



WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the 4th of June 2026 from 6.55pm

Present:

Councillors – Chas Boston (CB), William Brooks (WB), Andy Bliss (AB), Jan Luck (JL), Irene Hunter (IH), Richard Blunt (RB) and Christopher MacCormick (CM).

Borough and County Councillor Julian Kirk (JK) and the parish clerk.

5 members of the public – 2 part time (MoP)

James Wild MP and Julie Barrow (JB) Principal Planner – (Major/NSIPs) Team Leader.

1. Welcome from the Chairman followed by public participation:

Mr. Cotton thanked the Parish Council for the report on the Crier regarding his role in the Neighbourhood Development Plan and stressed that it was a team effort. The plan is a live document and needs regular checks and any updates.

Cllr Blunt advised that now the plan has been adopted it has to be taken into consideration for all planning applications.

2. Apologies received – Cllrs Eveleigh and Green.

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 Annual Parish Council meeting on the 7th of May proposed by Cllr Brooks, seconded Cllr MacCormick and all in favour who were present at that meeting.

6. Matters arising:

National Grid update – James Wild advised that there was a deluge of planning applications across Norfolk with all projects having different times and processes.

The National Grid applications require clarification and have caused frustration. James has been very active on this.

Cllr Boston showed the current substation and advised that the 1 solar farm had been built with in-depth contact with the residents and received funding. It has been well located and informed throughout the process.

The new battery storage application has only managed one meeting with the National Grid but lacked substance and the whole field is now showing on the plan – we really need to know what is going to happen. We know we cannot stop the applications but are continually ignored. The offer of the £30k grant with applications up to £500 was very difficult to apply for and the applications that were sent have been ignored.

Cllr Blunt raised that we had not know the impact this would cause and the existing substation was out of date and required an update using the existing footprint.

Regarding the Grimsby to Walpole project, why not consider underground cabling from the Wash rather than huge pylons. There were no savings for residents on electricity.

Cllr Boston advised that the residents on Frenchs Road were very concerned regarding the state of the road and proposed reinstating when completed. The traffic management in and out routes were not being followed and the small lanes cannot cope with the heavy and amount of additional traffic. Marsh Road is single lane only and Frenchs Road is a single carriageway – no compensation offered to residents. Cllr Blunt advised that the application for West Drove lacks a Traffic Management Plan.

Cllr Bliss raised the issue of construction traffic for West Drove were driving through the village.

Julie Barrow leads the team at Borough Council and there is an outline construction plan application which is being discussed with Highways at Norfolk County Council. Cllr Boston asked when completion can be expected and Julie advised timelines are on the websites.

James Wild advised that 3 & 4 applications were due this year and take 8 months with a possible start date of 2029. The Grimsby to Walpole application due 2027. We need as many residents as possible to attend all planning meetings to make sure their questions are raised.

Cllr Boston raised that a temporary port for the next 10 years with temporary roadway from the Nene into the back of the substation would have a negligible effect on the village. Sub-contractor drivers had been told, by residents many times, to use the approved routes but were unaware of them. Total lack of the various companies not talking to each other.

Julie advised that Walpole B new substation is due to submit planning this September/ October to the planning inspectorate, then goes to examination following a 3-4 month gap. Anyone with an interest can then put their comments in writing. A preliminary meeting would follow with everyone invited to attend.

The examination can take 6 months with various deadlines

James Wild advised that the Traffic Management Plan can be commented on with he onus on them to respond. Important to have representation by all concerned.

Cllr Brooks asked why not use underground cabling for projects 3 & 4 and that the proposed £530k community benefit does not state if it covers one parish or more.

James Wild advised the views on funding should be clearly stated.

Julie advised that she expects to hear about community funding shortly.

MoP 1 – The traffic route on King Johns Bank cannot cope with the HGV/s as they cannot pass each other. He was woken at 1.45am due to potholes being repairs. Who does he need to complain to? HGV's are travelling from 5.30am when should be 7.30am to 5.00pm.

Julie advised that Traffic Management Plans involve the County Council and Lincolnshire County Council are responsible for the road.

Cllr Kirk advised that it was time to bring in Graham Bygrave at NCC and get him involved. Cllr Kirk offered to follow this up.

The MoP advised that he has lost £70k on the value of his home.

MoP 2 advised of the Community Liaison Group Meeting just announced regarding projects 3 & 4 on the 25th of June at the Community Centre and that there should be a Project Manager for all the various schemes.

Julie advised that Walpole B Grimsby to Walpole had overhead lines and 3 & 4 were underground.

MoP 2 we need one contact for all projects as no responses on communications made and we are being kept in the dark. We just want to know what is going on rather than kept in limbo.

Thanks to both James Wild and Julie Barrow for attending this evening and their support is very much appreciated.

7. To receive reports:

a. Councillor's reports –

Cllr Bliss advised that fly tipping of grass had taken place by the wall at St. Andrews Church and will be reported.

