

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on the 5th of September 2024 from 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillors – Charles Boston (CB), Heather Smith (HS), Adrian Eveleigh (AE), Andy Bliss (AB), William Brooks (WB), Jan Luck (JL), Claire James (CJ), Richard Green (RG), Richard Blunt and the Parish Clerk. Irene Hunter (IH) was welcomed as our new Parish Councillor following co-option before this meeting. County Councillor Julian Kirk
6 members of public

1. Welcome from the Chairman.
Public Participation – None
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 – Cllr Green re planning – 24/01275/FM, battery storage.
5. Minutes approved from the Parish Council meeting on the 4th of July 24 proposed by AE, seconded CJ and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 NDP – The clerk advised Borough had now given permission to proceed to first draft at Regulation 14 consultation. We need to be ready to move forward with this in October as it will last for 6 weeks. Clerk handed out draft flyers and a date needs to be set up with the Community Centre from 10am to noon and 4pm to 7pm. Collective Community are starting work on the questionnaire and all relevant information. NOTE. The steering committee and Parish Councillors should be in attendance at the Community Centre.
 - 6.2 Verdant Energy and ib Vogt presentation – no update.
 - 6.3 Voltwise – clerk advised that have submitted a formal application to UKPN to understand the size of the opportunity and the secure the capacity. This can take up to 4 months.
 - 6.4 Solar Farm Fund – It was agreed to put a statement in the next Crier regarding spend from the fund with the additional adult items for the play area. CJ will put this together. ACTION:CJ
7. To receive reports:
 - 7.1 Highways – CJ advised of poor road conditions by the new housed on Walnut Road. Brambles need cutting down and the barrier for the gate has dropped. As unsure of the owners, CJ will check the land registry.
RG advised that West Drove will be closed for 8 weeks.

7.2 County and Borough Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Kirk raised 2 recent emails received regarding the affect of HGV's from various solar works causing damage to the highways and speeding. One referred to King John Bank which is partly maintained by Lincolnshire CC and they should be notified of any problems. A request to stop all HGV's would not work as it would impact on local farmers vehicles too.

NCC are looking at dentistry and women's health. The issue with training dentists is that they all move elsewhere when qualified, leaving Norfolk in the same poor position.

Road signage on Bustards Lane still awaited and will check with Andy Wallace. It was decided not to support the Elected Leader, and elections will take place next May for County Councillors.

Cllr Blunt the recent general election involvement was very time consuming. The Mayors Award for Design has been relaunched this year to celebrate architectural excellence and craftsmanship in west Norfolk – details will be available on the website under News.

Members fund will be available again next year. Link for the Local Plan to be sent to the clerk. ACTION: RB

A new National Planning Policy framework is expected.

Planning is taking up a lot of time with the large developments i.e., West Winch which now has permission to build 300 homes before the access road has been built.

CIL application decisions have been put back to the 16th of September.

Awaiting an update from Government regarding the QEH.

Advised that National Highways are looking into reducing the speed limit on the A47 between Peterborough and King's Lynn (single lane) to 50mph.

7.3 Clerk Report: All policies and procedures has been reviewed in August and updated on the website. Large allotment invoices are ready to be sent out now for payment due in October.

The .gov.uk email update to zoho has taken place but unhappy that no notice had been given and although an improved system, it has caused connection issues.

Cycle Storage unit needs to be ordered this month to ensure the grant is used. AB agreed to take delivery. Clerk to order. ACTION: clerk

The website has been updated to <https://www.walpole-pc.gov.uk>

7.4 Village Crier, Facebook and Website reports:

Crier – AE advised that they have lost 1 advertiser but have a new one.

Copy for the October edition need to be with the editor by Thursday 12th.

Clerk advised 326 views in August of the website.

7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – AE advised that the fingerboards are going in but a number of footpaths are overgrown. A tree is down and IH will look into this.

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – The "A" Team were thanked for their work on the play area including repair of the zip wire.

7.7 Play area – JL again thanked AB & AE for the maintenance undertaken on the play area. The school have advised her that the trees will be cut back along the side of the area.

- 7.8 SAM reports – AE reported the following:
From 4.7.24 to 5.8.24 on Chalk Road (incoming,) total vehicles 11,091 with average speed of 24.8mph. Top speed was 50mph on the 3.8.24 at 19.45. IH asked if a unit could be put on Marsh Road, ideally by the scrapyard and to advise clerk on exact location to gain permission from Highways. ACTION:AE
- 7.9 Small allotments – several plots have not been planted this season and clerk to send out an email as this is against the tenancy agreement. ACTION: Clerk
- 7.10 Communications/Correspondence
 - a. Local plan allocations as sent out by the clerk show 17 completions, 18 commitments and 6 local plan allocations = 41
 - b. National Grid re ground investigation surveys
 - c. Substation development forum requested by Engage Agency – want to meet before our October meeting for 1.5 hrs. – this would not work for a number of councillors; therefore, they need to come up with dates.
 - d. Resident emails as raised by Cllr Kirk.

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:

24/91275/FM – construction of a battery energy storage system and ancillary development, White House Farm, Frenchs road Walpole St. Andrews. Proposal to object due to close proximity to 2 properties by AE, seconded JL, carried with 2 abstaining.

8.2 Decisions: None

8.3 Enforcements/Appeals: (for information):

24/00189/UNTIDY| Untidy Land| Keldan Chalk Road Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7PH – pending consideration. Clerk to obtain an update from enforcement and copy RB. ACTION: Clerk

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for July and August proposed JJ, seconded RG and all in favour. Bank Balance at the end of August was £28,746.01 with £11,571.50 Solar Fund money.

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

10. Public participation:

- a. To clear the hedge by the post box by SAM post.
- b. The Gardening Club produce show was affected by the lack of the Crier in August.

11. Items for next agenda – NDP, Footpath cutting, Dog mess on the playing field.

12. Next meeting will be on the 3rd of October 2024 from 7pm at the Community Centre.

Meeting closed 20.29 and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

PAYMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 TO DATE

EE mobile	£ 18.48	direct debit
SSE	£ 95.66	direct debit
Clerk Expenses August	£ 26.00	
Community Centre	£ 34.32	
Clerk Salary	£ 672.70	
HMRC	£ 140.71	
Online Leisure – parts	£ 39.00	

Signed

Date