

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 from 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Andy Bliss (AB), William Brooks (WB), and the Parish Clerk.

9 members of public

One minutes silence was held in honor of the 80th D-Day

1. Welcome from the Chairman, who announced the resignation of Cllr David Lawty due to ill health and thanked him for his contributions, especially in planning matters.  
Public Participation – None
2. Apologies received by Cllrs Kirk, Campion, Luck, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 24 proposed by AE, seconded HS and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
6. Matters arising:
  - 6.1 NDP – Paul Blandford advised that the draft plan would be sent to the Borough tomorrow. Thanks were given to all the NDP team for their hard work. The Clerk raised an issue with writing to St. Andrews Church and Swingfield regarding the greenspaces. Swingfield is not owned to anyone on the land registry?
  - 6.2 Verdant Energy and ib Vogt presentation – no update. They have been asked to fund the new trampoline but still awaiting follow up response. Clerk to chase. CB
  - 6.3 Solar Farm Fund – clerk to check the original agreement. AB stated that the fund should be available to support groups within the parish i.e. scouts etc. WB suggested new equipment for the playground and CB asked all councillors to consider how the fund should be spent for the next meeting. The clerk advised that the original spend of the fund went to the parishioners who suggested a number of items but the top 3 were The Parish Hall, Community Centre Car Park and playground. Parishioners should be asked again on where the fund is spent. Perhaps via The Crier?
  - 6.4 National Grid Grimsby to Walpole – no update since the meeting held last month. CB advised that objections should be made as per links on the Facebook pages.
7. To receive reports:
  - 7.1 Clerk advised of a report of a flickering light between The Chase and Springfield, and this has been reported. Highways – CB advised that a large amount of complaints have been noted on social media regarding the recent road surfacing on Market Lane just before entering the village. Complaints have been raised with Highways and AB has contacted the contractors directly.

AB advised that the other problem with the recent road closures came about because one lot of contractors were running late due to bad weather and the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of contractors would not hold off their work which caused total chaos. The new footpath on Walnut Road was raised by Cllr Green via the clerk. The dyke has been filled in and the road is narrower. Numerous complaints received. CB advised that he had measured the road width which was actually 4" wider. Grit Bin audit – WB reported a bin was full of water and AB suggested drilling a hole to allow the water to run out and then it would need drying.

7.2 County and Borough Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Kirk's report is as Appendix 1.

No report from Cllr Blunt

7.3

Clerk Report: AGAR and all associated information completed and sent to the external auditors. West Norfolk Community Transport have a new flyer and clerk will add this to the website. Drops off at the hospital, Lynn Sport, multi-storey car park, bus and train stations, Harwick and various health centres. The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been updated and will be made available prior to the July meeting for discussion.

.gov.uk emails – Clerk, Cllrs Blunt and Luck are using the .gov.uk emails and help is available from the provider. Website has been updated.

The telephone numbers for Parish Councillors have been removed from the website and a note that anyone wishing to contact an individual councillor should go through the clerk.

7.4 Village Crier, and Website reports:

Crier – AE advised that the printers are to be thanked in getting the latest edition out in record time and he is still short of volunteers for deliveries.

Clerk reported that the new website had 372 viewings last month.

7.5

To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE advised that the signs are still up. There are a quite a few footpaths that are now overgrown.

7.6

Community Fund Projects Working Group – AB advised nothing to report other than an oak post for a fingerpost.

7.7

Play area – Clerk gave an update from Cllr Luck that there was no problems other than one of the signs being damaged. The zip wire was reported earlier this week as not working and Clerk obtained a quote for repair of £728.00 + VAT. A decision to be made at the next meeting as the cost is prohibitive.

7.8

SAM reports – AE advised that the damaged unit is now back and working. Thanks to Julian Kirk who took the unit to Westcotec, returned it and will pay for the damage.

Church Road out sign from 6/5/24 to 2/6/24 reported total vehicles 5481 with average speed 25.7mph in the 30mph limit. Maximum speed 50mph on the 10/5/24 at 05.40

7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

a. Voltwise Power re battery storage proposal – this is to rent 1.8 acres of Parish Council land over 35 years offering £90k per year, index linked. It was agreed to sign the Letter of Authority to allow Voltwise Power Holdings Ltd., consent to assess the potential for a connection to the existing unit. Proposed AB, seconded CJ and all in favour.

- b. Annual renewal of lighting maintenance. Clerk advised that an increase of £5.30 per month (inc VAT) was proposed, over a 3 year deal. Proposed AE, seconded CJ and all in favour.
- c. Planning Department are holding another Parish update in September and will be added to the July agenda for any councillors wishing to attend.

8. 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.

8.1 Applications:

24/00927/F – Variation of condition 2 at solar farm and battery storage, West of Flowers Farm and Frenchs Road, The Marsh. Minor amendments to array layout within site boundary. No observations proposed AB, seconded AE and all in favour.

24/01022/F & 23/F – extensions to operational life from 25 years to 40 years at 2 units opposite Walpole Sub Station, Walpole Bank. No observations proposed AB, seconded HS and all in favour.

24/00974/F - VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF PLANNING CONSENT 22/01722/F : Demolition of existing stable block and construction of dwelling and garage at Walnut Tree Farm Walnut Road Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7NR – Considered to be out of character for the location and other properties. Object proposed AB, seconded HS and all in favour.

