

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on Thursday 7th of July 2022 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Charles Boston (CBN), Andy Bliss (AB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), Claire James (CJ), Richard Blunt (RB) 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 - NONE

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr Lawty - holiday, Cllr Green (received during the meeting)

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 – Finance (Churchyard payment)

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th of June 2022 were proposed by AB, seconded by WB and approved by all present at that meeting.

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

6.1 Neighbourhood Plan update – see item 7.8

6.2 ENSO Energy update – Cllr James has written to ENSO requesting a site visit and more information. No response as yet. Cllr James has downloaded both titles and found an option on one already in place.

6.3 Re-building of the St. Andrews Church Wall – Work due to start this month. AE raised the question of the fallen gravestones.

7. To receive reports:

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

a. AB and JK raised the issue of the overgrown verges throughout the parish and the clerk had received over 10 complaints regarding lack of visibility at junctions. 3 near misses were reported. JK will follow up on his email of last month to chase Jason at Highways and will copy AB & AE. ACTION JK

b. Clerk to check on the Rangers situation. ACTION CB

c. Highways – the work at Church Road/Chalk Road Junction and West Drove North Junctions, have been move to 8th – 11th August and 10th August respectively. We will need to close the West Drove North Junction on 10th August 2022 for 1 day to carry out carriageway resurfacing, Church Road/Chalk Road on 8th to 11th August 2022 for 4 days.

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Signed

Date

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports:

Cllr Blunt apologised for his slight lateness (7.07) and made the following points:

- a. The bid for CIL applications is now open and amendments will be made for the January 2023 application.
- b. Complaints re planning – a structure change is taking place with increasing staff levels and having North, South and Central areas. The department is still very busy and an increase in both enforcement and tree staff has been put in place. A new role has been created for Planning Information and another for Monitoring of Process. Extensive recruitment is taking place.
The scheme of delegation is changing and if an application changes, it will now go back out for consultation.
- c. Ward Councillors now automatically get a link for all planning applications.
- d. The application for the Wisbech Incinerator The consultation process is the next phase and the inspector will ask for sufficient consultation but there will only be 14 days to comment. We are just outside the 5km limit and should consider how close we are and have received no consultation.

Cllr Kirk as previously mentioned the verges are causing problems and was under the impression that the contractors were due in our parish. He will also check on when the Market Lane TRO comes into place.

JK raised real concerns regarding the current increase in Covid cases with several council workers being affected.

NOTE Cllrs AE and RB left the meeting at 7.30 for 3 minutes.

7.3 Clerk Report – New Standing orders and all policies and procedures to be reviewed in August for approval at the September meeting.

Working on the NDP with Collective Community.

Training undertaken on Scribe, GDPR and networking.

Increase in complaints regarding the grass verges.

Website review commenced and a page for the NDP will be set up.

7.4 Village Crier – New edition is currently being edited. AE was thanked for adding the NDP flyers to the last edition and WB mentioned that there was not one in his Crier copy.

Website views in May 529.

CC advised that the Facebook page continues to see a rise in the likes. A litter pick was discussed and RB and JK agreed £100 each from their community grant for Hi-Viz jackets, litter pickers etc.

The website was viewed 418 times in June with top 10 : Home: 156, Minutes: 44, Parish Council: 37, Annual Reports/Accounts: 10, Planning Applications: 56, Agendas: 25, Crier: 13, Walking: 9. Mr. Luck was thanked for his continued work on the website.

7.5 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE reported that 2 finger posts have been replaced with one other still awaiting re-siting.

JK to look into funding the replacement footpath signs from his fund plus see if the church wall could be included. ACTION JK

7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – AB no change from last month and he is working on a project and will require the projector and screen, hopefully for the September meeting.

7.7 SAM 2- On Wisbech Road by Cherry Tree Farm incoming during June – 30mph with 22,774 vehicle count and percentile speed of 29.5mph. Maximum speed was 50mph. Now located on Church Road facing “in” and will switch round. AE will confirm new locations and Market Lane, Chalk Road, and Marsh Road asap.

7.8 Neighbourhood Development Plan.

a. CBN thanked Mr. Cotton for his work to date and the excellent turnout at the presentation by Collective Community. It was also a good chance to make parishioners aware of what the PC can do.

Mr Cotton explained working with the clerk on the printing of the leaflets and over 30 parishioners attended the presentation from all areas of the parish. No-one voted No but around 20 voted Yes for the plan to go ahead.

Mr. Cotton had 6 interested parishioners for the Steering Group and had contacted all. He also stated that he was willing to be Chair of the Steering Group. RB advised contacting the local parishes who had completed their NDP’s for ideas etc.

b. The quotation from Collective Community was discussed and acceptance to go ahead with the NDP was proposed by AE, seconded CC and all in favour.

c. The whole parish inclusion was proposed by AB, seconded CJ and all in favour.

d. AB proposed acceptance of the quote from Collective Community, CJ seconded, and all were in favour. Clerk to contact Borough and start the process. ACTION CB

7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

a. Freebridge letter re disposal of former homes on Folgate Lane – WB advised the plots are on Rightmove for auction at £80k per plot. PC to await planning applications.

b. 50:50 partnership – consider footpaths – more information required as to where etc.

c. Waterside Lodge car crash – JK has contacted Highways regarding the installation of a crash barrier. Clerk to also contact Highways on this. ACTION CB

d. Playground report (received after the agenda was issued), shows some work required and the clerk has requested a quotation from Fenland.

e. CBN raised the recent complaints received alleging travellers only to find that the caravan belonged to the landowner who had every right to be on his land.

8. Planning:

8.1 Applications:

22/00893/F – proposed new dwelling at 3 Lucky Lane. This was discussed and it was agreed to support the application with a note on night lights. Proposed AE, seconded WB and all in favour.

9. Finance:

9.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for June 22. Proposed AE, seconded AB and all in favour. Bank Reconciliation shows £66,206.23.

9.2 Approval of payments for July (to date). Proposed AB, seconded HS and approved by all present. Due to invoices being received after the meeting, these will be added to the payment listing. NOTE Cllr Bliss raised an issue with the recent Bus Shelter cleaning which had left posters and an unclean panel. Clerk to contact the cleaners.

9.3 To discuss and approve the Qtr.1 Financial Report. The variance is -£2195.47 which will be substantially reduced when the next VAT return is made in October. Acceptance proposed by AE, seconded CJ and all in favour.

NOTE. CC left the meeting at 8.15pm

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

The NDP will be added to the regular agenda items.

Any other items to be sent to the clerk 8 days before the next meeting date.

11. Public Participation – a request was made for a noticeboard on Chalk / Walnut Road and a location to be discussed. Additional social media was raised.

AB advised that the St. Andrews Church was now open daily between 10am and 3pm during the summer.

12. Next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 1st of September 2022 at the Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.31

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Date