

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the 8th of January 2026.

Present:

Councillors – Chas Boston (CB), William Brooks (WB), Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Blunt (RB), Ade Eveleigh (AE), Claire James (CJ), and Irene Hunter (IH).

County Councillor Julian Kirk

2 members of the public

1. Welcome from the Chairman followed by Public Participation: None
2. Apologies received – Cllrs Campion, Green, Luck and clerk
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 4th of December proposed by Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr Hunter and all in favour who were present at that meeting.

6. Matters arising:

- 6.1 National Grid update: James Wild MP is prepared to visit us and awaiting results of a survey ahead of arranging a date. Cllr Blunt will chase and update. **ACTION: RB**
- 6.2 New Dog bin on Dunces Lane – Cllr Bliss advised that this has not yet been installed due to the recent bad weather. The clerk to find out the position of any utilities to enable installation as may need to dig down. This may involve additional costs.

ACTION: Clerk

7. To receive reports:

- 7.1 Councillor's reports – Street lamp no. 3 on Police Road still flickering and clerk to report.

ACTION: Clerk

Church Road needs to be gritted.

Cllr Eveleigh reported that the Crown Farm sugar beet lorries have caused parishioners complaints and has advised the clerk.

Cllr Bliss rang planning to ask about enforcements and was given an email address and told this can be used to follow up enforcements as sometimes nothing seems to be happening.

- 7.2 **County Councillor Report** – nothing from County to report but has received complaints regarding Church Road not being gritted. Cllr Blunt asked what we can do about this and Cllr Kirk advised that anything on this side of the A47 is not gritted. It was suggested that the Clerk write to NCC to see if the gritting route can be changed. Depending on the response, include the Borough Councillor and MP. If we could find out the costs to grit Church Road at the same time.

Borough Councillor Report – budgets are currently being worked on and there a full budget meeting on the 26th of February with a cabinet meeting on the 3rd of February. No information for the precepts as yet. The Government is making changes which affects costs and services. Systems are being changed to make savings.

7.3 Chairmans Report – Cllr Boston has met with the Chair of Epping District Council and discussed the future of Parish and County Councils etc.

Clerk Report: Still working with Scribe and NPTS regarding the new assertion 10 rules and regulations. Additional polices as approved and now on the website with the IT equipment form to be signed by each Councillor at the February meeting. Now working on the required Data Map and relevant risk assessment Parish Public Access Consultee Training – part of the testing group for the new online planning portal – now set up with access.

The councillor vacancy has been advertised on the website and co-options to be held at the February meeting.

7.4 Cllr Eveleigh advised that the deadline for the next edition is next Monday, 12th January

7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – Cllr Eveleigh reported that are being used thanks to the grass being lower.

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that the Christmas Tree lights have now been removed.

7.7 Cllr Luck had advised by email no issues on the playground.

7.8 SAM reports – Cllr Eveleigh's latest report has been circulated by the clerk and is on the website.

7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

Defibrillator update – The service arranged by the Clerk and Cllr Luck took place but found that the unit could not be serviced and needed attention from the maker, meaning it is still out of use.

Thank you received from Heather Smith.

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

8.1 Applications: None

8.2 Decisions: None

8.3 Appeals: **25/00035/REF** Outline Application: Proposed 4 Self Build Dwellings Land Rear of Walnut Road Walpole St Peter Norfolk - APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL IN PROGRESS

8.4 Enforcements:

25/00563/BOC Alleged breach of planning condition| Caravan At Hill Farm 11 Hill Farm Lane Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7JQ

25/00499/NIA|NIA - Not in accordance with approved plans.| Highway Cottage Pyecroft Lane Walpole St Peter Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7PL

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

25/00289/UNAUTU| Alleged Unauthorised Use|8 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7HY DC Application submitted

9. Finance

- 9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for December Cllr Brookes proposed, Cllr Eveleigh seconded and all in favour. Bank accounts to 31.12.25 =£28,554.91 with £10,479.16 in the Solar fund account.
- 9.2 To approve payments (to date) for January proposed Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr Brooks and all in favour.
- 9.3 Budget for 26/27 to be discussed at the February meeting
- 9.4 Third quarter financial review discussed and proposed by Cllr Blunt, seconded Cllr Bliss with all in favour.

10. Public participation: None

11. Items for next agenda – please advise the clerk 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Cley Cottage – Cllr Bliss to update

Mill Road bungalow – Cllr Hunter advised that it has been sold and no recall of any planning applications but work has started and concerns that the garage may not have permission.

Cllr Bliss re street lighting and do we have safety checks.

12. Next meeting will be on the 5th of February 2026 from 7pm at the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY (to date)

Clerk Expenses	£ 48.95
Clerk Salary	£ 644.74
HMRC	£ 268.82
SSE	£ 118.10 direct debit
BCKLWN dog bins	£ 290.00 direct debit
Parish Hall hire	£ 13.75
Minuteman (NDP printing)	£ 241.20
Scribe subscription	£ 293.41

Signed

Date