

WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Walsoken Parish Council Meeting held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 10th of September 2024 from 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors – Fred Leach - Chair, John Woolley – Vice Chair, Andy Houghton, Lynn Clarke, Clive Bettinson, Chris Luff and Lynn Ottaviano, Parish Clerk

Cllr Julian Kirk

Cllr Chris Dawson

One member of the Public

1. **Welcome from Chairman to everyone.**

Public Participation – to allow public participation (3 minutes per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total).

The member of the public highlighted that the seating in the new bus shelters is very uncomfortable and asked if this could be taken into consideration and for a different design to be considered for any further bus shelters in the future. She also mentioned that there are no bus timetables in the holders in the bus shelters. **Clerk to investigate.**

2. **Apologies** from Cllr Taylor (family commitments), Cllr Snow, and Cllr Harwin (holiday).

3. **Declarations of Interest** of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations. None

4. **Approval of the Parish Council Meeting minutes** held on the 7th of July 2024 were proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Houghton, and approved by all present at that meeting.

5. **Matters Arising** – to record matters arising from the last meeting:

5.1 **Extending 30mph to match/exceed larger village envelope.**

Signed

Date

After comments from Cllr Dawson that changing speed limits is a difficult process and hard to get approval for, it was agreed that this item on the agenda would receive no further action at present and the focus would be on item 5.2. Cllr Dawson mentioned that it may be a good idea to wait until further housing developments take place in this area and then request support from the housing developers in the changing of the speed limit.

5.2 Reducing 50mph to 40mph on B198 Lynn Road

Cllrs discussed the area of road in question highlighting that there is now a bus stop on this stretch of road and that it can be scary waiting at the stop with lorries etc., travelling past at 50mph. Cllr Dawson stated that the cost to action the speed change would be in the region of £6,000 and that these changes are usually in response to an accident. However, he requested a diagram of the area of road concerned and suggested that the council build a case by having a speed survey completed by Streetwise for approximately £350. **Clerk to arrange.**

5.3 Fly-tipping in private orchard on Burrett Road

This has been cleared somewhat, no further action by council.

5.4 Basketball area

After discussion, it was agreed by Cllrs that the work on the basketball land at Sleights Drive should go ahead, to include levelling and reseeding of the area. Clerk to get a quote for this from Tawny Owl and also discuss with them renewal of their contract for the churchyard maintenance, current agreement ends in October. **Clerk to action.**

5.5 Parish Council WhatsApp group.

After discussion, the Cllrs agreed that a WhatsApp group was not currently an idea that would be advantageous in engaging the public. Questions were raised about levels of engagement, advantages to the council and the possibility of abuse, therefore for no further action at this time.

5.6 Donations to over 60's Emneth

Cllr Dawson mentioned that the over 60's club in Emneth is a relatively new group and that members from other parishes including Walsoken join the group for trips out, hence the request for a donation. After a discussion, it was determined that further information is required; how many Walsoken parishioners attend the group, how they benefit, and how much Emneth Parish Council contribute to the group. **Clerk to action.**

5.7 Venue for meetings

Cllr Wooley, being on the village hall committee, was asked about the current cost and availability of the hall to hire for next year's council meetings. The hall is available on Monday and Wednesday evenings for £18 and hour. The Chairman asked the Cllrs if they were happy to move venue and move nights, Cllrs happy with these changes. The Chairman also asked if the council were happy to remain at meetings every 8 weeks, this was agreed. **Clerk to contact Brooke regarding this booking for 2025.**

Signed

Date

5.8 Grass verge cutting

Cllr Dawson agreed that verge cutting was haphazard at the moment with different agencies being involved, and verges not being dealt with satisfactorily. He is in the process of arranging a meeting for local parishes representatives to raise concerns such as environmental issues such as nesting etc.

