



WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Caroline Boyden

Chair: Nick Dyble

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MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th MARCH 2021 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), Cllr Sandra Squire (SS) and Caroline Boyden (CB) Clerk.
Three members of the public were in attendance.

Open Session for Parishioners Questions –

1. The footpath on the A17 by pass is in poor condition due to composted material and mud – Rangers to be requested to clear this upon their return.
2. Fly tipping has taken place by the layby on the A17, next to the hayfield including electrical items. ND to advise clerk and Cllr Squire on location and photographs of items.

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. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 17th February 2021, having been previously distributed to all members, they were accepted as correct and signed. Proposed HD, Seconded TR. Unanimously accepted.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a. Flooding – The quote from David Scales for the cost of an open ditch and also a piped drain with inspection chambers is still awaited. The clerk had forwarded information from the Flood Alliance and it was agreed to send them full details and images. TR to provide this information to the Clerk.

ACTION TR/CB

b. New Dog Bin– The additional dog bin was discussed, and a change of location was agreed. ND to provide information with map location & photographs.

ACTION ND/CB

c. Waste Disposal and Fly Tipping – PB had reported the fly tipping to the Borough but they would not take it further as on privately owned land. ND advised that it was not just rubble but waste now and it was agreed that an email to the owner to be sent along with images. It was suggested that a letter is written to the enforcement officer if no action is forthcoming.

ACTION ND

6. PLANNING MATTERS

a. New applications -

Extensions and alterations to Lion House, Low Road re 2.6m fencing was discussed and it was agreed to object to the fencing at the front of the property being over the 2m limit and not in keeping with the area plus could set an unwanted precedent. Proposed GC, seconded TR and unanimously accepted.

- b. The response from the Borough Council regarding the removal of the glasshouses was discussed and the fact that the area was turning into a light industrial estate with the road being totally unsuitable for the HGV traffic. The road is sinking and disintegrating but Highways did not deem it an urgent matter. After much discussion, it was decided to invite Andy Wallace from Highways to visit the village and look at all the roads and footpaths which are in a dreadful state of repair. ACTION ND/CB/SS

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

To accept accounts:

- a. February 21 bank statements and bank reconciliation- acceptance proposed by GC, seconded by TR, and unanimously accepted. £25,818.47 in total.
- b. Financial Review for February including payments/receipts- acceptance proposed by TR, seconded by HD, and unanimously accepted.
- c. Payments for March were reviewed, and acceptance proposed by ND, seconded by RD, and unanimously accepted. It was noted that due to year end, the March staff costs would be paid upon receipt of details before 28th March. Standing orders for clerk salary and PAYE agreed to start from April to February, leaving March for any adjustments – proposed ND, seconded HD and unanimously accepted

Westcotec SAM	£3840.00
Staff costs Feb	£ 340.56
NPTS annual renewal	£ 84.19
NALC annual renewal	£ 138.36
Opus electric	£ 31.12
KLWNBC dog bin	£ 376.90

- d. The CiL project was updated with a total of £754.32 remaining.

8. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Sandra Squires reported as follows:

The NCC Council meeting that was scheduled for 22nd March has now been cancelled as the main business on the agenda which was the Western Link Road, was delayed again. So our next council meeting won't be until 19th April now, when our group motion to help the tourism industry will now also be heard. Delays are currently costing NCC £250k a month to add to the £153m cost of the road.

Market Lane: I have had discussions with Area Highways about this and they've spoken to the Safety Officer to see if he has any budget capacity to assist, however due to budget constraints there isn't any help available. They normally would like to use Local Member funding or Parish Partnership resources. It's been suggested that forming a coalition between myself, Walpole, Walpole Cross Keys & Terrington Parish Councils may be one way of raising the money.

The estimated costs are £16.5-£18.5k to include all design and installation costs. They suggest a breakdown as follows:

Local Member Fund: £9k (some from this year, some from next)

TSC £2.5k

WCK £2.5k

Walpole £2.5k

The original plan was for a £3k contribution from each parish, but we re-negotiated the LMF donation. 😊

Free School Meals: NCC will be providing £15 per week per child for the duration of the Easter holidays. Some schools will be providing vouchers and some will provide food parcels. Parents and Carers of eligible children, should contact their schools directly to find out what they are providing and how to access the service.

Holiday Activities & Food Program (HAF): NCC has received £2,655,800 from the DfE for the HAF to provide healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children. It will provide optional, free holiday club provision that includes enriching activities with a healthy food element.

