

WALPOLE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 2nd of May 2024 following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), Janet Luck (JL), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Blunt (RB), Richard Green (RG), William Brooks (WB) David Lawty (DL), and the Parish Clerk.

Borough & County Councillor Julian Kirk (JK)

6 members of public

1. Election of Chairman – Cllr Boston was proposed by Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr Eveleigh and all in favour except Cllr Lawty who abstained.
2. Election of Vice Chairman – Cllr James proposed by Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr Luck and all in favour except Cllr Lawty who abstained.
3. Welcome from the Chairman and Public Participation – None
4. Apologies received by Cllr Campion.
5. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
6. Declarations of interest – none
7. Minutes approved from the meetings on the 4th of April 24 proposed by CJ, seconded AE and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
8. Matters arising:
 - 8.1 NDP – Paul Blandford advised that a Steering Group meeting was held on the 30th of April and thanked Andy and Tracey for the use of their home. Cllr Smith was present. Comments and feedback were covered from Cllrs Bliss and Lawty. Decisions based on poor feedback in the past. The next step is to move forward and draft plan which CCP will undertake, hopefully for the 1st week in June, it is then submitted to the Borough Council which will take approximately 6 weeks and then the Community consultation follows for another 6 weeks. Once approved, it will go to regulation 14.
 - 8.2 Verdant Energy – nothing to add but they were not very forthcoming when asked for funding of a trampoline at the Play Area.
 - 8.3 National Grid proposals – meeting to be held on the 20th of May at the Community Centre.
 - 8.4 Voltwise Power update - CJ will look into this on our behalf. DL commented that we are in a position to dictate, and WB advised that more requests for land are likely to be forthcoming.

9. To receive reports:

- 9.1 Highway –AE mentioned the potholes on Police Road, near Stickfast Lane and on West Drove North. DL advised that the state of Chalk Road has been reported to Highways but no action as yet. AB advised that more vehicles were parking on Church Road and the verges are close to collapsing in the dyke.
Increase in speeding noted on Wisbech – Springfield Roads.
Allotments – the clerk advised that the small allotments tenants had raised funds following a recent bingo event.
- 9.2 County and Borough Councillor’s Reports:
RB advised the all the political groups were holding AGM’s this month and changing leaders. There were no applications for the Mayor.
JK reported that he had 2 meetings next week at County Hall, a full council meeting and a health meeting. He will collect the repaired SAM unit from Westcotec, hopefully next week. Re the voting today for the Police & Crime Commissioner, no literature was available on candidates.
- 9.3 Clerk Report: Small allotments – New plot 12 is vacant but have an interested parishioner.
Finance has taken up much of April with Internal Auditor requirements and AGAR completion plus CIL return.
- 9.4 Play Area -The clerk gave out information on the funded cycle storage to JL and DL proposed an 8 bike unit, seconded by AB and all in favour. JL advised that the temporary fencing has been removed was thanked for all her hard work.
- 9.5 Village Crier, Social Media, and Website reports:
Crier – AE advised that all advertisers had now paid.
The Facebook page cannot be used and to be removed from the agenda.
The website continues to evolve with 361 viewings last month.
- 9.6 To receive updates regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE/AB advised only problem was with the growth of nettles.
- 9.7 Community Fund Projects Working Group – AB advised that the signage for the playground have gone up. Fly-tipping on Gooses Lane with 3 bin bags and it was suggested to look into a litter pick. JK would help.
- 9.8 SAM reports – AE will provide report at a later date.
- 9.9 Communications/Correspondence:
 - a. Insurance Renewal – clerk advised this has increased from £846.20 to £944.62 fixed 3 year deal and this includes increase in play area equipment. Acceptance proposed AE, seconded WB and all in favour.
 - b. .gov.uk email addresses as advised via AGAR and other organisations. Clerk produced 3 quotes and it was agreed to go with Parish Online as proposed by CJ, seconded HS and all in favour. ACTION: Clerk
 - c. Residents on Bustards Lane complained about the speeding and danger to horses and walkers. Clerk and JK had been in contact with Highways who did not think signage would work but would consider road markings and JK happy to put funding towards this. ACTION: Clerk/JK

10. Planning – to consider Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements.

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

10.1 Applications: None

10.2 Decisions:

23/01521/DISC_A | DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS 4, 5 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 23/01521/F: Replacement dwelling. The new dwelling will comprise a 2-storey, 4-bed property and will involve the demolition of an existing 2 storey dwelling which is located on the site. | Bustards Farm Bustards Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7LS – Discharge of condition final letter.

24/00343/T3 | APPLICATION TO DETERMINE IF PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED: Proposed arqiva smart metering 1no. omni at 13.83m mean mounted on proposed 12m street works pole. Proposed arqiva smart metering 1no. gps antenna at 12.4m mean mounted on proposed street works pole. Proposed arqiva smart metering 1no. 3g omni antenna at 3.8m mean mounted on proposed street works pole. Proposed arqiva smart metering equipment enclosure to be installed on a root foundation. | Land At Walpole Community Hall Summer Close Walpole St Andrew Norfolk – Prior Approval – Not required.

23/02139/LB | Installation of a replacement floor | Church of St Andrew Kirk Road Walpole St Andrew Norfolk – Application Permitted.

10.3 New Enforcements & Appeals: None

11. Finance

11.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for April proposed AE, seconded CJ and all in favour. Bank Balance at the end of April was £40978.07 including £11,492.70 Solar Fund money.

11.2 To approve payments (to date) for May – proposed AE, seconded WB and all in favour.

11.3 To approve & sign the AGAR report, section 1 & 2 – proposed AB, seconded HS and all in favour.

11.4 Review the internal auditors report – proposed RG, seconded RB and all in favour.

11.5 To approve the Explanation of Variances report – proposed DL, seconded HS and all favour.

11.6 To approve and sign the CIL return – proposed AE, seconded CJ and all in favour.

11.7 To approve the overtime for the clerk from January to March 24 @ 16 hours – proposed DL, seconded JL and all in favour.

10. Public participation: None

11. Items for next agenda – NDP, Solar Farm Fund.

12. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on the 6th of June 2024 from 7pm at the Community Centre.

Meeting closed 20.52 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

PAYMENTS FOR MAY 2024

K & M Lighting	£ 30.60	Standing Order
EE mobile	£ 18.48	direct debit
SSE	£ 95.66	direct debit
ECS cloud storage	£ 16.50	direct debit
Clerk Expenses April	£ 47.95	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
HMRC	£ 181.60	
Clerk Salary	£ 726.45	
Overtime to add 16 hrs. Jan-March	tbc	
Minuteman	£ 475.00	
Clear Insurance Management Ltd	£ 915.95	

Signed

Date