

# WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Present:

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

County Councillor Julian Kirk

4 members of public

1. Welcome from the Chairman.  
Public Participation –  
Update given on the rebuilding of the Parish Hall. The foundations are now complete, and the work is progressing well.
2. Apologies received by Cllr Campion
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 Parish Council meeting on the 3rd of October 24 proposed by WB, seconded RG and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
6. Matters arising:
  - 6.1 NDP – Mr. Blandford raised concern that there was a lack of understanding of the NCP within the community and some residents, including councillors, were finding the Reg 14 report hard work.  
RB advised that training will be required on the planning aspects of the plan to ensure the parish council are aware of the policies that would affect any applications.  
AE and his team were thanked for delivering the flyers and it was decided that Christmas cards and gifts should be given to all the 16 delivery volunteers.  
The open event on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November at the Garden Room has Paul Blandford, CB, HS and RB volunteering for the 10-12noon session with WB, IB and ANO for the 5-7pm session.  
The follow up NDP meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2024.
  - 6.2 Verdant Energy and ib Vogt presentation – RB advised that the new BCKLWN CEO, Kate Blakemore and Borough Leader Alistair Beales were given a tour of the ward including the solar farms/substation which horrified Kate. Cllr Kirk was also present. BCKLWN had also had a recent meeting with the National Grid but no answers forthcoming.

A stakeholder group of "influencers" including Jim Moriarty, RB and Julian Kirk is to be set up. 1 parish councillor for each parish and a member of the public will also be included. Working on the Terms of Reference for this group.

It is realised that we cannot stop the Grimsby to Walpole line but why not go under the sea and Wash or even take the line to Bacton which is already set up.

The additional "booster stations" along the proposed inland line were questioned and why is an additional sub station being built?

Concerns raised that the Walpoles are being dumped on as we have no infrastructure to support growth with no doctors, dentists, local shops etc. The risks regarding battery storage are still unknown. The HGV's are still not using the approved routes or sticking to the allocated times.

6.3 Voltwise – update due early 2025

6.4 Solar Farm Fund – article to be placed in the Crier and CJ to write.

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Highways – CJ raised speeding on Walnut Road and when will West Drove North be completed? RB will ask the King's Lynn Drainage Board for an update.

Clerk is meeting with Andy Wallace from Highways on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

7.2 County and Borough Councillor's Reports:

**Cllr Blunt** – As per 6.2 AND 7.1

**Cllr Kirk** had reported the overhanging hedges on Walnut Road, but highways were not interested. The road signs on Bustards Lane have still not been put up.

Attended meetings at County Hall today regarding prisoners and how they get access to doctors and dentists on tap.

7.3 Clerk Report: The cycle storage unit grant has been completed and awaiting payment from Borough. CIL income received of £4.7k. Continuing working with Mr. Blandford on the Reg 14. Grass cutting tender approved and will send out to interested parties. Working on the budget for 25/26.

Government is reviewing the use of online meetings.

7.4 Village Crier, Facebook and Website reports:

Crier – AE reported that 1 new advertiser has come on board and the editor will only send out 1 reminder to non-invoice payers. Articles due 11.11.24 for next edition. The editor was thanked for all her hard work.

Clerk advised 326 views in October of the website.

7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE reported that the footpath from Follens Road to Eastlands Bank was very overgrown and cannot be reported online anymore. A fingerpost to Eastlands Bank has dropped down.

Marsh sign is still in place and the routes still not cut back make it difficult

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Christmas tree is looking good.

7.7 Play area – JL has found the second sign and post which needs installing and the other sign is wobbly. The zip wire is causing concern again and it appears that the rollers have flattened. Quote for over £800 from Online Playground appears very expensive and concerns raised that the ongoing costs of maintaining the zip wire do not warrant the expense. Clerk to obtain contact details of other maintenance providers. ACTION: Clerk

JL advised that the gate is still sticking. There is an issue with the location of the new adult outdoor equipment as regulations regarding the distance between it and the playground mean it would not work.

It was agreed that JL raise the consideration of a suitable area with the Trust at the AGM next week. ACTION: JL

7.8 SAM reports – AE reported as follows:

6.9.24 to 6.10.24 Walnut Road (Hawthorns) In: 85<sup>th</sup> % = 30.8mph, maximum speed = 45mph with total vehicles 12,849. Average speed = 26.1mph

6.9.24 to 6.10.24 Market Lane (Hughenden) Out: 85% = 44mph, maximum speed = 75mph, total vehicles 22,835. Average speed = 37.9mph

7.9 Communications/Correspondence

a. Clerk advised of email received from Bright Future Homes who want to set up a speed unit on Folgate Lane.

8. 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.

8.1 Applications:

**21/01712/DISC\_A**|DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 4 FROM PLANNING PERMISSION 21/01712/DISC\_A - Demolition of Village Hall and replacement with New Village Hall|Village Hall Committee Church Hall Church Road Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7NS – all in approval.

8.2 Decisions:

**23/00748/DISC\_B**|DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS 11 AND 12 FROM PLANNING PERMISSION 23/00748/FM - Installation of a new vehicular access arrangement and operational works|Land S of Walpole Substation Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew Norfolk **Discharge of Condition final letter**

**24/00528/DISC\_A**|DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 10 FROM PLANNING PERMISSION 24/00528/F - Proposed erection of 2no. semi-detached dwellings and forming new access.|Land And Buildings Between Model Cottage And Beacon Cottage The Marsh Walpole St Andrew Norfolk **Discharge of Condition final letter**

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

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

**24/00368/BOC**|BOC - Breach of Planning Condition| Bustards Farm Bustards Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Clay Cottage to be advised

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for October proposed AE, seconded JL and all in favour.

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

9.3 To review the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the 25/26 budget and precept. Agreed to look at 15% precept increase to keep up with the costs. All councillors to advise the clerk of any questions and to review at the December meeting. ACTION: ALL

10. Public participation: None

11. Items for next agenda – solar fund, budget/precept.

12. Next meeting will be on the 5<sup>TH</sup> of December 2024 from 7pm at the Community Centre.  
Cllr James gave her apologies for this meeting.

Meeting closed 20.49 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Page 4 of 4

PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2024 TO DATE

EE mobile	£ 18.48	direct debit
SSE	£ 95.66	direct debit
Clerk Expenses October	£ 48.95	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
Clerk Salary	£ 672.70	
HMRC	£ 140.71	

Signed .....

Date .....