

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

An interview took place from 6.45 to 7.00pm for the vacancy of Parish Councillor and the vacancy remains open.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Community Centre, on Wednesday 14th October 2021 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Richard Green (RG), David Lawty (DL), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), Charles Boston (CB), Charlene Campion (CC), Claire Robinson (CR), Richard Blunt (RB) 7.22pm.

Clerk – Caroline Boyden (CFB)

5 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 made regarding the September meeting which was moved to a later date due to the clerk suffering an asthma attack. The clerk has delegated authority to make decisions on planning applications that have dates falling between meetings, in consultation with parish councillors by email or telephone. If an application has “been called in”, comments can be considered up to the Thursday before the planning committee meeting on the following Monday.

A copy of the definitive maps for the Walpoles was requested and this will be sent to the member of the public.

b. Questions were raised regarding the application 21/01596/CU -Change of use from agricultural field to private equestrian paddock on land off Church Road Walpole St Peter. It was explained that the Borough Council run the planning committee meetings and they only allow one member of the public to speak per application. This application has a new reference number and is back on the planning portal for comments.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr Kirk – illness, Cllr Bliss – another meeting commitment.

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. DL – Community Centre & WB – Parish Hall

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 22nd of September 2021 were proposed by HS, seconded by AE and approved by all present.

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

6.1 Flooding update – Confirmation via a report from JK that the IDB have sent letters out to all identified residents on Church Road regarding them of their riparian responsibilities.

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Signed

Date

- 6.2 Churchyard wall repairs – the clerk had contacted the conservation team at Borough, but no response received to date. This to be reviewed in early Spring 2022.
- 6.3 Clerk advised that there was no update from Highways re the new Road Safety Community Fund. RB advised that the forthcoming CIL funding could cover 50% of the costs and applications were due in January 2022. This was proposed by DL, seconded by WB and approved by all present. Clerk to ask Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council to join on this application. ACTION CFB
- 6.4 The Chair read out a request from the Community Centre regarding the “Million Trees for Norfolk” campaign. They would be looking for 80 trees and possible hedging (as per appendix 1). Clerk to contact JK as the deadline for first orders is 31st October 2021. Proposed AE, seconded RB. Majority approval with DL abstaining. ACTION JK/CFB
- 6.5 The litter pick to go ahead and CC and CR to discuss dates and equipment etc. and advise at the November meeting. ACTION CC/CR
- 6.6 Clerk reported that the allotment invoices had been sent out and 2 payments had been received so far. The policies and procedures had been checked in line with NALC, where relevant, and three had been amended this month in line with new guidelines. The venue for Parish Council meetings was discussed and RB proposed a 12 month trial at the Parish Hall, this was seconded by CB and had a majority approval with WB & DL abstaining. The Clerk advised that the current agreement with the Community Centre ended in 2021 and, therefore, the first meeting at the Parish Hall would be January 2022. The date will be the first Thursday of the month, exception being August.

7. To receive reports:

- 7.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
 - The clerk was asked to report the following potholes and highways issues:
 - 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.
 - HS advised that the footpath on Springfield Road had a large hedge overhanging, causing problems with accessing the footpath. A letter to be written to the owner and the clerk requested the property number.
 - The 2 “condemned” bins had now been removed and WB advised that a member of the public had thanked him.
 - Rangers jobs for November – CC advised that the bin areas needed cutting back and AE advised that the TROD and Wisbech Road had been cut back but more could be taken back. WB requested that the road signage be washed.
 - CB advised that a parishioner had complained about the hedge on a property opposite the church entrance (St. Peters) had been cut but the arch has exposed a wasps nest. Clerk to write to the homeowner. ACTION CFB
 - Note 19.53 CC left the meeting, returning at 19.56

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports

ClIr Blunt gave the following report:
 As discussed earlier, the CIL funding will return early 2022 which offers a match funding opportunity for anything to do with the “Community”.
 Changes are currently going through cabinet regarding fly tipping including enforcement and tracking. The Borough would also collect bags from litter picking.

- 7.3 Play Area – The agreed maintenance will continue after the half term.
- 7.4 Community Centre – the CCTV is up and running and it is hoped it will prevent any future vandalism. The damage to the remembrance bench was mentioned and DL will check the CCTV footage. ACTION DL
- 7.5 Village Crier – The latest edition had been printed and was currently being delivered. CC advised that the social media page had 131 followers. Website views: In September the website was viewed 654 times with the top 10 viewed pages - Home: 244, Planning Application: 104, Crier: 55, Minutes: 47, Parish Council: 43 Agendas: 31, Latest News: 22, Walking: 15, Contact Us: 11, Walpole Calendar: 11
- 7.6 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – the damaged finger posts have been reported to NCC but no response received as yet.
- 7.7 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – no change from last month
- 7.8 SAM 2- approval had been received for a post on Church Road to be used and AE raised number plate recognition was now available. AE to provide further information at the next meeting. ACTION AE
- 7.9 Communications/Correspondence:
- Parish Partnership 21/22 – as point 7.8 an additional unit could be applied for.
 - Speeding on Church Road update – the Speedwatch team did not have 1 speeding vehicle but plan to include Church Road in the future.
 - Christmas Parade – CC advised that due to family issues she would be unable to run or take part this year. HS raised the point that due to Covid, it probably should not go ahead this year.
 - Remembrance Sunday – Cllr Bliss had ordered the normal 2 wreaths for each church, and we will have an additional wreath from Cllr Kirk. DL proposed the £100 donation, CC seconded, and all were in favour.
 - Neighbourhood Plan – the Chair raised this for discussion and RB advised that funding was available for employing a specialist to work on the plan and it would bring all the Walpoles together. Clerk to investigate further. ACTION CFB note. RG left the meeting at 20.14, returning at 20.20

8. Planning:

Applications:

- 8.1 Ref 21/01803/FM – temporary planning application (30 years) for battery energy storage. It was thought that the lack of information on where the cabling was to be placed affected any decision and this objection was proposed by DL, seconded by AE and approved by majority vote.
- 8.2 Application to extend skip storage at The Nursery, Marsh Road. This was proposed by DL for acceptance, seconded by AD and approved by all.
- 8.3 Ref. 21/01442/FM Installation of solar farm and battery storage(revised traffic report) – It was agreed to continue 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. The traffic report offered no change in this respect. Proposed AE, seconded CB and approved by majority vote.

- 8.4 Ref 21/01596/CU – change of use from Agricultural field to private equestrian paddock at land off Church Road. This is the new application but shows 2 conflicting plans and needs amending. The clerk had spoken to a planning officer earlier today to advise of this issue. RB requested that the clerk email Stuart Ashworth and the assigned planning officer advising of this issue and copy RB on the email. ACTION CFB

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

9 Finance:

- 9.1 Approve payments and record receipts for September 21. proposed AE, seconded HS and approved by all present.
- 9.2 Approve bank reconciliations and statements for September 21. proposed by AE, seconded by CB and approved by all present.
- 9.3 Approve payments for October. Proposed DL, seconded AE and approved by all present.
- 9.4 The half year review was discussed, and approval proposed by AE, seconded by CC and approved by all present.

10. To receive items for next agenda:

Set up of a Planning Working Party

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

Market Lane survey costs update.

Draft Budget 22/23

Parish Hall funding report on grant given by the Parish Council and update on rebuild.

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 11th November 2021 at the Community Centre from 7.00pm.

Meeting ended at 20.47