

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the 2nd of April 2026.

Present:

Councillors – Chas Boston (CB) 7.15pm, Andy Bliss (AB), Ade Eveleigh (AE), Jan Luck (JL), Richard Green (RG), Irene Hunter (IH) and Christopher MacCormick (CM)
County Councillor Julian Kirk 7.15pm 2 members of the public – part time

1. Welcome from the **Cllr Green who chaired the meeting**, (Cllr Boston arrived at 7.15pm and took over) as approved by all, followed by Public Participation:
Serious concern raised regarding the proposed online consultation by Qair as a number of residents have no access to an internet signal, the times from 3pm-6pm were not convenient for most people due to work, some had not yet received the leaflet and lack of response from emails sent to Qair.
It was agreed that the clerk writes to Qair advising of the above issues and requesting a public meeting to be held by Qair as other companies had done. **ACTION: Clerk**

2. Apologies received – Cllrs Campion, Brooks and Blunt.

3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.

4. Declarations of interest – None

5. Minutes approved from the Parish Council meeting on the 5th of March proposed by Cllr Luck, seconded Cllr Eveleigh and all in favour who were present at that meeting.

6. Matters arising:

6.1 National Grid update:

As public participation.

No update on the meeting with James Wild MP

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Councillor's reports –

Cllr Eveleigh reported that he had spoken to Andy Wallace at Highways, in March, regarding the unblocking of a grate outside his home and was informed that this was on the list, along with the Swingfield ditch. No action to date.

7.2 **Borough Councillor Report** - None

County Councillor Report – Cllr Kirk apologised for the delay in sending out his report due to workload. He is receiving daily emails from the National Grid and will a one to one with them. The next mayor for King's Lynn will be Steve Bearshaw with Cllr Spires as deputy. Planning continued to be poor. The BCKLWN will have more money to spend to be agreed in May. Burglaries continue to take place in the Fens. Cllr Bliss advised that the KL Cruisers have invited the new mayor to attend one of their events.

7.3 Chairmans Report – none for this month

Clerks Report – have commenced work on the year end with documentation for the Internal Auditor and assertion 10 policies and procedures in place.

Full on with financial year end reporting and the AGAR ready to go to the Internal Auditor this month.

Allotment outstanding payment chased again and now told a cheque is in the post.

7.4 Crier update - Cllr Eveleigh advised that a new full page advertiser could be coming on board. It was agreed to increase the print run by 20 due to demand.

7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – Ramblers request for audit discussed and we are happy with the process we currently use.

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that the village signs and bus stops need a clean and the zip wire needs repair. The dog bin outside the Parish Hall is still causing problems for residents due to them mud etc., and clerk to write to Clean-up/Highways advising of complaints received re health and safety issues.

ACTION: Clerk

7.7 Cllr Luck advised no issues on the playground other than the bolt on the zip wire as raised under 7.6 and the surface under the swings needs replacing to match the other surfaces. Clerk to request a quote from Online Playgrounds.

ACTION: Clerk

Check to be made on the rubber seat on the swing as could need replacing and also use stainless chains.

7.8 SAM reports – Cllr Eveleigh's advised that the newer unit was not working and may need repairs/replacing to go to Westcotec. Trial reports for Walnut Road show a maximum speed of 40mph with average speed of 22.8mph and Police Road had a maximum speed of 55mph with an average speed of 30mph.

7.9 Community Centre report – Cllr MacCormick advised that grants had been received to complete the wall round the back by the patio area and the fencing to be sorted next. The car park has been re-done and then an e-bike scuffed it up but was on camera and reported.

Proposals being considered for new events including extended use and the return of the shop – to be decided at the next meeting. The Garden Room may not be available in the future. Signage for the Walpole Woods and Community Centre for the light at the end of Summer Close but this is a NCC post so permission would be needed. Cllr Bliss suggested the opposite side as owned by the parish council. Pot holes have been reported.

The summer fair will be on the 27th of June and the next meeting is on the 14th of May.

7.10 Communications and Correspondence

Cllr Luck requested that the new defib box at the community centre needs to be fitted asap and it was agreed to contact Action IT Electrical.

8. Planning –Any applications received after the date of this agenda and before the meeting date will be considered.

8.1 Applications:– None

8.2 Decisions: 26/00271/F – Proposed siting of a portable building for Phoenix Hedgehog Rescue at Hughenden House, Market Lane – Application Permitted

8.3 Appeals: **None**

8.4 Enforcements: **25/00563/BOC**| Alleged breach of planning condition| Caravan at Hill Farm 11 Hill Farm Lane Walpole St Peter PENDING CONSIDERATION

25/00386/UNAUTU|UNAUTU - Unauthorised Use|3 Lucky Lane Walpole St
Andrew PENDING CONSIDERATION

26.00124/UNAUTU – Unauthorised Use Mansefield, Marsh Road, Walpole St
Andrew – PENDING CONSIDERATION

Cllr Bliss advised that he and Cllr Eveleigh attended the stables at Terrington who are looking for a change of use to offer holiday livery.

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for March - Cllr Eveleigh proposed, Cllr Bliss seconded and all in favour. Bank accounts to 31.03.26 =£28,683.20 with £5535.38 in the Solar fund account.

9.2 To approve payments (to date) for April - proposed Cllr Hunter, seconded Cllr Green and all in favour.

9.3 To approve the Year End Financial Review – proposed Cllr MacCormick, seconded Cllr Luck with all in favour. Cllr Boston thanked the clerk for the work over the year to ensure we have a stable financial position going forward.

10. **Public participation:** None

11. **Items for next agenda** – please advise the clerk 7 days prior to the meeting date.

12. **Next meeting** will be the **Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meetings** on the 7th of May 2026 from 6.45pm at the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.21 pm and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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PAYMENTS FOR APRIL (TO DATE):

Clerk Expenses March	£	48.95	
Clerk Salary	£	644.74	
HMRC	£	219.31	
SSE	£	148.09	direct debit
BCKLWN dog bins	£	290.00	direct debit
Parish Hall hire	£	16.50	

Signed

Date