

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the 4th of September 2025.

Present:

Councillors – Claire James (CJ), Heather Smith (HS), William Brooks (WB), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Jan Luck (JL), Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Green (RG), Richard Blunt (RB), and Irene Hunter (IH). Parish Clerk and County Councillor Julian Kirk.

4 members of the public

1. Welcome from the Vice Chairman followed by Public Participation: None
2. Apologies received – Cllrs Boston and Campion (child illness & doctor appointment)
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 July proposed by Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr Brooks and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 National Grid update – It was agreed that Cllr Blunt invite James Wild MP to a public meeting at Walpole. ACTION: RB

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Councillor's reports – Cllr Eveleigh advised that the new 20mph sign at the school was now in place.

Cllr Eveleigh was thanked for his work with the contractors using the incorrect route, mainly Newells. After speaking to the site foreman, all drivers should now be issued with the correct routes. Cllr Hunter advised that Marsh Road was a single track with no passing places.

7.2 Borough Councillor Report – Cllr Blunt advised that the Borough Council report for the Devolution is delayed, and the report is awaited.

The CIL process is to be changed with a more strategic approach rather than community. Cllr Blunt has heard that the elections next year maybe cancelled.

County Councillor Report – Cllr Kirk advised that nothing had been heard from the Government regarding the cancelling of elections next year. The elections for the new mayor will be taking place next year and rumours that they will be based in Ipswich.

Cllr Kirk has the community grant of £5k to support local events etc., and requests over £500 have to be crowd fund matched. Members fund is available.

7.3 Clerk Report:

August has been a very busy month. All our policies/procedures have been checked and updated to ensure we are compliant and are on the website.

The SSE saga has been finalised with a new contract in place.

The AGAR has been approved by the external auditor.

I have attended training on the forthcoming Assertion 10 which will bring additional work and all councillors must have .gov.uk emails.

Also attended 3 different sessions on devolution/local government as per information sent and updates on the website. No doubt more to follow!

Invoices for the large allotments have been sent out this week.

7.4 Crier AE advised that the Crier is now in profit. Last date for submissions is the 15th of September.

Clerk advised website had 340 visitors in August.

7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – No issues at this time with some cuts due.

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that the bolt has been replaced in the playground.

7.7 Cllr Luck advised that all was well with no issues and all looking good. The new signage is needed asap. Cllr James asked about the “bits” dropped onto the trampoline and JL advised these were removed regularly.

7.8 SAM reports – Cllr Eveleigh advised:

Cherry Tree Lane incoming –with top speed of 60mph.

West Drive North outgoing – with a top speed of 105mph

7.9 NDP clerk advised that the independent examiner has made their report, and this should be available on the Borough Council website.

7.10 Communications/Correspondence:

Email from a resident regarding the land between School Lane and Walnut Road.

The owner is looking to apply for a small number of houses.

Anti-social behaviour at the Community Centre car park – Cllr Bliss advised that a vehicle was stopped after making “doughnuts” on the car park and this has been reported to the police. Unfortunately, no response from the Community Centre for CCTV footage. The car park was cleaned up by the Cruisers.

Policies and procedures including the new IT policy were approved by all present.

A request for a dog bin on the entrance to Dunces Lane has been received and it was agreed that the clerk ask the Clean-up team at Borough for permission at that location.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Brooks advised that the 3 noticeboards have been re-backed but the backing on one board has been stolen. Agreed to order another backing and put screws on all boards to prevent this happening again. Cllr Brooks to advise sizes to Clerk.

ACTION: WB/Clerk

2026 meeting dates sent out by the clerk and approved. WB has confirmed that the 8th of January 2026 is available.

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

8.1 Applications:

24/01275/FM - Construction of a battery energy storage system and ancillary development at Land E548887 N317051 NE of White House Farm Frenchs Road Walpole St Andrew Norfolk. Majority vote agreed to object on the grounds that the emergency access Road / Second Exit Roadway - existing roadways are not blended into the new access road. Why it's NOT going over the dyke and then onto the French's Road?

25/01114/FM - Variation of Conditions 2, 6 and 7 and Remove Condition 8 of Planning Permission 24/00927/F: Variation of Condition 2 attached to Planning Permission 23/02080.F: VARIATION OF CONDITION 3 OF PLANNING CONSENT

21/01442/FM. - Installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure. at Land At East Marsh S of Gunthorpe Road W of Flowers Farm And Frenchs Road The Marsh Walpole St Andrew Norfolk
Majority vote agreed to support this as the proposal of the passing places along East Bank Road will help the situation and our concerns along the road.
We also acknowledge the points made by Lincolnshire County Council.

8.2 Decisions:

23/01692/NMA_1|NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT to Planning Permission 23/01692/F: Full Planning Application for the Installation of Generator User Bay Extension of the Walpole 400kV Substation.| National Grid Electricity Transmission Walpole Substation Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew Norfolk **Application Permitted**

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

25/00386/UNAUTU|UNAUTU - Unauthorised Use|3 Lucky Lane Walpole St Andrew WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7NX – PENDING CONSIDERATION

24/00189/UNTIDY| Untidy Land| Keldan Chalk Road Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7PH – CASE CLOSED

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

25/00289/UNAUTU| Alleged Unauthorised Use|8 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY – PENDING CONSIDERATION

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

Cllr Bliss raised the recent report received from Cllr Kirk regarding the Fire Brigade update on battery storage fire risks. All new batteries will be free standing, not in containers, which means they will release their charge and shut down if a fire happens.

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for July and August – AE proposed, AB seconded and all in favour. Bank accounts to 31.8.25- £24,557.64 with £10,362.96 in the Solar fund account.

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

9.3 To approve the 3.2% annual pay increase – approved by all.

9.4 To sign the updated bank mandate

- 10. Public participation: None
- 11. Items for next agenda – please advise the clerk 7 days prior to the meeting date.
- 12. Next meeting will be on the 2nd of October 2025 from 7pm at the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.06pm and Chairman thanked everyone for attending

PAYMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 (to date)

Clerk Expenses	£ 48.95
Parish Hall	£ 34.32
Clerk Salary	£ 681.53
HMRC	£ 170.40
SSE	£ 95.66
BCKLWN dog bins	£ 290.00
Walpole Mowing Ltd	£ 500.00
Fenland signage/posts	£ 648.48
Command Pest Control St. Andrews and Swingfield pest control	£ 201.60
Parish Online annual subscription	£ 60.00