

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present :

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

Clerk – Caroline Boyden (CFB)

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).

- a. The decision to increase the precept was questioned and both the Qtr. 2 review and Community Centre finances mentioned. Regarding the reserves on the budget 22/23, DL advised that this included the costs for the repair to the church wall which could run into thousands of pounds and that the Community Centre allows access to the public on its grounds free of charge. A copy of the budget will be put on the website along with the Qtr. 3 review.
- b. A plea for all to work together as a community was made and all parishioners, groups etc., should look to help and support each other with bickering to stop. A very positive point made.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr Green due to 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. DL – Community Centre and WB – Parish Hall

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th of December 2021 were proposed by HS, seconded by AE and approved by all present at that meeting.

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

6.1 Neighbourhood Plan update – no update to report as awaiting details on funding from April 2022.

6.2 Market Lane traffic proposal – no update and expecting a report from Borough in February.

6.3 Members of the public giving their names at Parish Council meetings. This was raised by a member of the public at the December 21 meeting and the clerk advised that names can be given but are never minuted in line with our GDPR requirements. The press are not subject to this.

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Signed

Date

7. To receive reports:

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

a. The potholes as reported are still outstanding and it was agreed that the clerk will hold a listing of all reports but they must include exact location, images and sizes of potholes.

This will be sent to the Rangers/Saddlebow depot monthly and a copy held on the website.

ACTION ALL

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports

Cllr Blunt gave the following report:

The CIL funding applications should be sent out shortly and are due for return by the 31st of January 22. Clerk advised that no application forms have been received to date and RB will check.

ACTION RB

The importance of holding reserves was made clear with the ongoing responsibilities.

Cllr Kirk advised that the average precept was 5% on most of his parish councils and more fly tipping had taken place recently and been reported. There would be a large increase not only in electricity but also with grounds maintenance companies having to use white diesel from the new financial year and this could increase costs by 50%. 2022 would be a tight year.

7.3 Clerk Report:

a. The presentation of the community plaque had been requested originally in August 21 and the Deputy Lieutenant Nicolas Pratt, will make the presentation, hopefully at the February meeting. Clerk to arrange for 6.45pm.

ACTION CB

b. Request from a member of the public at the December meeting for maps showing the Parish Council owned allotment land in hand and are awaiting clarification. It was suggested that these are put on the website with a link in the Crier.

ACTION CB/CB

c. The May and June meeting dates require amending due to bank holidays and it was agreed to hold them on Wednesday 11th of May and Wednesday the 8th of June. Clerk to amend the dates and advise website.

ACTION CB

d. The precept as agreed at the December meeting has been sent to Borough.

e. Regarding the forthcoming CIL funding applications, it was decided to go for the playground equipment updates and discussions on the ground included looking for replacements to the bark which did not last long. Options to include recycled materials where possible and Clerk to discuss with Fenland as quotes need to be received within 10 days and to also include the entrance by the gate.

ACTION CB

It was also agreed to look into replacing the noticeboards as they have no doors and the contents are subjected to the elements. Clerk to look into this further.

ACTION CB

7.4 Community Centre – no meeting held this month, but a meeting is expected in February.

7.5 Village Crier – The February edition closes for articles on the 17th of January and would welcome any stories, historical or recent. The parish council Facebook page is also always looking for information and gradually growing.

7.6 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – no change from last month and the clerk was requested to chase NCC on the fingerposts.

ACTION CB

- 7.7 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – no change from last month, all quiet.
 CC mentioned that consideration to be given to Christmas baubles which are signed and coloured by the local children. Thought to be a great idea and to be discussed in the autumn.
- 7.8 SAM 2- Church Road location reports show a maximum speed of 55mph by 1 vehicle, but the 85% percentile is 32.2mph. Full details will be on the website. **ACTION CB**
 AE advised that 2 new sets of brackets had been ordered by the clerk.
 Unit now on Marsh Road.
- 7.9 Communications/Correspondence:
 - a. Parish Partnership 21/22 – The clerk had chased NCC again regarding the installation of the white gates and was advised that a shortage of certain materials had led to a delay but hopeful for installation in February.
 Email from DL regarding the Parish Hall risk assessment. This was discussed in some details including the plastic sheeting used for condensation purposes and there was some confusion as to whether a risk assessment was necessary. It was agreed that the clerk and AB will investigate. **ACTION CB/AB**
 A request for a donation had been received from CAB and, as per last year, the clerk to request confirmation that the donation would be spent in West Norfolk and not Norwich. DL proposed a donation of £100 which was seconded by CBN, all in agreement subject to confirmation on spend. **ACTION CB**

8. Planning:

Applications:

- 21/02457/CM – County matters on extension to open skip storage area with 3.5m high earth bund (retrospective): M&M Services, Marsh Road. Support proposed by CBN, seconded DL and all in favour.
- 21/01809/F- 2 side extensions, demolition of garage and new boundary wall with gate at 8 Holt Court. This was supported and proposed by DL, seconded CBN and all in favour.

Decision permitted for 21/02008/F Mansefield, Marsh Road.

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.

9. Finance:

- 9.1 Approve payments and record receipts for December 21. proposed DL, seconded AE and approved by all present.
- 9.2 Approve bank reconciliations and statements for December 21. proposed by WB, seconded by CBN and approved by all present. Bank Reconciliation shows £57,466.51
- 9.3 Approval of payments for January. Proposed CBN, seconded DL 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.
- 9.4 The Qtr. 3 financial report was discussed, and the non-budget items covered over £6k. Proposed acceptance by CBN, seconded AE and approved by all present.

10. To receive items for next agenda:

- a. CIL funding application(s)
- b. Market Lane update
- c. Neighbourhood Plan Update

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

NOTE presentation of the Community Plaque from 6.45 to be confirmed.

Meeting ended at 20.37

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Date