

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on
Thursday 6th of October 2022 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Charles Boston (CBN) -7.14), Andy Bliss (AB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Richard Green (RG), Richard Blunt (RB), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), David Lawty (DL), Charlene Campion (CC), Paul Blandford (PB) and Claire James (CJ) and Julian Kirk (JK).

Clerk – Caroline Boyden (CB)

6 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). Agenda items only not including planning:

- a. Queried a comment made at the last meeting “on a footpath moving to Wisbech”, misleading advice on watercourses/drainage. Highways have riparian rights and duties and obstruction is an offence. RB advised that this is correct and planning goes to statutory consultees.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: CBN on route

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 & RG on planning application

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st of September 2022 were proposed by DL, seconded by AE and approved by all present at that meeting.

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

6.1 ENSO Energy update – CJ has contacted Enso to arrange a site visit but no response as yet. RG advised that he knows the locations.

6.2 Maintenance required to the play area following annual inspection. It was thought that the timber should be allowed to expand before any tightening etc., is carried out. The clerk advised that metal equipment is available but extremely costly and it was agreed that quotes to be arranged as and when replacement equipment is required.

Reports of glass in the play area had been received but upon inspection, nothing found. HS advised that the school were aware of the overgrown hedge and still awaiting contact from their contractor. The clerk to send out a letter to school regarding health and safety and obtain a quote from one of our contractors to send to the school. ACTION CB

6.3 Civility & Respect Pledge – clerk advised that whilst this was a good policy, the support of continued lobbying could be a problem and further information required.

6.4 Sutton Bridge Power Fund Representative – WB advised that he would take this on and was thanked.

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Signed

Date

6.5 The completion of the St. Andrews church wall has taken place, and all agreed that it looks great. Mr. Neal was thanked for his work on the project.

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Councillors' reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.

- a. A letter has been received from a local farmer to take on all of the vacant allotments. A notice will be in the next Crier and a decision is required at the November meeting.
- b. The replacement light is ready for installation but having to wait for a date from UK Power networks for a connection date. The insurance claim has been paid.

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports:

Clr Blunt – Information on the next CIL funding has been sent out with funding simplified to below £30k and above £30k. Applications have to be sent early January 2023 and new categories have been added.

MVV Medworth – details as sent out by the clerk – RB advised that we should register concerns with the waste/transport issues and potential infrastructure damage.

The Local Plan is now at the pre-examination stage and due to move to next stage in December 22.

Clr Kirk – Advised that Andy Wallace from Highways is due to make field visits.

No update on the Market Lane speed limit introduction and at a recent planning meeting, Highways were not aware of it!

7.3 Clerk Report –

- a. All allotment letters/invoices have been sent out at the end of September and some payments already received. Planning training had been attended via NPTS and found to be very useful.

7.4 Village Crier – Latest version just collected and awaiting delivery.

The website was viewed 348 times in September with top 10: Home: Minutes, Parish Council, Annual Reports/Accounts, Planning Applications, Agendas, Walking, Crier, News, Contact, Financial Statements.

CC reported that the Facebook page was not very active at this time with only 2 responses for litter picking.

7.5 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE Follens Road to Eastlands Bank had been cut back.

AE produced a list of new signage including Dunces Lane/School Lane, Dunces Lane/Chalk Road, Pyecroft Lane/Bustards Lane and Bustards Lane/Joyce Lane. JK will look to fund these new signs.

ACTION JK

7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – AB had sent out information regarding a future project to tidy up the corner of the Swingfield/Almshouses, replacing the old gate and wire fence with a brick wall, or metal fence or wooden post and rail. AB to request a quote from Mr. Neal for discussion at the next meeting. Funding will be required. CIL project?

ACTION AB

7.7 SAM 2- latest report from The Marsh IN for September: 85th percentile 38.2 with 4.763 counts. Max speed 55mph. Total vehicles 5,603. Unit now on Frenchs Road IN Clerk to chase Andy Wallace re additional posts.

