

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 3rd of April 2025 from 7.00pm.

Present:

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

5 members of the public

Borough Councillor Julian Kirk and parish clerk

Welcome from the Chairman.

Public Participation: None

1. Apologies received – Cllrs James and Campion
2. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
3. Declarations of interest – None
4. Minutes approved from the Parish Council meeting on the 6th of March 25 proposed by HS, seconded JL and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
5. Matters arising:
 - 5.1 NDP – Mr. Blandford had spoken to Michael Burton to see if this could be speeded up but could actually be delayed. Cllr Blunt was to chase this and awaiting an update. ACTION:RB
 - 5.2 Solar Farm Fund update – No new applications
6. To receive reports:
 - 6.1 Highways – Cllr Bliss had received complaints regarding the double parking and walking on Walnut Road, especially on the S bends. White lines have disappeared and to be reported to:
www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem
Cllr Boston reported that he had followed up on the issue raised regarding the water flooding onto Frenchs Road from a residents pond and, suggested, from our ditch. It was found that the ditch was lower than the residents pond and, although overgrown, the pond is sited higher. A further drain is needed. Cllr Brooks advised that even with no rain, there was still standing water on the road. Suggestion that there could be a burst pipe and Cllr Boston to confirm to the resident that the flooding is not down to our ditch.
Signs for Bustards Lane still not in place. Cllr Kirk/clerk to chase.
 - 6.2 County and Borough Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Blunt – No report received.

Cllr Kirk – No County Council report. Borough – lots of complaints regarding the road closures but he has been advised that signs will go up to show that businesses are open. Borough grant funding now available.

- 6.3 Clerk Report: Still spending time on the problems with SSE getting the invoices correctly addressed. Not resolved in time for year end and will continue chase. Will now start the preparation for the internal audit and AGAR to be completed early next week and set to the internal auditor.
Devolution continues to take up time and page now on the website.
- 6.4 Village Crier and Website reports:
Crier – close to breaking even at just -£60. More advertisers due to come onboard soon. Editor was thanked for her continued dedication.
Clerk advised 408 views in March of the website.
- 6.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – Cllrs Bliss and Everleigh bought in a new finger post footpath sign they had made, and they will replace damaged signs as and when required.
- 6.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that they are waiting for the weather to improve, and a member of the public was thanked for cleaning the white gateways whilst offering to take on more.
- 6.7 Play area – Cllr Luck advised that the installation of the adult equipment is now complete. We do have an issue with the trampoline installation as a pipe has been found under the location for the trampoline and additional work is required which will cost over £800. and clerk to chase date. This was discussed and it was decided to go back to the contractor as to why this issue was not found on the original survey. Clerk to respond and Cllr Boston happy to get involved.
ACTION: Clerk/ CB
- 6.8 SAM reports – none at present time.
- 6.9 Communications/Correspondence:
 - a. Large increase in the cost of emptying dog and rubbish bins was discussed but no alternative to Borough so have to go with it. This will affect the budget.
 - b. Next Meeting of the National Grid with the parish council discussed.
 - c. Litter picking raised by a resident. Cllr Boston advised that Cllr Campion had tried to set up a scheme on several occasions without success and a number of residents litter pick in their locations.
 - d. Parish Hall is nearing completion and should be open for June/July. Clerk to add to next agenda regarding holding PC meetings.

7. Planning – to consider Planning Applications, Decisions, Appeals and Enforcements. Any applications received after the date of this agenda and before the meeting date be considered. Applications:

7.1 **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 – Support due to useful addition to the area proposed Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr Brooks with all in favour.

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 – discussed and objection to the discharge of conditions 9 and 12 proposed Cllr Green, seconded Cllr Eveleigh with all in favour.

25/00556/LB -Remove a section of the nave floor and install a timber walkway and hand rails and remove the timber walkway and hand rails and reinstate the floor to its original finish at Church of St Andrew Kirk Road Walpole St Andrew This application was only received earlier today, and Cllr Bliss declared interest. Support proposed by Cllr Green, seconded Cllr Eveleigh and all in favour with Cllr Bliss abstaining.

7.2 Decisions: None

7.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

25/00038/UNOPDE| Alleged Unauthorised Operational Development|8 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY - CASE CLOSED No breach established

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

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

8. Finance

8.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for March proposed Cllr Luck, seconded Cllr Green and all in favour. Bank accounts to 31.3.25 £33,405.80 with £10,801.71 in the Solar fund account.

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

8.3 Year End Review – a positive year end proposed Cllr Hunter, seconded Cllr Bliss and all in favour. The finance team were thanked for their work over the last year.

10. Public participation:

The school flashing sign is still missing – clerk to chase highways again.

New defibrillator pads are required and Cllr Luck to send details to the clerk to order.

Allotments – a tenant asked if drones would be allowed on the small allotments and Cllr Boston advised that this was okay. Cllr Boston to visit these allotments to discuss issue raised.

11. Items for next agenda – please advise clerk by 23.4.25

12. Next meeting will be on the 1st of May 2025 from 7pm at the Community Centre.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending

PAYMENTS FOR APRIL 2025 (to date)

Clerk Expenses March	£ 48.95
Community Centre	£ 34.32
Clerk Salary	£ 681.53
HMRC	£ 170.40
SSE	£ 95.66
EE	£ 19.42
BCKLWN dog bins	£ 290.00
IDB	£ 301.28
Walpole Mowing Ltd	£ 500.00

Signed

Date