



WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Caroline Boyden

Chair: Nick Dyble

walpolecrosskeyspc@gmail.com

07368 861696

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2020 FROM 7.30PM ONLINE

PRESENT: Cllr Nick Dyble (ND) Chair), Cllr Hazel Dobson, Cllr Trevor Roberts (TR), Cllr G. Coates, Cllr Peter Brown (PB), Cllr Mark Day (MD), Cllr Rosie Dyble (RD), and Caroline Boyden (CB) Clerk.
One member of the public was in attendance.

Open Session for Parishioners Questions – This Friday (18th) will be the last working day for the crossing lady and her manager has been on site twice and completed a survey.
Cllr N Dyble to contact the manager to find out if a replacement will be made. **ACTION ND**

1. **Welcome** – a formal welcome was given by the Chair, Cllr N Dyble.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. G. Roberts due to IT issues, Cllr. Kunes due to Cabinet Meeting and Cllr. Squire due to illness. These were accepted and approved by the council.

3. **COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none**

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 18th November 2020, having been previously distributed to all members, they were accepted as correct and signed. Proposed Cllr Coates, Seconded Cllr T Roberts. Unanimously accepted.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

a. School Crossing/Speed restriction - Email from Cllr Squire advises that when the current flashing 20mph signage are on, the speed limit is 20mph. It was decided to ask for a police speed camera to be set up either when the school is opening or closing. **ACTION CB**

b. Market Lane Survey update – nothing since last month and Clerk and Cllr Squires to continue to press for an urgent update with times, costs, etc. **ACTION CB/SS**

6. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a. Reserved Matters – 4 dwellings at Oak & Ash, Market Lane – supported. proposed Cllr Dobson, seconded Cllr R Day, unanimously accepted.

b. Discussion took place regarding the link from Cllr Squire on what non material changes are from the Borough Council. It was suggested that an official parish council letter be sent to the Head of Planning regarding recent “non material changes”. **ACTION ND**

7. **FINANCAL MATTERS**

To accept accounts:

a. Financial Review for November including payments/receipts, Bank Reconciliation, and statements - acceptance proposed by Cllr.Brown, seconded by Cllr T Roberts and unanimously accepted.

b. The December payments for approval:

Clerk Nov Salary	£252.36
Clerk Oct expenses	£ 25.00
HMRC	£ 63.20
Wix website annual fee	£ 86.40
NPTS – GDPR training	£ 32.00
New website	£288.00
Opus Energy	£ 29.76

These were proposed for acceptance by Cllr T Roberts, seconded by Cllr R Dyble and unanimously accepted.

Cllr N Dyble approved to attend the GDPR Training.

c. 21/22 Budget/Precept

Discussions took place and it was decided to not increase the precept for next year due to Covid restrictions and its affect on parishioners.

The budget and precept was proposed by Cllr N Dyble, seconded by Cllr Brown, and unanimously accepted.

The expenditure of CIL monies was reviewed with 3 replacement bins and 1 new dog bin proposed by Cllr N Dyble, seconded by Cllr T Roberts, and unanimously accepted. Clerk to order items in January. ACTION CB

The additional SAM sign was discussed and thought to be a good idea with the new housing and speeding in the village. Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Day, and unanimously accepted. Clerk to obtain revised quote in writing and order for January delivery. ACTION CB

Quote to be obtained for planting the gardens in the Spring.

The bus shelter requires further repairs and to consider a stronger/toughened plastic – clerk to find out who repaired it in the past. Cllr R Dyble to find out the manufacturer. ACTION CB/RD

The railway garden sign and bench were discussed as both require maintenance and to be added to next agenda. It was raised that the bench was not used often.

The Milestone situation was reviewed, and it was thought best to dig the verges and overgrowth to enable the stone to be viewed, cleaned, and repainted. It can be put on the official register.

8. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Sandra Squires reported as follows:

Norfolk's Covid Winter Support Scheme – We're aiming to support as many residents as possible this winter to access financial and other support if they are facing hardship. The scheme is particularly aimed at families (although people without children will also qualify) and will provide support for those suffering financial hardship over the winter months due to Covid-19.

Applications to the new support scheme can be made online, via the existing Norfolk Assistance Scheme at www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS or you can call 0344 800 8020. Norfolk Libraries will also be able to help with applying online.

In addition to this scheme we are working with food voucher company Edenred to provide support for all those eligible for free school meals, children in the early years who receive pupil premium and all of the council's care leavers during the Christmas holidays. We are encouraging eligible families to register and apply for free school meals through their school, so that they begin to receive support in time for the school holidays.

The Covid Winter Support scheme can help with:

Day to day living costs, including food and energy bills

Daily essentials such as toiletries, sanitary products and nappies

Food vouchers for the school holidays

As part of the wider package of support for families this winter, the council is also extending the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which already provides support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to Norfolk's residents experiencing hardship.

More information is available online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidwintersupport

Christmas Collection e-gift appeal – We are launching our Christmas Collection this year to provide gifts for 16 and 17 year olds living in supported accommodation. It's been a particularly tough year for everyone but

especially so for those young people who are in our care and are just taking their first steps in learning to be independent. We usually run a gift appeal but due to covid, we are asking for donations of e-gift certificates instead. Full details are available on the website.

Further information is below and at www.norfolk.gov.uk/christmascollection.

