



WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the 3rd of September 2026 from 7.00pm

Present:

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

The parish clerk.

4 members of the public

Co-option meeting was held from 6.45 to 6.57 of Mr. Robert Merton. All in favour and Mr. Merton was duly elected as a Parish Councillor.

1. Welcome from the Chairman followed by public participation:

- a. The planning policy needs to be reviewed.
- b. The July meeting minutes – 7j (page 3) Two paragraphs towards the end regarding 2 objections proposed by Cllr MacCormick. The Chair read these out with explanations. The 2nd objection could not be passed due to tied vote.
- c. A number of questions have been raised and why still outstanding. The Chair will discuss this with the member of the public privately following this meeting.

2. Apologies received – Cllr Kirk

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 2nd of July proposed by Cllr MacCormick, seconded Cllr Luck and all in favour who were present at that meeting.

6. **Matters arising:**

a. National Grid update –

Cllr Blunt gave an update. Following a meeting with West Walton Parish Council, James Wild, and representatives from the National Grid nothing new came forward but concerns raised from all the parishes due the volume of work but National Grid advised that they do not need planning permission. Regular updates were agreed. Cllr Blunt took Julie Barrow the Borough Council Principal Planner for (Major/NSIPs) on-site visits and Julie was very concerned regarding the amount of work going on without planning permission and has written to the National Grid regarding this. The transport link issues need to be discussed with National Grid and NCC with the proposed routes not taking into consideration the local requirements. A meeting has been requested with Alistar Beales, Borough Council Leader, and Jim Moriarty from Planning.

It was noted that the National Grid had invited a few residents to visit the sites as advised earlier today. Cllr Merton will follow this up as the Parish Councillor with responsibility for the National Grid and advised that the routes still need to be discussed.

- b. Zebra Crossing – requested at the July meeting by a member of the public to run from the Parish Hall straight across to the Church. This location was considered too dangerous due to the bend and visibility.
- c. Planning working group within the Parish Council discussed. This worked very well in the past and four volunteers came forward: Cllr Luck, Cllr MacCormick, Cllr Ford and Cllr Merton. Cllr Boston advised to be aware of the changes in planning with Cllr Blunt advising that the changes mean that the Parish Councils have no more powers and are just consultants just making comments on the portal but we carry no weight. Calling in is no longer available and larger developments decisions will be made by the planning officers not the planning committee. He had called in the Applegate Nurseries planning application but doubtful if it will now go to the planning committee.

7. To receive reports:

- a. Councillor's reports –
Nothing to report
- b. County Councillor Report – Cllr Kirk sent a report – Appendix 1
Borough Councillor Report – the People, Opportunities, Places: Help shape the Borough's next Local Plan has just been made available and everyone should read it, especially the maps showing sites put forward for housing. Suggested a separate meeting is held to discuss.
- c. Chairman Report – Reminder that our NDP is a working document and is still part of the planning process Regarding updates to the Applegate Nurseries application today, an Extraordinary Meeting will be called on this application. Agreed Tuesday 15th of September from 6.30 in the main hall at the Community Centre. The owner of the land relating to this application offered site visits.

Clerks Report – The AGAR completion notice has been received and is on the website. Next year will be more demanding as looking to go online and training will be ongoing. All policies and procedures have been updated where necessary and are on the website. Recent training attended on VAT, Budgets/Reserves. Received over 20 telephone calls regarding the Applegate Nurseries planning application, 4 of which, were very abusive and clerk ended these calls.

- d. Village Crier – Cllr Eveleigh advised that the editor would continue as long as Publisher is available.
- e. Footpath and circular walks – no finger posts and unlikely to get them.
- f. Community Fund Projects Working Group – nothing to report.
- g. Play Area – Cllr Luck advised that the maintenance work identified by the annual inspection had taken place with one issue – the wrong support post had been replaced. Clerk to speak to Fenland and request free of charge replacement and installation.

- h. SAM – Cllr Eveleigh reported that from 21.7.26 to 25.8.26 at Marsh Road incoming, the maximum speed was 75mph with a total of 11,175 vehicles. Average speed limit was 34.3mph. Full report on the website. The post on Marsh Road incoming needs reporting to highways as needs straightening. The go ahead for the maintenance on the 2nd unit agreed.
- i. Community Centre report – Cllr MacCormick gave an update that the recent public events went well with good support. Quotes now received for the cladding with a decision to be made at the next meeting. New interactive system now in the Garde Room.
- j. Communications and Correspondence – None other than telephone calls.

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

8.1 Applications:

26/01216/PAGPD – single storey rear extension which extends beyond the rear wall By 4.2m with a maximum height of 3.2m and height of 3.2m to the eaves. Apple Blossom Lodge, 9 Gooses Lane. Walpole St. Andrew. Support as cannot be seen from the road and is filling the gap at the rear, squaring off the plot. Proposed AE, seconded WB – all in favour with 1 abstention from AB

8.2 Decisions:

26/00974/F - Proposed Replacement Dwelling including the Demolition of the Existing Dwelling at The Hollies Bustards Lane Walpole St Peter Wisbech Application Permitted.

8.3 Appeals:

26/00024/REF| Self-Build Dwelling| Windsor 22 Kirk Road Walpole St Andrew Wisbech **Appeal in progress**

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 ALLOWED**

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 ALLOWED**

8.4 Enforcements:

26/00260/BOC|BOC - Breach of Planning Condition|10 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY PENDING CONSIDERATION

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 STILL PENDING CONSIDERATION

Cllr Blunt requested that the clerk contact enforcement for an update on these 3 enforcement notices as no updates for several months. Action: Clerk

9. Finance

- 9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for July & August – proposed RG, seconded JL with all in favour.
- 9.2 To approve payments (to date) for September – proposed AB seconded by IH and all in favour.
- 9.3 To approve the Local Government annual pay increase of 3.3% back dated to 1st April 26 – proposed RG, seconded by CM with all in favour.

10. Public participation:

- a. Applegate Nurseries planning application updates are using the same reference and on the planning portal.
- b. Drainage on the Applegate Nursery application have been amended with Peartree Cottage being demolished and a new culvert going the opposite way.
- c. The defibrillator has been used at the Parish Hall recently, saving a life.
- d. The Walpole St. Andrews Christmas tree event has had to be cancelled this year due to the continued works.
- e. The Walnut Tree now has a walnut on it.

11. Items for next agenda – Unitary Authority Update – Cllr Blunt.

Please advise the clerk 7 days prior to the October meeting date.

12. Next meeting will be the on the 1st of October 2026 from 7.00pm at the Community Centre.

Meeting closed at 20.40pm and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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PAYMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER (TO DATE):

Clerk Expenses August	£	26.00	
Clerk Salary	£	644.54	
HMRC	£	219.51	
SSE	£	128.16	direct debit
BCKLWN dog bins	£	300.64	direct debit
Hall hire	£	TBA	
K & M lighting annual maintenance	£	443.52	
Parish Online subscription	£	60.00	
Fenland maintenance	£	235.56	

Signed

Date