ACTION CB

7.8 Neighbourhood Plan update – Mr. P Cotton:

- a. Clerk work cannot be reimbursed by the NDP funding and additional hours to be paid by the Parish Council.
- b. Mr. Cotton had viewed a number of NDP's countrywide and all had at least 1 parish councillor on the steering committee. PB offered to be on the steering committee with RB as an advisor.

- c. Mr. Cotton is now Chairman with a Vice Chair and secretary in place.
- d. The Parish online database did not show all of the allotments or bins so not used.
- e. AECON online meetings had taken place with a site visit to be arranged.
- f. A meeting was held on the 28th of September and first contact sheets to be attached to the December Crier. The next meeting will be on the 10th of October.
- g. A table will be at the Church Fair to liaise with the public and also at the Christmas celebration at St. Andrews church.

The use of the Parish online database was recommended as it shows land registry and our allotment land.

7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

- a. The SAAA notice regarding opting out of the approved External Auditor was discussed and it was agreed not to opt out – proposed DL, seconded AE and all in favour.
- b. 50:50 partnership – Noticeboards are not included but maybe CIL?
- c. The BCKLWN Thinking fuel scheme information to be added to the website.

8. Planning:

8.1 Applications: (WB was asked to leave the meeting)

22/014696/O - Outline application for a new residential development at land adjacent to Roseville, Chalk Road, Walpole St. Peter. The initial application from January 2022 was supported by the Parish Council and the changes are to 106 amendment. Although currently outside of the boundary, it could be inside with the forthcoming Local Plan.

NOTE. CC left at 8.28

CJ raised concerns regarding schooling, amenities.

The high specification of the properties included air source heating, triple glazing, grey water recycling etc. Proposal to support by AB, seconded PB with a majority vote of 6 in favour, 1 abstain and 1 against. Support carried.

CBN had received concerns from some councillors that the current planning working group was not working as meetings were not minutes or open members of the public. RG would like more time spent on planning as it was a key role for the parish council.

A Planning Committee was proposed by DL, seconded by CJ and 5 in favour with 3 abstain. Moving to a Committee would give full transparency with any meetings outside of the usual monthly PC meetings requiring an agenda and to be minuted. The meetings can be online with members of the public able to join, or in the case of a larger application, via an additional meeting in the hall.

DI & CJ were voted onto the Planning Committee.

8.2 Decisions: (For information):

22/01357/F | VARIATION OF CONDITION 4 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 20/01508/FM: Installation of renewable led energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements | Land S of Walpole Substation Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew Norfolk APPLICATION PERMITTED.

22/00438/FM | Development of an energy storage installation and associated development to allow for the storage, importation and exportation of energy to the National Grid. | Land Opposite Walpole Sub Station Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew Norfolk.

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

Land At East Marsh S of Gunthorpe Road W of Flowers Farm and Frenchs Road The Marsh Walpole St Andrew Norfolk- Installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure Ref. No: 22/00013 APPEAL IN PROGRESS
22/00047/REF | Retrospective planning application for partially constructed side porch, raised patio, detached garage, new access and change of use of a small part of the existing agricultural grassland, to host the proposed garage | Cley Cottage The Marsh Walpole St Andrew WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7JG APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL

9. Finance:

- 9.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for September 22. Proposed AE, seconded RG and all in favour. Bank Reconciliation shows £59,487.41
- 9.2 Approval of payments for October – due to the meeting being so early in the month, the clerk will issue a further payment listing later in the month.
- 9.3 It was agreed to pay the invoice for the completion of the Church wall 50:50 from the Solar Fund and current account. Proposed DK, seconded HS and all in favour.

NOTE an extension to 9.15pm was agreed – proposed AE, seconded AB and all in favour.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

- a. Strimming required – corner of Chalk Road, Market Lane and Wisbech Road plus the Jubilee Triangle and village gateways.
 - b. Playground equipment -hedging/maintenance
- Any other items to be sent to the clerk 8 days before the next meeting date.

11. Public Participation –

Issue with planning procedures was raised
Mr. Cotton resigned as Chairman of the NDP Steering Committee.

12. Next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 3rd of November 2022 at the Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 21.07