A meeting had been held with the Church Conservation Trust and the floor at St. Andrews Church was now drying out awaiting the wooden floor to be relaid.

The bus service used to come from King's Lynn to Walpole's and onto Wisbech and back but now does not go onto Wisbech. Walpole Highway gets the XL service and some residents have walked to Walpole Highway to get to Wisbech for college etc.

b. Borough Councillor Report –

Cllr Blunt advised that various committees are no meeting with a lot of work involved in the Local Government Reorganisation. Call for sites – currently defining the process and looking at the land put forward. Involves structural development areas and parish boundaries.

County Councillor Report – Cllr Kirk advised that Norfolk & Essex were not in favour of the LGR. The first County Council meeting went well and looking good for the future with the new councillors settling in. He is now very busy with the additional work as Chairman of Norfolk County Council.

c. Clerks Report –

year end now completed along with the internal auditor report giving us a clean bill of health and completed AGAR sent to the external auditors. Working on the new website due to go live end of this month.

Will be on leave from 19th to 29th of June.

Co-option form received and co-option to be held at the start of the July meeting.

d. Village Crier –

latest edition on the website.

e. Footpath and circular walks –

Cllr Bliss advised that the first cut of the footpaths has taken place.

f. Community Fund Projects Working Group –

Cllr Bliss advised work on the playground fencing was to take place.

g. Play Area –

Cllr Luck raised the quote from Fenland and it was agreed that it was too expensive and we should look at continuing with approved bark. To review costs etc.

h. SAM –

no reports this month and the repairs on one of the units was £995.

i. Community Centre report –

Cllr MacCormick gave an update that the clothes bin has proved most successful with emptying taking place twice a month. Looking at housing Royal Mail lockers. Pot holes are still outstanding and the shop project has no response from the originator but it will go ahead.

The PC need to know if the Garden Room will still be available for meetings from September and that a projector will be installed as requested last year

- j. Communications and Correspondence – Cllr Hunter advised that the signage for the Commonwealth War Graves were now up at St. Andrews Church.

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

8.1 Applications:

26/00780/F| Erection of 2No. self-build dwellings including demolition of existing agricultural building with class Q approval| Holme Farm King John Bank Walpole St Andrew – this was fully discussed and support proposed by Cllr Brooks, seconded by Cllr Luck with 5 in favour and 1 against.

8.2 Decisions:

26/00425/LDP| Certificate of Lawfulness: For the commencement of planning permission 26/00428/F for development of a battery energy storage system (BESS). The proposed construction works are identified on the implementation plan ((REF: BTGBKLY01_005.1.5 rev 01). They comprise the installation of a 300mm thick compacted type 1 granular sub-base which will be laid in 2x150mm layers.| Land Opposite Walpole Sub Station Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew **Would be Lawful**

26/00428/F| Variation of Conditions 6,10,15,16,19,20,21,and 23 of Planning Permission 22/02021/FM: 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 Norfolk **Application Permitted**

8.3 Appeals:

26/00024/REF| Self-Build Dwelling| Windsor 22 Kirk Road Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk **Appeal against refusal**

26/00017/COND| Retrospective application of change of use of a house of six residents (care included) (C3b) to a care home up to three children aged 8-18 (C2)|10 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY APPEAL AGAINST CONDITIONS IMPOSED

26/00016/COND| Retrospective application of change of use of a house of six residents (care included) (C3b) to a care home up to three children aged 8-18 (C2)|8 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY APPEAL AGAINST CONDITIONS IMPOSED

8.4 Enforcements:

25/00563/BOC| Alleged breach of planning condition| Caravan At Hill Farm 11 Hill Farm Lane Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7JQ STILL PENDING CONSIDERATION

25/00386/UNAUTU|UNAUTU - Unauthorised Use|3 Lucky Lane Walpole St Andrew WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7NX STILL PENDING CONSIDERATION

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for May – deferred to June meeting as documents not received by all.

9.2 To approve payments (to date) for June – proposed Cllr Hunter, seconded by Cllr Luck and all in favour.

9.3 To approve the HMRC mileage increase from 45p to 55p – all in favour.

10. **Public participation:** the liaison group meeting is a step in the right direction and we need to consider the funding amounts.
11. **Items for next agenda** – Please advise the clerk 7 days prior to the meeting date.
12. **Next meeting** will be the on the 2nd of July 2026 from 7.00pm at the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 20.59pm and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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PAYMENTS FOR JUNE (TO DATE):

Clerk Expenses MAY	£	48.95	
Clerk Salary	£	644.74	
HMRC	£	219.51	
SSE	£	128.16	direct debit
BCKLWN dog bins	£	300.64	direct debit
Parish Hall hire	£	22.00	
Walpole Mowing Man	£	500.00	
Walpole Mowing Man (footpaths)	£	150.00	

Signed

Date