

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present :

Councillors – Charles Boston (CBN), Andy Bliss (AB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Richard Green (RG), Richard Blunt (RB) 8., William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), 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. A tenant farmer, Mr. A Thistleton, requested that a stowaway be removed on a field rented from the Parish Council to prevent hare coursing. (Duck point/Marsh Road, Gooses Lane). RG agreed that there was a problem in the area and all councillors were in favour of this action.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllr Lawty – 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. None.

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 were proposed by HS, seconded by WB, 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 advised that she is still awaiting Enso to respond to her requests to arrange an on-site meeting. CL will check the ENSO website for making contact etc.

6.2 Allotment Vacancies – The clerk reported that there are now 6 applications for small plots, and it was agreed that plot 27 (0.90 acres) would be the best location to offer smaller plots. Clerk to check on tenancy agreements, rules & regulations etc. Proposed AB, seconded AE and all in favour. ACTION CB

WB proposed that plots 24.25 & 26 be offered to Mr. L. Coleman and plots 28-37 be offered to Mr. A Thistleton. This was seconded by HS and 7 in favour with 2 abstains.

6.3 Maintenance required to the play area following annual inspection and overhanging hedging. The clerk had written to the school but no response as yet. CJ & CC will follow this up directly with the school. It was agreed to go ahead with the maintenance work on the play equipment -proposed AE, seconded by CC and all in favour.

6.4 Strimming – add to the next agenda.

6.5 Project Swingfield/Almshouses area – AB to arrange for quotation from Mr. Neal for next meeting.

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Signed .....

Date .....

7. To receive reports:

- 7.1 Councillors' reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
  - a. CC advised that a manhole cover was missing at the top of Springfield Road.
  - b. WB asked about when he replacement light would be working and, as advised at the last meeting, we are just waiting for a date from UK Power networks for a connection date. WB asked if anyone knew if the Walpoles was still a joint rural village and the general consensus was thought to be yes. The white gate signage shows The Walpoles.
  - c. AE requested that the gully cleaner missed the cleaning the gully near his home on Wisbech Road and it was now blocked. Clerk to report. ACTION CB
  - d. Trod footpath on Chalk Road is very overgrown and clerk to report to highways. ACT CB

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports:

**Cllr Kirk** – Advised that the village was known as The Walpoles therefore must be a joint village. The Wild Club CIC email was discussed, and it was decided that there is no available land or funding for this project.

The Market Lane speed limit introduction debacle was mentioned, and it now looks like implementation will not be until 2023.

**Cllr Blunt (8.12)** – Re the proposed recycling centre - MVV Medworth. He will be speaking against this at the Planning Committee Meeting next Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> of November, regarding the location near schools, infrastructure, and alternatives. The final decision sits with the Secretary of State.

7.3 Clerk Report –

- a. A tenant farmer has yet to pay April or October 22 invoices and this to be followed up.
- b. The overflowing rubbish bin on the Community Centre field has been reported.
- c. Working on the draft budget for 23/24
- d. WPFRT grant information request from a member of the public has been agreed and sent out.

7.4 Village Crier – this is making a small loss and it is expected that the printing costs will increase. To be reviewed at the next meeting. AE advised that one of the delivery ladies is ill and he will cover for the December deliveries, but another helper is on holiday. HS & CJ offered there assistance.

Facebook – CC advised there was some new activity.

Website – Viewings in October were 475 with Home (163), Planning (62), Policies & Procedures (54), Crier (25), Parish Council & Reports/Accounts (19), Latest News (14), Agendas (12) and contact us (11).

7.5 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE advised that new signage had appeared on Eastcroft Lane/waypoint Bridleway on the Marsh, footpath and riverbank. The stile has still not been replaced.

The list of new signage including Dunces Lane/School Lane, Dunces Lane/Chalk Road, Pyecroft Lane/Bustards Lane and Bustards Lane/Joyce Lane to be reviewed and JK will look to fund these new signs. ACTION JK

Stickfast Lane needs clearing (all the way along and taking right back) and clerk to ask T. Blackamore. ACTION CB

7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – Nothing to report.

7.7 SAM 2- latest report from Frenchs Road IN for October: 85<sup>th</sup> percentile 42.4mph with 4866 counts. Max speed 75mph. Total vehicles 5,725. New Unit due for delivery within the next week. Clerk to chase Andy Wallace re additional posts. ACTION CB

7.8 Neighbourhood Plan update – Mr. P Cotton:

- a. Mr. Cotton is back as Chair of the Steering Committee. He apologises for the email addressed for Cllrs Blunt and Blandford being missed off the last meeting invite. The survey has been agreed and an NDP presence will be at the Christmas Fair and Christmas Tree Festival. A copy of the updated survey and link will be available within shortly and copies to be put on the website, Facebook page and noticeboards. Insert will be included in the next edition of the Crier.
- b. The site visit is due to take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and meeting will be 1pm outside St. Peters Church.

7.9 Communications and Correspondence:

- a. The examination of the Local Plan Review as per email sent out for information. There are 2 inspectors now as advised by RB and the examination commences on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Timetable when received to go on the website.

8. Planning:

8.1 Applications:

- 14/00972/NMA-2** Beacon Cottage, The Marsh, non-material amendment to planning permission – Agreed to support this, proposed AE, seconded PB and all in favour.
- 22/01693/F** – single storey rear extension White Lodge, French’s Road. Support proposed by AE, seconded AB and all in favour.
- 22/01739/O** – Demolition and removal of pre-fabricated bungalow to replace with 3 bed bungalow at 6 Folgate Lane. Support proposed CJ, seconded RG and all in favour. External lighting comment.
- 22/01722/F** – Demolition of stable block and construction of dwelling & garage at Walnut Tree Farm, Walnut Road. Support proposed AE, seconded by WB and all in favour. External lighting comment.

8.2 Decisions: (For information): No new reports.

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information): No new reports.

8.4 The enforcement for the new homes on Church Road to be chased and it was reported that 50% of the information is no longer on the portal. Clerk to contact planning and copy RB.

ACTION CB/RB

8.5 The issue of drainage re 22/00556/RM – site frontage plots 2,5,7,8,9 &10 at land SE of Helian House, Walnut Road was raised by RG in regard to the dyke being filled in. RB to look into this.

ACTION RB

9. Finance:

9.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for October 22. Proposed CJ, seconded AE and all in favour. Bank Reconciliation shows £48,560.21

9.2 Approval of payments for November – due to the meeting being so early in the month, the clerk will issue a further payment listing later in the month. Public Sector pay increase included back dated to 1.4.22 - Proposed AB, seconded CJ and all in favour.

9.3 Draft budget & precept for 23/24. The clerk had produced the draft and all councillors to review before the December meeting.

ACTION ALL

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

- a. Strimming required – corner of Chalk Road, Market Lane and Wisbech Road plus the Walnut Triangle and village gateways.
  - b. AB re project Swingfield/Almshouses – quotation.
  - c. Allotment update from the clerk
  - d. ENSO Energy update from CJ
- Any other items to be sent to the clerk 8 days before the next meeting date.

Signed .....

Date .....

11. Public Participation – None

CC received a request from Samuels and advised that they are in the Parish of Walpole Cross Keys. The Crier had been asked to sponsor a Christmas Tree at the Festival – CC agreed to sponsor the tree and PB offered his wife’s decorating skills.

12. Next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 at the Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.50