

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 7th of March 2024 from 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), Janet Luck (JL), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Andy Bliss (AB), William Brooks (WB), Charlene Campion (CC), Richard Green (RG), and the Parish Clerk.
Borough & County Councillor Julian Kirk (JK), Borough & Parish Councillor Richard Blunt (RB)
12 members of public

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Public Participation – None
2. Apologies received by Cllr Lawty, continued illness.
3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
4. Declarations of interest – AB re planning application 23/02139/LB for St. Andrews Church.
5. Minutes approved from the meetings on the 1st of February 24 proposed by AE, seconded CJ and all in favour who were present at that meeting. The steering group now consists of Paul, Irene, Andy, Tracey, and Cllrs Bliss and Smith.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 NDP – Paul Blandford gave an update that Katie from CCP was putting together a draft plan and a meeting would be held on the 25th of March from 7pm – venue to be advised. Alex Fradley has rejoined the NDP team at Borough and RB will contact Alex to see if we can get funding for the next financial year as CCP advise that the plan would not be completed and approved before November 24.

ACTION:RB

7. To receive reports:
 - 7.1 Highway – CJ re Walnut Road, the development is causing issues with the state of the road and concerns raised as to who will make good. RB had received complaints from Marsh Road, Princes Road regarding the construction traffic management HGV's not using the in and out routes, speeding, damaging the road surface and causing other road users off the road. He requested pictures for evidence. AB advised that he had reported potholes near his home and white lines have now been sprayed twice. JK informed that when white paint is sprayed at a location, it is logged with on NCC system. Eastlands road, very dangerous with lots of potholes and these have been reported.
Clerk had reported a street light request at Stocks hill Square as per request from a resident. WB advised that this is not in the Walpole Parish.
Clerk advised that NCC had sent a payment to Walpole PC which was actually for Walsoken PC! When queried she was told that NCC use the clerks name and she has asked for this to be changed accordingly.

- CB advised that he had sorted out a problem on the small allotments and all now ok.
- 7.2 County and Borough Councillor's Reports:
 RB advised that the Borough Council budget had been approved with a 5% increase council tax increase on band D homes. 10-20% increases on fees and services, with a 5% cut in services!
 The proposed Grimsby to Walpole pylon link has a lack of consultation and Lincolnshire CC are complaining. It was suggested that the cable should go under the Wash as others had used.
 JK reported that the County budget is to save £25m. No cuts to adult and childcare. Highways report to enforcement re French's Road and he suggested a visit by the PC to Highways at Saddlebow should be made to discuss all the issues.
 The flooding on Walnut Road continued to be a problem with a dyke filled in on the back which goes towards West Drove. April Cottage continues to be flooded with that problem caused by the Hill Farm development. The ditch needs reinstating and enforcement should check the original development regarding the drainage.
 The ditch on Folgate Lane has now been cleared.
- 7.3 Clerk Report: Small allotments – Plot 2 has become available again but is currently flooded. Attended a Scribe webinar on reserves and budgets.
 Time Sheet for February as sent out. Currently 8 hours over. Working with UK Power networks to relocate overhead power lines on an allotment.
- 7.4 Village Crier, Social Media, and Website reports:
 Crier – 2 delivery people required to cover Pigeon, Frenches and Marsh Roads and AE has put a request on social media. CC will ask the mums. Deadline for copy is Monday 11th March. All advertisers have now paid in full.
 Notice for help will also be put on the Walpole Wingers FB page.
 CB advised that there were still hacking issues and it was decided to look at Walpole Wingers instead but to problems with the PC FB page, and it looks like we will have to set up a new one.
 Website – 569 views in February on both sites. Pete Luck was thanked by all for his hard work and dedication.
- 7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE & AB will make up 2 signs.
- 7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – AB advised that the dog and grit bin out outside the parish hall have now been relocated. The wooden housing unit has been stored for the time being until we find a new home.
- 7.7 Play area – JL advised that the play area work has had to stop due to the flooding.
- 7.8 SAM reports – Walpole Bank from 26.1.24 to 23.2.24: Total vehicles 9737, top speed 65mph in a 40mph limit. Average speed 35.1mph.
 The March (same dates as above): Total vehicles 6719, top speed 55mph in 40mph limit. Average speed 30.4 mph. Member of the public asked if the speed unit had ever been on West Drove and AE advised, yes and would be happy to share the data.
- 7.9 Communications/Correspondence:
 a. Email from resident regarding reduction of the speed limit on Walpole Bank and Folgate Lane to 40mph. JK advised that an initial survey would cost around £8k and overall costs could be £75k which the PC could not fund. Advised the member of public to contact highways directly.

