

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Richard Green(RG) ,Andy Bliss (AB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS) and Charles Boston(CB)

County Councillor - Julian Kirk (JK)

Clerk – Caroline Boyden

5 members of the Public

Welcome from Chairman to everyone.

Public Participation – to allow public participation (3 minutes per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total).

Comments were given regarding the application 21/01596/CU | Change of use from agricultural field to private equestrian paddock | Land Off Church Road Walpole St Peter. The Parish Council had supported the application with comments on any buildings must have planning permission. The member of the public raised concern that there may be contamination on part of the land and although no trees on the site, a hedgerow was in situ. The entrance to the field had 3 gates, 2 from other properties, and questioned why a soakaway was on the application. Concerns were raised that this was the start of a long term plan for planning to build a property. The Parish Council advised that Cllr Blunt has called this application in and it would go to the planning committee. Any members of the public could attend the hearing and there was still time to put in comments on the planning portal.

A copy of the Parish Council maps/information on footpaths in the parish was requested and AE will provide.

1. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:

Cllr Lawty due to holiday, & Cllr Robinson due to illness and Cllr Campion due to work commitments.

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.

RG – Solar Farm planning application

WB – Parish Hall planning application

4. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th of July 2021 were proposed by AB, seconded by CB and approved by all present.

5. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:

5.1 Willow Trees update – Confirmed vote to accept quote of £2,480.00 by a majority.

5.2 Flooding update – following the email from JK, he will ask if the IDB will send letters to all the residents, and it was agreed that a general notice should be put in The Crier regarding that is an offence to put household/garden rubbish in the ditches. JK to see if the IDB have any suitable words for this notice. ACTION JK

5.3 Churchyard wall repairs – the clerk reported that no response had been received from Church conservation or conservation team at Borough. Clerk to chase and add to next agenda. ACTION CB

- 5.4 Clerk advised that a new Road Safety Community Fund was due to be signed off within the next two weeks and this could provide funding towards the costs of the Market Lane speed reduction.
- 5.5 The Woodland Trust Trees to be added to the next agenda due to absences.
- 5.6 The litter pick to be added to the next agenda due to absences.

6. To receive reports:

- 6.1 Councillors' reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
 AB advised that he had not had any response to his email and the current filling of potholes was not working as the loose chippings were dispersed quickly. JK advised all pothole reports were logged onto a computer which was given to the driver and if a pothole was not logged, then it was not filled.
 AE advised a member of the public had advised that the new houses on Eastlands Bank have no verges as their front gardens went up to the road. Some stones had been placed on the front and this is a liability on the homeowner. It was decided that a notice of this should be added to the Crier.
- 6.2 County and Borough Councillors reports:
 Cllr Kirk gave the following report:
 Borough meetings are being held at the Town Hall and on zoom. £1k has been given to all councillors to use as a hardship fund for small household items. The Town Hall Trafalgar Dinner is in October and costs are £30 per ticket for the Mayors charity.
 County meetings are in person at County Hall and some on zoom still. £10m has been given for road repairs. An under road design for preventing the Welney Wash flooding has been put forward but the costs are £m's.
 No report was received from Cllr Blunt.
- 6.3 Play Area – The CiL funding has been received and the maintenance has already started with the zip wire. This item should be under guarantee and awaiting a report back from Fenland.
- 6.4 Community Centre – no update received.
- 6.5 Village Crier – The editor was thanked for an excellent job and a request was made for more local stories and photographs.
 Website views: 503 in August with Home 257, Planning 89, Crier 26, Parish Council 33, Latest News 11, Minutes 24, Agendas 7, Walking 10, Contact Us 16.
- 6.6 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE had sent details of damages to the clerk, who had forwarded onto County. Marsh Lane to Wisbech Road has been cleared but an increase in dog fouling was apparent.
- 6.7 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – no change from last month with exception of the Christmas Tree damage. It is hoped it will survive.
- 6.8 SAM 2 latest report – AE advised that the latest results from Swingfield showed 32.8mph as average speed. Unit now on Market Lane going out of the village. Clerk to chase Highways on new sites. ACTION CB
- 6.9 Communications/Correspondence:
 - a. Parish Partnership – white gates update – AB & AE had provided the information requested via the clerk and now awaiting the installation.
 - b. Parish Partnership 21/22 – councillors asked to consider any applications for review at the next meeting.

c. Speeding on Church Road – the Speedwatch team have completed one set of observations on the 9th of September from 16.00 – 17.00 and reported 28 vehicles with no breaking of the speed limit.

d. Clerk advised all Policies & Procedures had been checked during August and reviews will take place every August when more time is available.

e. Walnut and West Drove Road rubbish bins – these require removal as Borough will no longer empty them. Proposed WB, seconded CB and approved by all present. Clerk to request

M. Neal to remove.

ACTION CB

7. Planning:

7.1 Installation of solar farm and battery storage – It was agreed to object to this application on the ground of the effect on the environment, huge increase in HGV's on the narrow roads, damage to roads, concerns to residents and concerns of the increase in the site size.

7.2 Demolition of Village Hall and replacement with new Hall – agreed to support this application as a well-used village asset.

7.3 Proposed single storey front and rear extension 73 Springfield – agreed to support this as in line with other similar applications in the past.

7.4 2 side extensions, demolition of garage and new boundary wall with gate at 8 Holt Court – agreed to support this as considered still in keeping with the location.

7.5 Amendment to supported application at Land Holme Farm, King John Bank – as already supported the main application, this is in keeping with that application and supported. All above proposed by AB, seconded WB and approved by all present.

8. Finance:

8.1 Approve payments and record receipts for July and August 21.

8.2 Approve bank reconciliations and statements for July and August 21.

8.3 Approve payments for September.

All above proposed by AB, seconded HS and approved by all present.

Allotments – annual invoicing due and no increase agreed this year. Electricity price increase discussed and agreed 23% increase from e-on.

9. To receive items for next agenda:

M & M Cleaning – to advise when cleaning and look at bench seats & bin enclosures cleaning.

To discuss Walpole Parish Council meeting location.

Play Area update.

Market Lane survey costs update.

Queens Platinum Jubilee.

10. Next Meeting 14th of October 2021 at the Community Centre from 7.00pm.

Meeting ended at 20.48