

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held via online video, on Thursday 11th of March 2021 at from 7.30pm.

Present :

Councillors – William Brooks, Heather Smith, Richard Green, Adrian Eveleigh, Richard Blunt, Andy Bliss, Charlene Campion, David Lawty
Councillors - Julian Kirk and Sandra Squires (19.45)
Clerk – Caroline Boyden
One member of the Public

Welcome from Richard Green, Chairman to everyone.

1. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:
Jade Roper- urgent work commitment - approved
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 Lawty on the Community Centre.
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, 11th of February 2021, having been previously circulated were proposed as a being a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Smith 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 Willow Trees update – Cllr Squire is continuing to try and find the owner.
 - 6.2 Defibrillator update – Due to the electrician suffering from Covid 19, the date for the electrics has been put back to w/c 22nd of March. The defibrillator is back in the cabinet and currently in good working order.
 - 6.3 Flooding update – The property next to April Cottage on Walnut Road was also flooded and Cllr Kirk advised that Highways had visited and checked the drains, but the issue is with the ditch that has been filled in between April Cottage and the new homes at Hills Farm. Cllr Kirk to find out if the IDB could adopt the drainage and will advise.
 - 6.4 Play Area – CIL funding to be discussed at the April meeting.
 - 6.5 Facebook page – the new page is up and running and Cllr Campion was thanked for setting this up so quickly.
 - 6.6 Quotations for the repair of the bin housings – no quotes have been received as yet and to be added to the next agenda.

6.7 Noticeboards – the location of the board at Chalk Road/Wisbech Road was discussed and the possibility of moving it to the Wisbech Road bus stop area. Both boards require a deep clean and re-visit these in May/June when the weather has improved.

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Highways – the pot holes have been reported and some work has taken place. Street light on West Drove North reported by the clerk. The clerk advised that the clash of dates to close Mill Road with Anglian Water and Mr. Ringer had been sorted out by Mr. Ringer and Anglian Water will close the Walpole Highway end on the 17th with Mr. Ringer closing the Walpole St Peters end on the 18th and 19th.

7.2 County and Borough Councillors Reports.

Cllr Blunt advised that Panel meetings had restarted but staff were still being relocated to supporting grant applications. There was a 6 week delay in planning applications due to illness and vacancies.

Cllr Squires discussed the following report:

Report 11th March 2021

The NCC Council meeting that was scheduled for 22nd March has now been cancelled as the main business on the agenda, which was the Western Link Road, was delayed again. So our next council meeting won't be until 19th April now, when our group motion to help the tourism industry will now also be heard. Delays are currently costing NCC £250k a month to add to the £153m cost of the road.

Market Lane: I've had discussions with Area Highways about this and they've spoken to the Safety Officer to see if he has any budget capacity to assist, however due to budget constraints there isn't any help available. They normally would like to use Local Member funding or Parish Partnership resources. It's been suggested that forming a coalition between myself, Walpole, Walpole Cross Keys & Terrington Parish Councils may be one way of raising the money.

The estimated costs are £16.5-£18.5k to include all design and installation costs. They suggest a breakdown as follows:

Local Member Fund: £7.5k (some from this year, some from next)

TSC £3k

WCK £3k

Walpole £3k

Free School Meals: NCC will be providing £15 per week per child for the duration of the Easter holidays. Some schools will be providing vouchers, and some will provide food parcels. Parents and Carers of eligible children, should contact their schools directly to find out what they are providing and how to access the service.

Holiday Activities & Food Program (HAF): NCC has received £2,655,800 from the DfE for the HAF to provide healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children. It will provide optional, free holiday club provision that includes enriching activities with a healthy food element.

We will be using the funding to ensure there are free places available for up to c23k children eligible for free school meals in Norfolk - for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week, six weeks a year, covering four weeks in the summer and a week in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Active Norfolk are coordinating the scheme, working with wider NCC colleagues, planning an Easter programme that takes account of the current restrictions and pandemic context, with a focus on working locally in each district area, especially for the summer on. Our HAF will be branded in Norfolk as 'Big Norfolk Holiday Fun'

Given the current pandemic context, the offer will be primarily a remote offer for many alongside limited face to face activities for a few, mostly in schools, although a range of other community based providers, including providers who specialise in SEND provision.

Up to 8000 activity boxes including recipe kits with ingredients will be delivered by Pink Orange to homes. There will be activity and craft equipment as well as an activity booklet tailored to two age ranges 5-10 and 11+.

The activity boxes will be supplemented by a bespoke online offer which will include cooking, physical activity, wellbeing, arts and creative sessions. These will be delivered by a mix of NCC services and external providers, and many will use the contents of the box.

