 10 viewed pages were: Home:172, Crier:132, Planning:101, Parish Council:24, latest news;24, Walking:26, Community Centre:16 , Agendas:10 and Minutes:12 with Useful Information:11.
- 7.5 Cllr Eveleigh advised that the fingerboards was now on the ground at Eastlands and David Mills to be informed. Suggested that it could concreted in to help it stay in place.
The Clerk to chase TA Blackamore on the quote for cutting back. **ACTION CB**
- 7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that the holes for the benches had been dug and now looking to arrange for concrete supply as soon as possible.
The Clerk had received a request from a parishioner on when these benches would be back in place and could the Parish Council consider a new bench on the grassed area by the pumping station on Springfield Road? This was approved for finalise at the next meeting and Clerk to obtain prices. **ACTION CB**

Signed :

Date :

Cllr Linda Matthews asked if the memorial bench was still in good order and Cllr Bliss advised yes.

- 7.7 Play Area – Cllr Ben Matthews had received numerous requests to re-open the play area but advised that people were using it and taking no notice of the signage. Cllr Eveleigh commented that parents could not keep the gate closed and using hand sanitizers would be difficult to enforce.

Cllr Linda Matthews raised the question regarding the West Walton play area which employs a cleaner once a week for £80. Cllr Kirk advised that we should keep our play area closed as the amount of rubbish left at West Walton was an issue. Cllr Ben Matthews stated that the new maximum of 6 people would be very difficult to manage and advised to keep it closed due to the regulations and conditions. Cllr Eveleigh mentioned that people were ignoring the closed signage and any issues were down to the parents/carers.

- 7.8 Communications/Correspondence. Clerk will send out allotment invoices next week. The Local Council awards to be discussed at the next meeting. **ACTION CB**

Alex Fradley and Alan Gomm will be attending the October meeting to discuss Neighbourhood Planning and will start the meeting at 7.00pm.

Three quotes had been received for the removal of the dead tree on Springfield Road and Cllr Bliss covered these. It was decided to go with the quote from TA Blackamore and Clerk to advise.

The tree will be removed to ground level to allow for mowing of the grass. **ACTION CB**
CiLCA study commences on the 16th of September.

8. Planning – Application received this week for Proposed detached dwelling at land adjacent to Eastleigh on Chalk Road. Cllrs were agreed that the cladding and general look of the home was liked and in keeping with the village. Cllr Blunt advised that he had called this in to go to the planning committee as some planners feel it is not in the garden. After discussions, it was decided to support the application on the design, environmental and fit within the village.

Proposed for support by Cllr Linda Matthews, seconded by Cllr Eveleigh. All in favour. **ACTION CB**

9. Finance

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

The Bank reconciliation at 31.8.20 was £58,997.81 and proposed by Cllr Bliss, seconded by Cllr Smith, and agreed by those present.

- 9.2 The Clerk mentioned that the two Barclays accounts were now closed, and funds transferred to Unity Bank account.

- 9.3 Cllrs Green, B Matthews, and Eveleigh to be added to the bank authorisers – Cllr B Matthews has signed and awaiting further signatories.

- 9.4 The NALC pay increase of 2.5% back dated to 1.4.20 was agreed and proposed by Cllr Eveleigh, seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by those present.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th of October from 19.00 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 20.15

Signed :

Date :