- b. T Blackamore increase for 2024 of 3% was approved, proposed CC, seconded AE and all in favour.
- c. St. Andrews Church request for permission to locate a portable toilet – this was discussed, and AB declared an interest. The toilet will be hidden from direct view by fencing and RB to check if planning is required. **ACTION: RB**
- d. Letter from Gill Henderson reviewed regarding the solar funding of £25k. WB declared an interest. It was agreed to extend the deadline for another 6 months to October 24. Proposed AE, seconded CJ and all in favour with WB abstaining.

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:

24/00167/LDP | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed use as a dwelling house by not more than six residents living together as a single household (including a household where care is provided for residents) | 8 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY - this was discussed in some detail with members of the public advising of several unpleasant issues. As this is the second building, following number 10, oversatuation and misrepresentation were raised. CJ to advise on comments to be made.

ACTION: CJ

23/02080/DISC_A | DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 9 OF PLANNING CONSENT 23/02080/F: Installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure | Land At East Marsh S of Gunthorpe Road W of Flowers Farm And Frenchs Road The Marsh Walpole St Andrew Norfolk – **THIS WAS ON LAST MONTH REQUESTING MORE INFORMATION ON CONDITION 9** – This relates to the archeological dig requirements as raised by the Historic Environmental Officer. Clerk advised that an email had been received this afternoon from Alpaca communications who are holding a public Q & A session in the Community Centre on the 26th of March from 6-8pm with an invite to the parish council between 5.30 and 6pm to a private meeting. Clerk to send confirmation.

ACTION Clerk

23/02139/LB | Installation of a replacement floor at Church of St Andrew Kirk Road Walpole St Andrew Norfolk – this is a revised application and RB was asked to call this in as there is no detail or timescale on the application.

ACTION: RB

8.2 Decisions:

None

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

23/00064/REF | 1st floor Extension and alterations to existing dwelling | Cedar View Walnut Road Walpole St Peter – Appeal in progress

24/00047/UNOPDE | Unauthorised Operational Development | West Elm Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY – pending consideration

24/00032/UNOPDE | Unauthorised Operational Development | 10 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for February– proposed AE, seconded CJ and all in favour. Bank Balance at the end of February was £45,010.93 with £11,414.44 Solar Fund money and £23,000 CIL funding for the playground.

9.2 To approve payments (to date) for March, and the clerks hours were agreed at 10 per week – proposed CJ, seconded JL and all in favour.

- 9.3 The clerk raised concerns on the amount of funds left to carry over into 24/25 financial year. Payments for March (to date) amount to £24,223.86 with the invoice for the work on the play area still to come at £13k. This would only leave us with a figure of 7k. The budget will require amending as it states opening figure of £24k. The clerk had called a meeting of the Finance working group to discuss this situation and proposals include limiting donations to £50, looking at meeting costs etc. The clerk made it clear that we have to review the budget at the year end and it has to be adhered to.
- 9.4 To approve the Internal Auditor, J. Raby for the 23/24 financial year – approved by all.

10. Public participation:

A pot hole by his home was filled in for the third time recently and the operatives actually covered a crisp packet and can of drink over with the filler. When asked if they were going to pick the items up, told it was not their job!

Pavement parking on Church Road is now causing a problem. CB advised that this was not something the PC can take on but advised that they contact highways via the link on the website and report it directly.

11. Items for next agenda – budget review

12. Next meeting 4th April 2024 from 7pm

Meeting closed 20.58 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

PAYMENTS FOR MARCH 2024

K & M Lighting	£ 30.60	Standing Order
EE mobile	£ 18.48	direct debit
SSE	£ 93.72	direct debit
ECS cloud storage	£ 16.50	direct debit
Clerk Expenses February	£ 47.95	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
HMRC	£ 132.00	
Clerk Salary	£ 528.30	
Back pay estimated	£ 548.00	estimated
T Blackamore annual invoice 2023	£ 4948.80	
ICO annual subscription	£ 35.00	
NPTS annual subscription	£ 221.19	
Minuteman Jan invoice	£ 475.00	
NCC payment to Walsoken PC	£ 8534.00	

NDP Payments:

Collective Community Planning	£8100.00
Collective Community Planning	£ 480.00

TOTAL PAYMENTS £24,223.86 TO 5.3.24

Signed

Date