

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on Thursday 3rd February 2022 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Andy Bliss – Chairman for meeting, (AB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), Charles Boston(CBN), Richard Blunt (RB). Cllr Kirk (JK)

Clerk – Caroline Boyden (CB)

3 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).

None

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr Green -holiday, Cllr Lawty – other commitment, Cllr Campion – family 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 & planning application 21/02490/O

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th of January 2022 were proposed by AE, seconded by HS and approved by all present at that meeting.

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

6.1 Neighbourhood Plan update – Clerk advised only 1 response received regarding the online training.

6.2 Market Lane traffic proposal – no update yet but thought a decision due this month.

6.3 Parish Hall Risk Assessments – no comments received.

6.4 CIL Funding for the play area – this has had to be put back to the next round in May due to further information required on the surfacing and new equipment as identified by Fenland.

7. To receive reports:

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

a. Several complaints had been received regarding the new “white gates” not showing Walpole Marsh. CBN raised the issue of the traffic from the grid station getting misled with the signage and to put white gates on all our borders would not help, cause confusion, and prove very expensive.

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Signed

Date

The potholes as reported are still outstanding. AB advised that some tarmac had been laid on Gooses Lane and RB asked if the work by Highways was ever inspected. JK stated that NCC had no idea just how bad the condition of our roads is.

AB requested that additional cleaning was required at the bus shelter at Wisbech Road.

The noticeboard on Walnut Road requires some attention. Clerk to ask Mick to check.

ACTION CB

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports

Cllr Blunt gave the following report:

The Planning Department was working flat out, and applications were taking longer due to staff shortages. Agency staff were being taken on to help and discussions were taking place with an outside company to provide staff.

RB advised that the £1k fund was still available and urged community projects to apply. A separate fund for Jubilee celebrations was now available. The celebrations at King’s Lynn were well underway and AB advised that the St. Andrews Church was considering a small event on Springfield. It was suggested that commemorative items could be available for the children and any ideas were welcome. A strawberry tea was also mentioned by WB.

The Borough is finalising the budget and it went to committee level earlier this evening and now goes onto Council.

Cllr Kirk gave an update on litter picking groups and he would be willing to support the first one. 1 hour at a time is considered best. Clerk to ask Cllr Champion for any update and a piece put in the next edition of the Crier.

A member of the public raised the ongoing issue of dog fouling and owners just dumping the bags in various sites throughout the village. It was agreed that an article is placed in the next Crier on this. RB advised that new larger dog bins were to be provided by Borough.

7.3 Clerk Report:

- a. Cllr Robinson has resigned from the Parish Council due to ongoing ill health and the clerk has advised electoral department. Notice to go on the website.
- b. CAB donation as approved at the last meeting – clerk has received notification that our donation will be used in the West Norfolk area.
- c. Missing fingerboards have been chased again but no update yet.
- d. As the noticeboards had only been repaired last year, replacements to be discussed in 2023.
- e. Defibrillator update – JK was thanked for his help, and we now have a new “guardian” for our machine, Mr. Andy Pover and he will check on a regular basis.

7.4 Community Centre – no update received.

7.5 Village Crier – A report has been received from the editor advising that several new advertisers have come on board and the publication goes from strength to strength. The services of a proof-reader are now available and any ideas or articles to be sent to

walpolevillagecrier@hotmail.com

The website also goes from strength to strength and there were 7215 views in 2021, with the top 10 consisting of Home, Planning, Crier, Minutes, Parish Council, Latest News, Walking, Agendas and Contact Us. The Clerk thanked Mr. Luck for all his hard work on the website updates and reports.

7.6 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – no change from last month but AE and AB to dig in a signpost.

7.7 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – no change from last month.

7.8 SAM 2- On the Marsh Road location reports show a maximum speed of 60mph by 1 vehicle, but the 85% percentile is 38.6mph. (40mph limit) Full details will be on the website.

7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

- a. Rebuilding of the St. Andrew's church wall – the clerk reported contact has now been made with Mr. King at the Conservation Department and the Diocese of Ely. A quote has been received from Mr. Neal for £20,480 and, if approved, this then goes to the Arch Deacon for his authorisation. This was proposed by AE, seconded by CBN and approved by all present. ACTION CB
- b. Walpole Marsh addresses as raised by Borough. It was agreed that the addresses should be the same and clerk to advise Borough. ACTION CB
RB to look at the Local Plan re Rural Service Centre status. ACTION RB

8. Planning:

8.1 Applications:

22/00091/FM | Installation of underground cabling and associated electrical infrastructure to connect connected solar development (ref H18-1126_20) to the Walpole National Grid Substation | Land Southeast of Walpole Sub Station Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew
Discussions on this application led to 3 key points for objection:

- a. Overhead Powerline at the Power Station – why can this not be used?
 - b. 5-6 months' work would affect the residents of Walpole Marsh and the increase in traffic would be detrimental to the roads.
 - c. Query the capacity at the substation.
- Objection proposed by WB, seconded AE and all present in favour.

22/00096/F | Proposed detached garage in rear garden, involving removal of existing garage. | Tarragate 4 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY
Support for this application proposed by CBN, seconded WB and all present in favour.

21/02490/O | Outline application for a new residential development | Land Adjacent Roseville Chalk Road Walpole St Peter Norfolk. **NOTE** Cllr Brookes withdrew from participation on this application.
Discussions were held on this with an email read out from Cllr Lawty by AB. Considerations to be given to the fact that this is outside the development boundary. Proposal to support was made by CBN, seconded by AE and approved by all councillors present, with comments that the Parish Council acknowledges it is outside the development boundary, but it is considered to enrich the village and area.
It was agreed that JK will call this in.

22/00011/F | Proposed single-storey side and rear extensions to dwelling, including demolition of exciting single-storey extension. | Townshend Farm Cottage Church Road Walpole St Peter WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7NS. **NOTE** Cllr Brookes resumed participation in the meeting.
Support for this application proposed by AE, seconded CBN and all present in favour.

NOTE – Clerk advised that a decision to extend the meeting for a further 15 minutes to 21.15pm should be made and all in agreement.

22/00003/LB and 22/00002/F – Conversion of existing un-used cottage to 2x2 bed holiday lets at Dovecote House, Church Road, Walpole St. Peter and the listed building thereof. Support for both applications proposed by AE and seconded by HS with all present in favour.

21/02483/F – Retrospective application at Cley Cottage – agreed that 3 councillors visit the location and advise the Parish Council of their findings.

8.2 No decisions to report.

8.3 Appeal – Highway Cottage on Pyecroft Lane has had the appeal allowed. 21/00025/REF
The enforcement for Cley cottage continues with no update received. See retrospective application above.

9. Finance:

9.1 Approve payments and record receipts for January 22. proposed HS, seconded AE and approved by all present.

9.2 Approve bank reconciliations and statements for January 22. proposed by HS, seconded by AE and approved by all present. Bank Reconciliation shows £57,130.99

9.3 Approval of payments for February. Proposed CBN, seconded HS and approved by all present. It is minuted that due to the early meeting dates in the month, payments may be received after the meeting and will be recorded retrospectively at the following meeting.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

- a. Church wall update
- b. Market Lane update
- c. Neighbourhood Plan Update

11. Next Meeting 3rd March 2022 at the Parish Hall from 7.00pm.

Meeting ended at 21.14

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Date