5.9 Dead tree in churchyard

After discussion, it was agreed to replace the dead tree in a slightly different position with a sapling. **Clerk to contact Tamar for a quote for the sapling.**

5.10 Replacement of defibrillator pads (before November)

Cllrs in agreement to contact Janet Luck, the guardian of the defibrillator, to arrange for replacement of the pads, approximate cost £70. Clerk to arrange with Janet. Clerk also to investigate the lifespan of the defibrillator battery as this is supposedly nearly flat and will need replacing soon. **Clerk to action.**

5.11 Land/allotment update.

The Deed of Surrender for the allotment land has been signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in the presence of the Clerk. There has been no further communication from Norfolk County Council.

5.12 Poppy wreath purchase

Clerk to arrange for the purchase of two standard poppy wreaths from the Royal British Legion, to be delivered to the Chairman's address. **Clerk to action.**

5.13 Purchase of speed monitoring device

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided by the Councillors that the speed monitoring device would not be a viable option at this time. The device would need to be moved every 6 weeks, and the council would need volunteers to assist with this which would take time to organise. It was decided that it would be a better option to concentrate on agenda item 5.2 at present and revisit the speed monitoring device at a later date. It was mentioned that this may be another issue to involve housing developers in the future.

5.14 Purchase of litter bin at bus shelter

After discussion amongst the councillors, it was decided that the council purchase 5 x 50 litre, post-mounted bins, from Litter Bins UK at £132 each, one for each bus shelter. Cllr Kirk has kindly agreed to empty these bins. It was mentioned by the Clerk that the bins will require a street furniture licence, the Chairman will supply the locations of the bins to the Clerk so she can apply for said licences from the Borough Council. The Clerk will also liaise with Tawny Owl about erecting the bins after the street furniture licences have been obtained. **Clerk to action.**

5.15 Co-option for councillor vacancy

Signed

Date

The Chairman spoke of his attempts to recruit a younger member of the parish to the council, but this has unfortunately been unsuccessful. Cllr Houghton said that he would put the vacancy notice on the college website.

6. To receive reports:

6.1 Councillors' reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.

Cllr Clarke highlighted that some of the potholes in the village had been repaired. No other reports.

6.2 County and Borough Councillors reports

Cllr Dawson had nothing to add to his email sent out earlier.

Cllr Kirk spoke of the continuing flooding issue on Wheatley Bank, he has not received any more information from Norfolk County Council about this. The IDB have agreed to help with providing machinery but not the cost. The cottage owner has mentioned Parish Council financial support, but this is not the council's responsibility. The issue is ongoing.

6.3 Clerk Report

- Dead tree on Burrett Road – spoke to the Borough Council, they have arranged with contractors for it to be removed, no timescale given.
- Drop-kerb – Norfolk County Council will action this.
- Street signs Church Road – Borough council to action, chased 10/9/24, awaiting reply.
- Streetlight on Burrett Road coming on too early. Cozens claim that this is because of a tree opposite blocking the light.
- Address change update - spoke to Jason Littleboy (KL council), he sent some info to Royal Mail, but they wanted a further breakdown which he has just done. He thinks that RM may need to consult residents, and it may be a postcode-by-postcode issue. Tanya Gourley at Royal Mail is working on this and will keep me updated.
- Sibley House planning – consultation 3rd September, awaiting decision.
- New planning application for Chapnell Road, Clerk to circulate email when received.
- Unity Trust Bank are lowering the interest rate in November on the Savings Account from 2.77% AER to 2.62% AER
- Marie Curie request for support – Clerk to look at when donations are usually discussed by Council and revisit then.
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6.4 Churchyard matters

Already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Signed

Date

6.5 Village Hall – Cllr Woolley read his report out at the meeting, summarised below:

- There has been a drop in people booking the village hall and so the hourly hire charge has been decreased to £18 an hour or £150 a day. The damage bond has been reduced from £200 to £100 with the proviso that any damage over this will be charged for.
- The need for a professionally produced website was agreed and quotes are being sought.
- Signs are to be displayed that the village hall car park is private for hall users only.
- Bingo night on 27th September in aid of Macmillan Cancer Charity.
- 70+ people enjoyed a free bus trip to Hunstanton paid for by coffee morning funds.
- The next meeting is to be held on 7th October 2024 at 5pm.