Free digital equipment for vulnerable young people – Reconditioned laptops, access to wifi, broadband dongles are just some of the things available to help deprived families unable to access the internet during these Covid Times.

To apply contact the Norfolk Assistance Scheme www.norfolk.gov.uk/nas or call 0344 800 8020 (option 1)

Covid figures – I'm not going to put the covid figures down as they change day to day. Infection rates were definitely down when we came out of lockdown and went into Tier 2, however they are now rising again and I'd advise continued caution, especially with Christmas looming.

Back to School - Data from 26th November 2020 indicates that 99.7% of Norfolk schools are open with attendance at 87.6% both of which are above the national average. There are currently 199 education settings where a positive case has been reported which equates to 159 situations, 22 outbreaks and 18 clusters.

Holt Hall – Yesterday Cabinet agreed to cease Outdoor Learning at Holt Hall and to sell off the site. Holt Hall has provided outdoor learning opportunities for generations of Norfolk Children, especially from the West of the County. The Friends of Holt Hall have applied for it to be registered as an asset of community value. This is effectively stall any potential sale for the time being, giving councillors opposed to the closure and community groups time to come up with an alternative plan. Given we are in a world where it is increasingly difficult to get children away from the online world and that covid has taught us that the outdoors and being in nature is so beneficial to both mental and physical health, it seems short sighted for the council to be selling it off without fully investigating all other options.

At last months NCC meeting, council amended the Independent Groups motion calling for carers to be given a fairer pay deal, including to be paid the Real Living Wage. The council did not want to increase pay for carers due to the cost but did agree to continue to lobby government for more money for social care and for parity in pay between NHS staff and Carers.

1 Million Trees Project – we finally got round to what the council like to call “a soft launch” of the 1 million trees project. By the end of this year we expect to have planted between 30,000-45,000 trees, a little behind schedule due to Covid but we want to have the right tree in the right place. Parishes will soon be receiving a ‘Tree Charter’ and a briefing on how they can get involved. Councillor will also be receiving a “Tree Allowance” for members to be able to buy trees from a personal budget. More details will be available after next weeks Environment meeting, but I'm very excited about the way things are progressing.

In other news – I didn't win the Environment & Sustainability Award, but it was a lovely evening hearing about the achievements of councillors all round the country.

Last week at the Borough Council meeting, I had placed an item on the agenda asking the council to extend the care & repair service to provide a handyman service for care leavers in the Borough. I am involved with Care Leavers as the chair of a subgroup at the County Council and we have stories where care leavers forget how to program their boilers or staple sheets to their windows as they don't know how to put up curtain poles. Bearing in mind that other young people would call on family members to help, Care Leavers don't have that back up support available. It was due to be debated but due to political game playing from both sides of the Chamber and the Conservatives voting not to extend the meeting, we will now have to wait until January to get round to some work that could actually benefit the Borough.

And finally – what does a Councillor do in their spare time? Sailing – yes, rowing – yes, singing – apparently. My rowing team The Norfolk BrOARds have produced a cover version of the Christmas classic ‘Santa Baby’ to help raise funds for a new boat so that we can row the Atlantic and for some publicity and an awful lot of laughs. It's available for pre-release now but is officially released on Friday 11th December on streaming & download services.

It can be pre-saved here for Spotify etc, or search The Norfolk BrOARds on iTunes.

<https://ditto.fm/santa-baby-the-norfolk-broards>

It's also being played (again) on Radio Norfolk on Thursday morning as part of the Breakfast Shows “Kayleigh's Christmas Carols”

9. Correspondence/Communications

- a. It was agreed to obtain new dog waste signage and put a copy on the website.
- b. Several parishioners had made complaints about the burying of waste at Sutton Road which had been witnessed. A request to the Borough Council asking to see the evidence that the waste was correctly removed to a legitimate site of disposal had been made.
- c. Covid updates are being forwarded to all councillors plus added to the website.
- d. Website views were 281 for November, with home 86, minutes and agendas 54, Covid 82 and others 59.
- e. Christmas Tree for next year to be added to the October 21 agenda.

10. Update on SAM: Figures from the Sutton Road from the 40mph to 30mph show an average speed in the 30 mph of 34mph. Average daily traffic is 352 with average speed of 26mph. The maximum speed was 65mph and the full report will be available on the website.

11. CRIME AND POLICE – attempted stealing of horses from the paddock at the top of Station Road was attended by the police who caught the thieves. Flag stones have been stolen from a building site. Hare coursing was reported last Sunday down Fen Bank and the police were called and arrests made.

12. HIGHWAYS: Cllr Brown to provide photographs to the clerk showing the destruction of the verges on Station Road North caused by lorries.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: More complaints received regarding the foul water smells and suggestion made to ask the Environmental Agency to take samples.

14. GARDENS MAINTENANCE: The gardeners have been asked to take on the weeding as soon as possible, and quote for replanting in early spring.

15. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS – Cllr Coates reported an online meeting with the Power Fund stated that they went into administration on the 24th of August. This should not affect the charity as £147k in the fund. New Trustees are being sought and no monies are currently being requested due to Covid restrictions. Grants include sports, PTS, Men’s Shed, etc. Cllr Coates to seek a statement with all relevant information to be put on the website.

16. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Location & administration of new dog waste bin
- Environmental issue on Little Holme Road
- School crossing/speeding issues.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 20th January 2021

The meeting closed at 9.28pm