

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Community Centre, on Wednesday 11th of November 2021 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Richard Green (RG), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), Charles Boston(CB), Charlene Campion (CC)- left at 20.12, Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Blunt (RB). Cllr Kirk (JK) 20.08

Clerk – Caroline Boyden (CFB)

4 members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chairman to everyone.

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

- a. Comments were received against the planning policy, and this will be removed from the website. RG thanked the member of the public for the comments and the planning issues regarding dates falling between meetings will be discussed further. It was noted that extensions, in the past, had not always been granted but RB advised that the planning department was extremely busy, and dates can go over.
- b. A thank you for the speed watch and SAM unit on Church Road which has seen a noticeable reduction in the speed of vehicles.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr Robinson & Lawty – illness.

3. 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.

4. Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations. WB – Parish Hall item 6.5

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th of October 2021 were proposed by AE, seconded by WB and approved by all present.

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

6.1 Neighbourhood Plan update – the clerk had sent out information on consultants and RB advised that the CIL contribution would rise to 25% with a plan. It was stressed that a Steering Committee would require setting up, consisting of residents and 1-2 parish councillors. It is a long term commitment and clerk to invite consultants to discuss options in the new year.

6.2 Planning working party – this was discussed and this had not worked in the past so it was decided not to proceed with this proposal.

- 6.3 Litter Pick Proposal – CC advised no update as yet but to keep this item on the agenda and RB advised that a meeting at Borough next week will confirm that they will collect bags from a litter pick. CC to ask JK for equipment loan including Hi-Viz jackets.
- 6.4 Clerk advised that there was a new scheme called Road Safety Community Fund via County and requested that this item be discussed later in the meeting when JK was present.
- 6.5 Parish Hall funding review – WB gave an update:
The Parish hall has reapplied for planning for the new hall, and we have the services of an architect. We are awaiting confirmation from the Borough Council.
We have not been able to do any fund raising over the last 18 months due to Covid, but the monthly tombola's have not restarted under a new team of organisers.
Other events will hopefully start in the New Year.
After paying for the planning application renewal of £1414.00, we have a balance of £33,474.35 in the rebuild account. The rebuild is anticipated to cost £250,000.

7. To receive reports:

- 7.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
 The clerk confirmed that the following items from last month have been reported to Highways and had been advised that a representative had been on site:
 - a. Junction on Chalk Road and Church Road – potholes
 - b. Flooding outside Washdyke House caused by excessive surface water.
 - c. West Drove Junction – potholes and white lines have worn away.
 The overhanging hedge on Church Road had now been cut back.
 The question of maintenance of the Willow Trees was raised and this to be reviewed in the Spring of 2022.
 The condition of the footpath and drives on the new homes on Church Road was discussed as considered not built to standard. The enforcement team to be advised and the clerk requested photographs. ACTION RB/CFB
 The drainage on Wisbech and Chalk Road was discussed as some of the dyke has been cleared. AB to provide photographs for the clerk. ACTION AB/CFB

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports

Cllr Blunt gave the following report:

The enforcement of fly tipping and litter was going ahead. A new Community Grant Scheme of £1000 per Borough Councillor is in place and covers requirements for communities, charities but not parish councils. The process is to be confirmed asap and the councillors will decide on the merits of each application.
 Planning is very busy and there is a delay in processing at the moment due to the increased workload.

- 7.3 Play Area – The Clerk advised that Fenland had been out to inspect the items on the 8th and was awaiting their report. The parish council are under the impression that a number of the problems are under warranty.
- 7.4 Community Centre – no meeting held this month, therefore no report.
- 7.5 Village Crier – The December edition is underway.

Website views – In October, the website was viewed 666 times with the top 10 viewed pages - Home: 230, Planning Application: 116, Policies: 57, Crier: 48, Minutes: 47, Parish Council: 28, Agendas: 22, Latest News: 14, Walking: 19, Contact Us: 11.

- 7.6 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – no change from last month and AE is working on rewriting the circular walks with maps etc.
- 7.7 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – no change from last month
- 7.8 SAM 2- Church Road location reports show a maximum speed of 50mph by 1 vehicle, but the 85% percentile is 30.5mph. AE to provide location of damaged post.
- 7.9 Communications/Correspondence:
 - a. Parish Partnership 21/22 – The clerk had completed the form for an additional SAM unit, and this was proposed by RB, seconded WB and all in favour.
 - b. M & M cleaning have quoted £10 each to clean the benches and outside of the bin enclosures. Proposed AB, seconded AE and all in favour for twice a year. Clerk to advise and request that they let us know when they are coming to clean the bus shelters.

8. Planning:

Applications: None

Appeal – Highway Cottage on Pycroft Lane has had the appeal allowed. 21/00025/REF

The enforcement for Cley cottage continues with no update received. It was noted that work continues on the development.

Following the last meeting, the clerk had put request to enforcement regarding work at the “Jade Tearoom” on Market Lane and this has been acknowledged by Enforcement.

9 Finance:

- 9.1 Approve payments and record receipts for October 21. proposed HS, seconded WB and approved by all present.
- 9.2 Approve bank reconciliations and statements for October 21. proposed by AE, seconded by HS and approved by all present. Bank Reconciliation shows £61,381.94
- 9.3 Approve payments for November. Proposed HS, seconded WB and approved by all present.
- 9.4 The first draft of the budget for 22/23 was discussed and increases on contractors and IDB due to the additional costs of moving from red diesel could be as much as 50%. Clerk to update the relevant categories and issue 2nd draft. The precept to be finalised at the December meeting. (currently working on 2.5% for information only)

Item 6.4 – JK to put forward our application for funding on this new scheme which will be used on the Market Lane project.

10. To receive items for next agenda:

Draft Budget 22/23

Members of the public to be reminded that they can only speak during the allocated public participation section, unless given permission by the Chairman.

11. Next Meeting 9th of December 2021 at the Community Centre from 7.00pm.

Meeting ended at 20.36