



WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Caroline Boyden

Chair: Nick Dyble

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL 2021 FROM 7.00PM ONLINE

PRESENT: Cllr Nick Dyble (ND) Chair), Cllr Hazel Dobson (HD), Cllr Trevor Roberts (TR), Cllr G. Coates, Cllr Peter Brown (PB), Cllr Mark Day (MD), Cllr Rosie Dyble (RD), Cllr Sandra Squire (SS) and Caroline Boyden (CB) Clerk.

One members of the public were in attendance.

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

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. G. Roberts due to IT issues - this was accepted and approved by the council.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 20th of March 2019, having been previously distributed to all members, they were accepted as correct and signed. Proposed TR, Seconded GC. Unanimously accepted.

4. **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Nick Dyble, the Chairman, gave his report for 2019/20 and 2020/21 and a copy is attached which is part of these minutes.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

6. **CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 7.26 pm

Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council Chair's report 2020.

At the elections in May 2019, I became a Parish Councillor and soon realised that it is quite a responsibility. Then, in September, the Parish Clerk resigned and at the following meeting three councillors all announced their resignations. This included the Chair and Vice Chair. So, after some voting I suddenly found myself elected Chair and Hazel Dobson Vice Chair.

So, it seems a little strange for me to be writing this "annual" Chair's report as I have been in the position for such a short time. However, there has been quite a bit going on and the first task was to recruit a Clerk and three new councillors. We achieved this quite quickly and the Council is now up to full strength.

There are always some important subjects to address at meetings and a few are mentioned below:

Planning and Development: Whether the Parish should support (or not) planning applications is a big responsibility for the Council and there have been a lot of cases to consider. Some are clear cut, but others can be quite contentious. The main thing for councillors is to consider what is in the best interest of our village and the people that live here. So inevitably, some applications are not supported.

Drainage and Flooding: During the past few months we have seen high levels of rainfall and some village residents have had to deal with flooding. Improvements to the drainage network have been proposed in places and the Parish Council is busy seeking support from the relevant authorities. This issue is clearly linked to the planning subject above. It is also mentioned in the Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan – an important document endorsed by Parishioners in 2017. The aim is to help alleviate the drainage problems that exist now and to not allow any building works to have any detrimental effect.

Gardens: Maintenance of the three village gardens is an obvious requirement that has until now been met by a company called Norse. We are hoping that the maintenance will be done by someone based locally from now on. There is also a plan to improve the gardens with some new planting etc.

Bins and benches etc: An ongoing consideration for the council concerns maintenance of village assets such as rubbish bins, seats, notice boards and bus shelters. As I write this, we have one notice board destroyed by the recent gales, one rotten seat to be replaced, one broken waste bin and a vandalised bus shelter. It is our aim to replace or repair these with sustainable products made with recycled materials if possible.

Speed sign: The Village now owns an illuminated speed sign, proper name: Speed Activated Message or SAM. This is moved each month around four locations within the village. Hopefully, it will remind those who "accidentally" creep over the speed limit to ease off a bit. However, it will not discourage those speeders that just do not care. It is hoped that they will be caught by the mobile speed gun operators that visit us regularly.

Website: The Parish Council website has had a facelift. There is plenty of information there including agendas and minutes of meetings, councillor contact details, the Neighbourhood Plan and other documentation. Parish Council meeting dates are also available, and Parishioners are welcome, indeed, encouraged to come along.

Nick Dyle

Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council. March 2020.

Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council Chair's report 2021.

I wrote the 2020 Chair's report in preparation for last year's Annual Parish Meeting that was cancelled at short notice due to the COVID crisis, and a lot has happened since then. In fact, the whole world has changed, and we must spare a thought for those that have had a much worse time than us. However, the Parish Council has carried on and I must thank all councillors for embracing the new method of working. I especially thank Caroline, our Clerk, for facilitating everything to allow Parish Council business to continue.

The switch to on-line meetings, although never the same as face to face, has proved to be very successful and we have been able to carry out most things asked of us. Some examples are:

- We have switched to on-line banking.
- The village sign has been refurbished.
- A new notice board installed.
- A broken litter bin replaced and 3 others waiting to be installed.
- A plan has been agreed for a speed limit on Market Lane.
- A new contract signed for garden maintenance, and work to facelift the Millennium garden has begun.
- We have a second Speed Message sign.

However, in some respects, it seems like other things do not change, such as the endless stream of planning applications to consider, the continued fight to get drainage plans executed and request for repairs to roads and footpaths etc.

All being well, we should be able to resume face to face meetings soon. These will take place on the third Tuesday of each month in the Jepson Hall. There is plenty of room there and I hope we can encourage more parishioners to come along.

Nick Dyble,

Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council. April 2021.