Scams: We are hearing of increasing incidents of covid related scams across the County and would ask people to be aware. There are ones that offer so called home cleaning for “virus decontamination” and some offering vaccines for a cost. Please spread the word and make residents, particularly vulnerable ones aware.

Only the NHS are doing covid vaccinations, they won't turn up at your door unannounced or ask you to prove your identity. There are also a lot of scams claiming to be HMRC either with a tax refund or claiming you're being investigated.

Please make sure vulnerable residents know to never give out their personal details during an unexpected phone call or to click on links from unexpected emails. If anyone you know has been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud on their website or call 0300 123 2040.

Visit: <https://friendsagainstscams.org.uk> for more info on scams and how to avoid them.

The devastating tree cutting on the A47 by Highways England was raised and lot's of complaints had been received. Help on completing the census forms was available at local libraries. On call firefighters are required.

Other news:

Trees – The trees have been delivered so I can deliver them anytime, as long as I know where or when! I could even be persuaded to help with planting if necessary. (Will bring a spade and associated husband to use it!) – Cllrs Brooks, Eveleigh, Bliss and Green offered assistance with the planting and Cllr Brooks to arrange delivery with Cllr Squire.

Cllr Brooks raised the point on the Market Lane charge of £3k per parish council and asked for a breakdown of the costs involved. Cllr Squire will ask for details.

7.3 Play Area - Follow up on dog fouling and it was reported that the gate is still left open on numerous occasions.

7.4 Community Centre– refurbishment as detailed last month has taken place and the car park has been damaged again. CCTV quoted are being obtained and a new alarm system has been installed.

7.5 The next edition of the Crier should be in April and last date for submissions is Tuesday 16th of March. The website was viewed 677 times in February with top pages – Home, Planning, Crier, Minutes, Parish Council, Latest News, Walking, Contact us, Agendas and Community Centre.

7.6 Footpaths and Circular Walks – no change from last month.

7.7 The Community Fund Projects Working Group have not met but it was advised that the Christmas Tree survived the recent storms.

7.8 Communications/Correspondence:

- a. Damaged lamp post on Springfield Road – advised that the light is still awaited.
- b. Citizens Advise Bureau donation agreed at £100 on the understanding it was spent in the West Norfolk area.

- c. Councillor vacancy can go ahead from 15th of March and clerk to provide information for website and noticeboards.
- d. Enso Energy - SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY – would like to discuss the project with the Parish Council and parishioners. It was agreed to offer 30 minutes before the next meeting on the 8th of April (from 7 -7.30pm)

8. Planning

- 8.1 Construction of garage to accommodate Historic Military vehicle at Mapherson Lodge, Mill Road was discussed and supported. Proposed Cllr Lawty, seconded Cllr Campion- all in favour.
- 8.2 Removal or variation of condition 1 of permission at plot 4, Eastlands Bank. This was supported as the amendments were still in keeping with the original application and proposed by Cllr Lawty, seconded Cllr Campion, and all in favour.
- 8.3 Single Storey Porch Extension at 33 Springfield Road was supported with Cllr Campion proposing and Cllr Brooks seconding – all in favour.
- 8.4 Amendments to the proposed dwelling at Plumridge Nurseries, Mill Road. This did not come until after the agenda had been sent out and was advised by the clerk to all councillors.
This raised a somewhat heated discussion with Cllr Lawty against the application as per our last meeting and the following questions raised by the planning officer. After several minutes Cllr Bliss proposed acceptance with Cllr Eveleigh seconding. The vote to accept support was 5 in favour, 1 against (Cllr Lawty) and 2 abstentions (Cllrs Green & Blunt).
- 8.5 The appeal at Cedar View, Walnut Road to be followed up by Cllr Blunt. ACTION RB
- 8.6 Cllr Lawty raised the issue of the “amenity land” on Springfield Road. As this was not on the agenda or requested to be added, it will be for discussion on the April agenda.

9. Finance

- 9.1 To approve the Financial Reports for February including the Bank Reconciliation, Bank Statements, and payments/receipts – proposed Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr Brooks and agreed by all present.
- 9.2 To approve the proposed payments to be made in March – proposed Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr Brookes and agreed by all present.
Payments: Staff Costs £340.56, EE £20.00, Eon £58.82 and K&M Lighting £27.54 via direct debit. ICO £40.00, NPTS £182.45, KLWNBC £924,24, NALC £252.36.
- 9.3 The clerk advised that due to year end, there would be further payments to authorise before the end of March. ACTION CB
- 10. Items for next agenda –Willow Trees, Flooding/Drainage, Bin quotes, Church Wall,
- 11. The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th of April 2021 from 19.00 hrs via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 21.07pm