8.2 Decisions: None

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

**24/00199/UNOPDE** | Alleged unauthorised operational development | Fern House Market Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7LX – pending consideration.

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

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for May proposed AE, seconded CJ and all in favour. Bank Balance at the end of May was £37,268.06 including £11,492.70 Solar Fund money.

9.2 To approve payments (to date) for June – proposed AE, seconded HS and all in favour.

10. Public participation:

- a. What was the size of the land for Voltwise – 1.8 acres.
- b. Concerns raised again regarding a fire at one of the battery storage areas and requesting that assurances on safety are available. Have contacted Borough, Fire Brigade etc., but no response.
- c. Lack of facilities for teenagers in the village was raised. CB thought the Community Centre was the ideal location and this to be added to the next agenda for discussion. Noticed that some of the white gates are overgrown and green. Volunteers needed and to add to next agenda.
- d. Green spaces letters for NDP – as covered under point 6.1
- e. Parish Hall is now flattened.

11. Items for next agenda – NDP, Facilities for teenagers, White gates.

12. Next meeting will be on the 4th of July 2024 from 7pm at the Community Centre. Co-options for the vacancy of parish councillor can be made after the 12<sup>th</sup> of June to the clerk.

Meeting closed 20.34 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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PAYMENTS FOR JUNE 2024 TO DATE

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 May	£ 47.95	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
HMRC	£ 181.60	
Clerk Salary	£ 726.45	
Westcotec	£ 180.60	
Minuteman	£ 473.00	
Parish Online (.gov.uk)	£ 96.00	

Signed .....

Date .....

## APPENDIX 1 – Cllr Kirk



# Norfolk County Council

## Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates Updated

**30 May 2024**

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

**Service updates:** The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#).

### Norfolk County Council updates

#### Volunteers Week

[Volunteers Week 3-9 June 2024](#) celebrates the amazing contribution volunteers make to communities across the UK.

The current [Chair of Norfolk County Council](#) has a key theme of supporting and celebrating volunteers and promoting volunteering in Norfolk. This will help to promote the vital work volunteers do in Norfolk and to encourage more people to consider becoming a volunteer. If you know of any events or opportunities for him to meet volunteers and recognise the contribution they are making, please do invite him [using our online form](#).

There are many volunteer roles available, from parish councillors to school governors, and from community speed-watch members to PTA members. There are also many informal opportunities, such as befriending, litter picking, and gardening. People are encouraged to visit [Norfolk's Get InVOLved volunteering portal](#) where there are hundreds of different roles, and [NCC's website](#) to find out more about Norfolk County Council's own opportunities.

It's not just individuals that can make a difference, as businesses have a significant role to play too, from [employee supported volunteering](#) or by donating time and skills through Norfolk Community Foundation's [pro-help scheme](#).

On 7 June, there is a [volunteering extravaganza](#) at the Forum Norwich. During this event Momentum, part of Voluntary Norfolk, will be launching their brand [Flourish](#) Youth Award.

#### Bus improvements between Norwich and North Norfolk

Residents living in the North of the county are set to benefit from the latest bus service improvements which will see more frequent buses, and later buses, operating between Norwich and Cromer/Sheringham and Holt. The increased services which are all operated by Sanders Coaches will begin on 2 June and are funded by money that Norfolk County

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Date .....

Council secured from the Department for Transport.

Improvements include:

- A later bus back from Norwich on the X55 service at 22:40 to allow a way back to North Walsham after evenings out in the city.
- Coupled with an increased frequency to the X44/44A service which operates between Sheringham and Norwich a new fast service X41 will be added and this will allow buses to run every half an hour throughout the day Monday to Saturday between Aylsham and Norwich, This benefits those living on route in places such as Aylsham Marsham Hevingham St Faiths and Hellesdon.
- Extra buses on the fast X40 and new X41 journeys will get you to the City or Coast where you can join other services to explore Norfolk further.
- X41 fast buses will serve 3 stops in Aylsham - Burgh Road - Tesco and Norwich Road.
- With the introduction of the X41 from Burgh Road off peak 43 service buses will now serve the west of Aylsham travelling from Willow Park - via Cawston road then Norwich road on route to Norwich.

## **Government updates**

### **General election – what happens next**

The prime minister has called an election for Thursday 4 July 2024.

#### **Draft timetable of key dates**

- **Thursday 30 May 2024** – the dissolution of Parliament, when all Bills that haven't made it to Royal Assent will be dropped.
- **Sometime around 6 June 2024...** - Statement of Nominated persons (candidates) likely to be announced.
- **Sometime 20ish days before the 4 July 2024...** - Manifestos will be launched by the major parties, usually within a few days of each other. The Institute for Government have noted that since 1997 they have been launched between 18 and 29 days before the election date, which would put their announcement sometime between 5 June and 16 June.
- **Tuesday 18 June** – deadline to register to vote.
- **Thursday 20 June 2024** – Bank of England will announce the Bank Rate.
- **Thursday 4 July 2024** – Polling Day.
- **Tuesday 9 July 2024** – New Parliament will be summoned to meet, election of the speaker and swearing-in of members.
- **Wednesday 17 July 2024** – State opening of Parliament.

Further information about registering to vote and how to vote is available on our Norfolk County Council webpages [here](#).

Further government information about key dates for nominating candidates and registering to vote are available [here](#).

Signed .....

Date .....