

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the 6th of November 2025.

Present:

Councillors – Chas Boston (CB), Heather Smith (HS), William Brooks (WB), Jan Luck (JL), Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Green (RG), Ade Eveleigh (AE), Claire James (CJ), and Irene Hunter (IH).

Parish Clerk / 3 members of the public (1 part time)

1. Welcome from the Chairman followed by Public Participation: None
2. Apologies received – Cllrs Blunt, Kirk and Campion
3. All Councillors were reminded of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct.
4. Declarations of interest – WB re solar fund request for Walpole St. Peter Church
RG continuation of any planning items on National Grid.
5. Minutes approved from the Parish Council meeting on the 2nd of October proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Luck and all in favour who were present at that meeting.
6. Matters arising:
 - 6.1 National Grid update: The Borough Council Planning Committee voted to support the recent application on the 3.11.25. This went against the Parish Council and residents objections. Local press and social media has extensive coverage.
Cllr Blunt to ask our MP, James Wild, to attend the 5th of February 2026 Parish Council meeting to discuss the current issues.
ACTION: RB
Issues with HGV's not using the agreed routes continues – contact National Grid Community Relations Team requesting any issues are advised to this email – walpole@nationalgrid.com
 - 6.2 Parish Council Meeting locations – it was agreed by all to share meeting room bookings between the Parish Hall and Community Centre from September to July.
Community Centre to have a projector available in the Garden Room.
Clerk to book Community Centre from September 26 **ACTION: Clerk**

7. To receive reports:
 - 7.1 Councillor's reports – Cllr Bliss raised the cycle storage rack and it was agreed to be gifted to the Parish Hall as the Community Centre do not want it. Cllr Brooks to check with the Parish Hall Committee.
Pot holes on Church Road were repaired within 5 days of reporting.
The S bend on Walnut Road is dangerous for pedestrians and to ask highways to consider a trod. Photos and W3W location needed.
The LGR public engagement survey completed by Cllr Bliss.

7.2 County Councillor Report – No report due to illness.

Borough Councillor Report – Cllr Blunt report read by the clerk:

Both planning applications for 8/10 Folgate Lane have been called in as requested and would ask that a parish councillor and member of the public speak at the planning meeting.

Cllr Blunt stated our objections to the battery storage planning application at the Planning Committee meeting on the 3rd but the committee voted ten to two in favour with 1 abstention.

7.3 Chairmans Report – thanks to all involved in arranging the recent Halloween event at the Community Centre. Cllr Bliss seconded this.

Clerk Report: attended more webinars on the new assertion 10 rules and regulations which will lead to a lot of additional work.

1st draft budget for 26/27 completed.

Parish Public Access Consultee completed and just awaiting final access.

Application for the proposed dog bin on Dunces Lane completed and sent to the clean-up team at Borough along with an image of the large bag of dog bins opposite the Parish Hall which need urgent collection.

Neighbourhood Plan referendum takes place on the 13th of November and copies of all information available on the website and hard copies upon request. It is hoped that if the vote is yes, the plan can be in place by the end of this year/early next year.

7.4 Cllr Eveleigh advised that the Crier deadline is 10th November for the next edition. The Publisher software is now only available via Microsoft 365 and it was agreed by all that the parish council will cover the cost of this.

Clerk bought the thank you chocolates for the delivery volunteers.

7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks –3 signposts on Marsh Road need replacing and pics/w3w locations needed for the Clerk to report

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that the Christmas Tree switch/event on at St. Andrews Church.

Cllr Brooks raised the insert replacement for a noticeboard – clerk to order.

7.7 Cllr Luck advised no problems and clerk provided the replacement gate stop.

7.8 SAM reports – Cllr Eveleigh's reports sent out and on the website.

Mill Road incoming –with top speed of 50mph.

Chalk Road incoming – with a top speed of 60mph

7.9 Communications/Correspondence:

Defibrillator update – Cllr Luck advised that the unit has had to be taken out of action due to damp in the cover box and a service is required.

The Community Centre want to relocate the unit and the parish council will cover the costs for the electricity supply to be installed. Clerk to contact the Chair of the Community Centre regarding the actual relocation. ACTION:Clerk
Request received for £500 donation from the Solar Farm Fund towards the clearing of the St. Peter church tower – proposed Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr James and all in favour. Cllr Brooks abstained.

8. Planning – Cllr Boston gave a review of how to check applications on the planning portal.

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

8.1 Applications:

22/01357/DISC_E|DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 3 ALLOCATED TO PLANNING PERMISSION 22/01357/F - Installation of renewable led energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements |Land S of Walpole Substation Walpole Bank Walpole St Andrew Norfolk

Agreed no observations, proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Luck and all in favour with Cllr Green abstaining.

25/01717/F – Demolition of existing temporary classroom block and erection of new permanent classroom block in the same location. Anthony Curton School. – support proposed Cllr Bliss, seconded by Cllr Brooks and all in favour.

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 - APPREAL AGAINST REFUSAL

8.4 Enforcements:

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

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

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

25/01660 &61/CU - 8 & 10 Folgate Lane – called in

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for October Cllr Green proposed, Cllr Hunter seconded and all in favour. Bank accounts to 31.10.25 =£43,898.06 with £10,421.74 in the Solar fund account.

9.2 To approve payments (to date) for November including £75 for 2 poppy wreaths/donation – proposed Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr James and all in favour.

9.3 To review the proposed 1st draft budget – all councillors to look over and make any comments at the December meeting or to the Clerk. Cllr Green approved the 10% precept increase as a minimum.

10. Public participation: SAM unit request for the blind bend by St. Peters Lodge on Chalk Road. Cllr Eveleigh advised highways would need to approve and the telegraph pole could be a location – need w3w and image.

11. Items for next agenda – please advise the clerk 7 days prior to the meeting date.
Cllr Bliss – Grass Cutting.
12. Next meeting will be on the 4th of December 2025 from 7pm at the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.44 pm and Chairman thanked everyone for attending

PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2025 (to date)

Clerk Expenses October	£	48.95	
Clerk Salary	£	644.74	
HMRC	£	268.82	
SSE	£	118.10	direct debit
SSE	£	106.23	direct debit
BCKLWN dog bins	£	290.00	direct debit
Walpole Mowing Man	£	650.00	
Parish Hall hire	£	16.50	
Thorntons	£	258.95	
T. North -poppy wreaths/donation	£	75.00	