6.6 Communications and Correspondence:

6.6.1 There has been a request from Wisbech Guides to advertise the group, it was agreed that the recruitment poster would be put on the parish noticeboard.

6.6.2. Support for Marie Curie in Norfolk, discussed earlier in the meeting.

6.6.3. Safety of Lithium-ion batteries and e-bikes and scooters, no further action.

7. Planning:

7.1. To receive results of applications, decisions, appeals and enforcements.

•DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS 3 of Planning Permission 21/02006/F: VARIATION OF CONDITIONS 2 AND 8 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 21/01002/F: Proposed 2-storey 4-bed dwelling & detached double garage.

19 S-Bend Lynn Road Walsoken WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7AP

Ref. No: 21/02006/DISC_B | Received: Wed 14 Aug 2024 | Validated: Fri 16 Aug 2024 |

Status: Decided

7.2 To receive new applications and comment. (Any applications received after the date of this agenda and before the meeting date will be considered).

Signed

Date

- 24/01117/F Walsoken
550179 309860

Proposed erection of kennel buildings, within the confines of existing buildings (to be repaired made good) and create of external exercise area for operational use.

Sibley House
Station Road
Walsoken
Wisbech
Norfolk
PE14 8DL

- DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS 5, 7 AND 8 ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION 22/01701/O - Outline application with some matters reserved for residential development of the site - 4 dwellings, involving the demolition of the existing commercial existing buildings on the site.
Heating & Plumbing Services 5 Church Road Walsoken WISBECH Norfolk
PE13 3RB

Ref. No: 22/01701/DISC_B | Received: Wed 31 Jul 2024 | Validated: Thu 01 Aug 2024 | Status: **Awaiting decision.**

- 24/01003/RM Walsoken Heating & Plumbing Services 5 Church Road
Walsoken WISBECH Norfolk PE13 3RB - RESERVED MATTERS
APPLICATION FOR: layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping for all 4 plots.

Application Permitted

9 August 2024
Delegated Decision

- Single Storey Rear Extension and Two Storey Side Extension Open for comment icon.
82 Chapnall Road Walsoken WISBECH Norfolk PE13 3TU

Ref. No: 24/01363/F | Received: Mon 29 Jul 2024 | Validated: Mon 29 Jul 2024 | Status: **Awaiting decision.**

8 Finance

Signed

Date

8.2 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for July and

August 24. Proposed by Cllr Bettinson and seconded by Cllr Luff.

8.3 To approve payments for September 24. Note, due to the early date of this meeting

any payments received after the meeting will be forwarded for approval. No payments in September.

8.4 To approve the reimbursement of the Chairman for the cost of the Clerk’s mobile

phone of £24. Proposed by Cllr Bettinson and seconded by Cllr Luff.

8.5 To approve the reimbursement of the Clerk for the purchase of MS Office annual

subscription of £59.99. Proposed by Cllr Bettinson and seconded by Cllr Luff.

9 To receive items for the next agenda by the 10th of November 2024:

None at present.

10 The next Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 10th of November 2024 at the Church

Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 21:10.

Payments July & August 2024

Date	Description	Supplier	Net	Vat	Expense
29-Jul	Street lighting maintenance	Cozens	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
30-Jul	Grass cutting	N L McCourt	£150.00		£150.00
31-Jul	Audit of AGAR	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00
01-Aug	Website maintenance	Steve Jackman	£45.00		£45.00
02-Aug	Street lighting power	Npower	£326.47	£16.32	£342.79
03-Aug	Clerk's wages: 14/6/24 to 14/8/24	Lynn Ottaviano	£490.29		£490.29
04-Aug	Clerk's expenses 14/6/24 to 14/8/24	Lynn Ottaviano	£26.00		£26.00
05-Aug	Street lighting maintenance	Cozens	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
06-Aug	Grass cutting, pruning, tree works	N L McCourt	£600.00		£600.00
					£1,966.08

Signed

Date