

WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the 5th of February 2026.

Present:

Councillors – Chas Boston (CB), William Brooks (WB), Andy Bliss (AB), Richard Blunt (RB), Ade Eveleigh (AE), Claire James (CJ), Jan Luck (JL),
County Councillor Julian Kirk
1 member of the public

Co-option process took place with one applicant who was duly proposed by Cllr Bliss, seconded by Cllr Boston and the vote to accept the applicant was unanimous. Christopher MacCormick was duly elected.

1. Welcome from the Chairman followed by Public Participation: None
2. Apologies received – Cllrs Campion, Green, and Hunter
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 8th of January proposed by Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr Bliss and all in favour who were present at that meeting.

6. Matters arising:

6.1 National Grid update: The clerk advised that the Ardent land team will be surveying a PC site on Folgate Lane between 9.2.26-6.3.26.

Cllr Blunt had spoken to James Wild MP regarding a public meeting but, due to workload, Thursdays are not available. It was suggested that the meeting be held on a Saturday afternoon as proposed by Cllr Boston. Availability to be sent to the clerk who will forward to the parish councillors asking for any 2 preferred dates and a decision will be made asap.

ACTION: All

6.2 New Dog bin on Dunces Lane – Cllr Bliss advised that this has now been installed and clerk has advised the clean up team at the Borough Council to start collections.

6.3 The clerk confirmed that our lighting contractor checks the lights every 6 months.

6.4 Walnut Road Trod meeting – as we have a number of highways issues, it was agreed that Cllr Boston meets with Andy Wallace on site.

ACTION: CB

7. To receive reports:

7.1 Councillor's reports – Pot holes and verges issues as per emails from Cllr Bliss and Hunter. These to be discussed with Andy Wallace as 6.4.

Cllr Eveleigh had reported the 3 dips and highways could not find 1, with the other 2 not meeting the criteria.

Cllr Bliss is adding the street lights to Parish online and the clerk to send a copy of the lights with locations etc. **ACTION: Clerk**

7.2 Borough Councillor Report - Cllr Blunt attended, with the clerk, the new CIL process training on the 2nd February. Clerk to send out the link, when available, to all councillors. Applications between £10k to £100k have to be related to a development.

Infrastructure policy is required showing footpaths etc. The budget is now at the final stages with decision by the end of this month. The Local Plan Task Group meets next week, with changes to be made on sites and applications with the focus on sites. Call for sites has just been issued. Devolution/LGR decision due from the government in March.

County Councillor Report – issue on no county elections this year now with the High Court but decision could be too late to arrange May elections. Several bi-elections to take place - In limbo until then. The budget is due for approval at the end of this month. Concerns that both Borough and County councillors' grants may not be available from next financial year.

7.3 Chairmans Report – The Chairman welcomed Christopher to the parish council and raised the need for a parish councillor to sit on the Community Centre committee. Cllr MacCormick offered to take this on and was thanked.

Clerks Report – Still working on the new assertion 10 rules and regulations with the new policies and procedures in place. The IT equipment form was circulated and signed by the parish councillors – another box ticked!

Finalising the data map and risk assessment – approval at the March meeting.

Attended the CIL training as reported in 7.2

7.4 Crier update - Cllr Eveleigh advised that the latest edition has been delivered. Jane was thanked for her continued editing of the Crier.

7.5 To receive updated regarding footpaths and circular walks – Cllr Eveleigh reported that a local resident has offered to help him with the routes. Clerk to chase the replacement finger posts. **ACTION: Clerk**

7.6 Community Fund Projects Working Group – Cllr Bliss advised that the village signs need washing. Cllr Brooks requested 2 paving slabs to go next to the dog bin outside the Parish Hall/The Chase as it is very slippery and dangerous. Cllr Boston advised that this would not be a good idea as the PC would then be liable for any accidents. The land is owned by Highways and another item to add to the list for Andy Wallace. Cllr Kirk has some funds available if necessary.

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

Cllr Bliss advised that the cycle rack was still at his house and it should be located at the Community Centre. Cllr MacCormick will take this up with the Community Centre and Cllr Bliss to discuss details.

7.7 SAM reports – Cllr Eveleigh's latest report has been circulated by the clerk and is on the website. Note that the new unit did not record on Walnut Road.

7.8 Communications/Correspondence:

Defibrillator update – Both new units are registered and in service and fully automatic with both adult and child pads. A sign to be put up by the Parish Hall.

7.9 Request for a replacement grit bin on Kirton Close and Springfield Road. Cllr Bliss advised that there had never been a grit bin at that location but there is one on Summers Close.

A request has been received for £500 from the Solar Fund towards the 13th Scout Group having an overnight stay at the Sealife Centre in Hunstanton. Proposed Cllr Eveleigh, seconded Cllr MacCormick with all in favour.

Email received regarding speeding on Police Road and it was agreed to run a trial.

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

8.1 Applications: 26/00007/F – Cedar Lodge single storey side extension – considered this to have no impact on the neighbouring properties so support proposed by WB, seconded CJ with 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 - 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

Cllr Blunt reported that these 2 applications were reviewed at the Planning Committee Meeting on the 2nd of February and were given approval with a 12 month licence to be reviewed. Residents will be keeping a log and it was noted that No.9 has also been rented:

25/01661/CU | Retrospective Application | 10 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew

25/01660/CU | Retrospective Application | 8 Folgate Lane Walpole St Andrew

9. Finance

9.1 To approve payments/receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for January. Cllr James proposed, Cllr Luck seconded and all in favour. Bank accounts to 31.01.26 =£33873.43 with £10,479.16 in the Solar fund account.

9.2 To approve payments (to date) for February - proposed Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr James and all in favour.

9.3 Budget for 26/27 approved, proposed Cllr Bliss, seconded Cllr Luck with all in favour.

9.4 Bank mandate updated signed.

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 5th of March 2026 from 7pm at the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.36 pm and Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY (to date)

Clerk Expenses December	£	48.95	
Clerk Salary	£	644.54	
HMRC	£	277.82	
SSE	£	148.09	direct debit
BCKLWN dog bins	£	290.00	direct debit
Parish Hall hire	£	18.00	
Minuteman Crier Printing	£	475.00	

Solar Fund:

13 th Scouts	£500
St. Peters Church	£500

Signed

Date