

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Walpole Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, on Thursday the 1st of December 2022 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Green (RG), William Brooks (WB), Heather Smith (HS), David Lawty (DL), Claire James (CJ)  
5 members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chairman to everyone. Due to the Chairman’s absence, Cllr Bliss ran the meeting as Chairman.

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 member of the public asked if he could comment on **22/02021/F** | Erection of a Renewable Battery Energy Storage System planning application. DL proposed, with HS seconding and agreed.

2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs Boston (family event), Campion (childcare), Blandford (physiotherapy), Eveleigh (winter cold), Kirk (other duties), Parish Clerk (covid)

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. RG re **22/02021/F** | Erection of a Renewable Battery Energy Storage System

5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2022 were proposed by CJ, seconded by HS, and approved by all present at that meeting. (DL abstained as not present at that meeting)

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

- 6.1 ENSO Energy update – CJ advised that she has received a communication from Enso but due to an outstanding issue, an onsite meeting cannot be set yet.
- 6.2 Strimming – Chalk Road, Market Lane, Wisbech Road, Walnut Triangle and Village gateways – not yet progressed.
- 6.3 Project Swingfield/Almshouses area – AB advised no further progress.
- 6.4 Allotment update via the clerk – the updated plan of the marked out 10 small allotments off Folgate Lane were discussed and it was decided to see whether the levelled surface for access would require any work once it get used.  
6 members of the public had shown an interest and rent agreements had been sent out with 2 already paying the annual rent.

7. To receive reports:

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

Page 1 of 3

Signed .....

Date .....

- a. Streetlight 13 on Wisbech Road near the Almshouses was not working again and clerk to report as only recently repaired. ACTION CB
- b. Concern raised regarding the new SAM unit and posts being removed on Church Road by the contractors putting in the new path. The clerk has reported this to Highways.  
NOTE grit bin to be checked as overturned.
- 7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-  
No reports received and neither present.
- 7.3 Clerk Report –
  - a. A tenant farmer has yet to pay April or October 22 invoices and this to be followed up – NOTE both payments now received.
  - b. The 2023 meeting dates have been booked at the Village Hall and sent to all councillors and available on the website and noticeboards.
- 7.4 Village Crier/Social Media/Website– no updates.
- 7.5 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – Clerk has arranged for Blackamore to cut back Stickfast Lane in January.
- 7.6 The Community Fund Projects Working Group – Nothing to report.
- 7.7 SAM 2- Nothing to report.
- 7.8 Neighbourhood Plan update – Mr. P Cotton:
  - Mr. Cotton advised that the initial report of the makeup of the present Parish has been received and distributed to all councillors – consisting of 44 pages.
  - Mr. Cotton strengthened the need for all parishioners to complete the survey which can be accessed from the Parish council website.
- 7.9 Communications and Correspondence:
  - a. Market Lane speed reduction update – no further information to date
  - b. NALC – re gov.uk email addresses – discussed and thought it was a good idea if it is a free service.
- 8. Planning:
  - 8.1 Applications:
    - 22/01993/F** | Erection of detached machine/tack/hay store for use in connection with existing paddock | Two Jays Church Road Walpole St Peter. DL proposed support with CJ seconded, all in favour.
    - 22/02021/F** | Erection of a Renewable Battery Energy Storage System and associated infrastructure including access and landscaping. | Land Opposite Walpole Sub Station Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew – A member of the public, who had sent an email after the agenda had been issued, reiterated his strong concerns about battery storage. Although he supported the idea, it was the positioning regarding danger of fire, use of good grade arable land and the visual impact that concerned him the most. DL proposed to object with WB seconding and all in favour. RG abstained.
  - 8.2 Decisions: (For information):
    - 14/00972/NMA\_2** | NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT TO PLANNING PERMISSION 14/00972/F: Erection of two houses | Beacon Cottage The Marsh Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7JG - Permitted.
    - 22/01496/O** | Outline application for a new residential development | Land Adjacent Roseville Chalk Road Walpole St Peter – refused.
  - 8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information): None
  - 8.4 Church Walk footpath update – currently under construction.
  - 8.5 **22/00556/RM** – drainage issue re dyke being filled in at land SE of Helian House, Walnut Road. Cllr Blunt not in attendance to give an update.

9. Finance:

- 9.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for October 22. Proposed WB, seconded CJ and all in favour. Bank Reconciliation shows £50,763.46
- 9.2 Approval of payments for December – due to the meeting being so early in the month, the clerk will issue a further payment listing later in the month Proposed DL, seconded HS 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 including payments
  - d. ENSO Energy update from CJ
- Any other items to be sent to the clerk 8 days before the next meeting date.

11. Public Participation – a member of the public asked about an email they sent to the Parish Council. It was confirmed as being received and sent to all councillors but did not appear in the village concerns or correspondence. Clerk to check and advise.

12. Next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 at the Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes were taken by the Chairman.

Cllr Boston wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting ended at 20.30