

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Council Meeting** held at the Community Centre on the 1st of May 2025 following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), William Brooks (WB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Jan Luck (JL), Andy Bliss (AB), Charlene Campion (CC), Richard Green (RG), Richard Blunt (RB), and Irene Hunter (IH)

7 members of the public

Welcome from the Chairman.

Public Participation: None

1. Election of Chairman – Cllr Blunt proposed Cllr Boston, seconded by Cllr Bliss and all in favour.
2. Election of Vice Chairman – Cllr Hunter proposed Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Campion and all in favour.
3. Declarations to be signed at the June meeting.
4. Public Participation - none
5. Apologies received – Parish Clerk
6. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
7. Declarations of interest – None
8. Minutes approved from the Parish Council meeting on the 3rd of April 25 proposed by Cllr Boston, seconded Cllr Smith and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
9. Matters arising:
 - 9.1 Reminded of the next meeting on the 3rd of June with National Grid. There was a suggestion to record the meeting so that we have evidence of what is said/discussed. There was a suggestion that James Whittaker becomes involved as part of a working party, given that he is somewhat of an expert in this field.
 - 9.2 Solar Farm Fund update – No new applications
10. To receive reports:
 - 10.1 Highways – A member of the public spoke about the illegal use of Eastlands Bank. The signs are not correct, and he as a resident has been fighting for 30 years. His emails are now being ignored by the Council. The gate has been removed, and people are driving straight out on to the A17. This is extremely dangerous. He believes that the Crown Estates are tasked with keeping the gate shut. It was left that the Clerk would contact Highways, Crown Estates and the County Council reference this matter as the resident is being fobbed off and has been for 30 years. CC has reported the potholes on Walnut Road. Cllr Hunter reported that King John Bank is closing for 10 days, and we are unsure why or the route etc. Clerk to get in touch with Highways / NCC to find out why it will be closed and the diversion route. Where does the substation traffic go?

10.2 County and Borough Councillor's Reports: Nothing to add to annual reports

10.3 Clerk Report: read by Cllr Boston

The SSE saga continues but they appear to have got our name correct now. January and February 25 invoices still awaiting broker to sort out.

Our internal audit is very good, and the AGAR is for approval/signature under item 12.

Highways: Missing 20mph flashing sign outside the school has been chased again and Andy Wallace at Highways advised that Westcotec deny collecting the sign. Therefore, he has requested a quote and NCC will pay for a new sign. Road signage on Bustards Lane – this has been scheduled for the summer.

An increase in residents interested in Devolution and advised to go to the Devolution page on the website. People are confused.

Have claimed back the CIL funding for the adult play area which has been approved by the Borough Council.

Insurance renewal is £1193.82 which includes an extra £25k for the adult equipment. Proposed Cllr James, seconded Cllr Smith and all in favour.

£5007.48 CIL income received and will be moved into the savings account.

The Parish Hall was discussed, and it will be completed at the end of June. It is cheaper than the Community Centre to hire and has improved facilities. As a Parish Council we wish to support both facilities. Cllr Green proposed to stay at the Community Centre, seconded by AB, however they then changed it to have a half and half approach was decided too much work for all involved in terms of invoicing, agenda etc.

Cllr Campion proposed 1 year at the Community and then 1 year at the Parish Hall, Cllr James seconded. WB abstained from the vote but everyone else was in favour. This was on the understanding that we review every May, to start in the September. Therefore, the meetings in September 25 will start from the Parish Hall.

10.4 Village Crier and Website reports:

Crier – Cllr Eveleigh advised that it is now breaking even but the print run may have to increase with the new homes.

Clerk advised 376 views in April of the website.

10.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – Cllr Eveleigh advised all okay at this time.

10.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Brooks reported that 2 members of the public had sound self-healing notice boards and had a sample with them. Cllr Brooks to obtain a quote for 3 and this could come out of the solar fund.

10.7 Adult Gym equipment now repaired and being used. The trampoline is in place and the buffer on the gate repaired. Cllr Brooks thanked 2 members of the public for their suggestion of an adult gym. Clerk is sorting out new signage.

10.8 SAM reports – Cllr Eveleigh advised:

Market Lane – average 37mph with top speed of 70mph. Chalk Road average 25mph with top speed of 50mph. Full details available on the website.

10.9 Communications/Correspondence:

Clr Bliss advised that the old litter bin was still sitting in Mr. Wing's barn.
The bus shelters are relatively new and so nothing needed.

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

11.1 Applications:

25/00507/RM: Re: Reserved Matters: Construction of one 4 bedroomed detached dwelling and detached double garage. at Land South of Applegate House Walnut Road Walpole St Peter Norfolk – Permission supported and proposed by Cllr Green, seconded Cllr Luck. Cllr Hunter abstained with all others present were in favour. Cllr Green raised the point of the land on Walnut Road and the Caravan. Cllr Bliss proposed contacting enforcement for clarification. Cllr Eveleigh seconded and all in favour.

11.2 Decisions:

21/01803/DISC_A|DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS 9 AND 12 FROM PLANNING PERMISSION 21/01803/FM - Temporary planning application (30 years) for the development of a battery energy storage facility and associated infrastructure.| Land SE Down Track From Westmoor West Drove North Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HU

Discharge of Condition final letter

11.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

24/00189/UNTIDY| Untidy Land| Keldan Chalk Road Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7PH – STILL pending consideration

25/00125/UNAUTU|UNOPDE - Unauthorised Operational Development|10 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY

24/00368/BOC|BOC - Breach of Planning Condition| Bustards Farm Bustards Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech – STILL PENDING CONSIDERATION

25/00007/REF| Erection of an agricultural building (retrospective)|Cley Cottage The Marsh Walpole St Andrew WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7JG – APPEAL VALID AGAINST REFUSAL

Lodged 12.2.25 IN PROGRESS

12. Finance

12.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for April – RG proposed, IH seconded and all in favour. Bank accounts to 30.4.25- £48,998.07 with £10,301.71 in the Solar fund account.

12.2 To approve payments (to date) for May – proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Brooks and all in favour.

12.3 To approve and sign the completed AGAR sections 1 Annual Governance Statement and Section 2 Accounting Statements. Cllr Bliss proposed, Cllr Green seconded with all in favour.

13. Public participation: None

14. Items for next agenda –

Pinboards , James Whittaker Working Party, Planning – Cllr Blunt, Bike Rack.
Cllr Blunt suggested a presentation on enforcement.

Signed

Date

12. Next meeting will be on the 5th of June 2025 from 7pm at the Community Centre.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm and Chairman thanked everyone for attending

Cllr James was thanked for taking the minutes.

PAYMENTS FOR MAY 2025 (to date)

Clerk Expenses March	£ 48.95
Community Centre	£ 34.32
Clerk Salary	£ 681.53
HMRC	£ 170.40
SSE	£ 95.66
BCKLWN dog bins	£ 290.00
Walpole Mowing Ltd	£ 500.00
Online Playground	£26162.40

Signed

Date