We will be using the funding to ensure there are free places available for up to c23k children eligible for free school meals in Norfolk - for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week, six weeks a year, covering four weeks in the summer and a week in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Active Norfolk are coordinating the scheme, working with wider NCC colleagues, planning an Easter programme that takes account of the current restrictions and pandemic context, with a focus on working locally in each district area, especially for the summer on. Our HAF will be branded in Norfolk as 'Big Norfolk Holiday Fun'

Given the current pandemic context, the offer will be primarily a remote offer for many alongside limited face to face activities for a few, mostly in schools, although a range of other community based providers, including providers who specialise in SEND provision.

Up to 8000 activity boxes including recipe kits with ingredients will be delivered by Pink Orange to homes. There will be activity and craft equipment as well as an activity booklet tailored to two age ranges 5-10 and 11+.

The activity boxes will be supplemented by a bespoke online offer which will include cooking, physical activity, wellbeing, arts and creative sessions. These will be delivered by a mix of NCC services and external providers and many will use the contents of the box.

Scams: We are hearing of increasing incidents of covid related scams across the County and would ask people to be aware. There are ones that offer so called home cleaning for "virus decontamination" and some offering vaccines for a cost. Please spread the word and make residents, particularly vulnerable ones aware.

Only the NHS is doing covid vaccinations, they won't turn up at your door unannounced or ask you to prove your identity. There are also a lot of scams claiming to be HMRC either with a tax refund or claiming you're being investigated.

Please make sure vulnerable residents know to never give out their personal details during an unexpected phone call or to click on links from unexpected emails. If anyone you know has been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud on their website or call 0300 123 2040.

Visit: <https://friendsagainstscams.org.uk> for more info on scams and how to avoid them.

Census Day is 21 March 2021: Census Support has begun in libraries - Norfolk Libraries are part of the national Census Support Service and Library staff can help support residents to complete their census forms online . We can help people with getting online, getting a new code, and we can even fill the census in for people who may have difficulty completing it online.

Appointments are available face to face in 17 libraries across the county, and we can also offer support by phone.

Face to face appointments with customers are available from Monday 15th March in both King's Lynn & Downham Market

There will also be appointments available until 6pm, one evening a week, appointments on Saturdays, and appointments on Census Sunday 21st March

To book an appointment with one of our trained Census Support Advisors, phone 01603 774777.

More information about the census can be found at <https://census.gov.uk/>

Chances Project: A £4.9m project with the twin aims of helping people to get back into work and to support people that may find it difficult to work due to their health is set to get underway in April.

The scheme will provide specially designed help for people who are not able to access current national support schemes. Depending on the needs of the individual the support could include help to identify skills gaps and finding suitable training and qualifications, support to access services to boost health and wellbeing, or finding ways to overcome any barriers such as transport or accessing childcare. Support could also include providing help to access services for those with physical or learning disabilities, or support from a mental health specialist or disability support specialist who will be working closely with the

team. There will be local advocates based in each of the seven Norfolk district areas and these advocates will be working to provide personalised one to one support.

The project which is administered by Norfolk County Council has a total budget of £4.9 million, of which £2.5m is funded by the European Social Fund. The other half of the funding comes from match-funders based in Norfolk including Norfolk County Council, The New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, and Norfolk's Pooled Business Rates Programme. For more information visit the project website: www.norfolk.gov.uk/chances

Other news:

Trees – The trees have been delivered and are sitting waiting in my boat, so happy to bring them over anytime, sooner rather than later.

A47 Trees – Highways England insist that the trees cut down between Walpole Highway and Tilney All Saints was just them coppicing 300 Willow trees. I've spoken to them at great length and a lot of residents nearby and have evidence that they weren't just willows, they included oaks and blackthorn as well. An independent tree surgeon has also stated they doubt they will all regrow as coppiced trees should. There is also the issue that trees and hedges shouldn't be cut back from 1st March due to bees needing the pollen and nesting birds. I've asked to see the ecology report that was done beforehand and am waiting for that information. Highways England have also agreed to assist the 1 Million Trees Project as a partner, which is good. James Wild MP is currently also assisting with speaking to Highways England regarding their chainsaw happy attitude and what they could be doing in future to improve how they work.

Councillor Contact Details: County Councillors have opted to have their home contact details removed from both our contact files and register of interests due to emails which the council views as threatening, received from environmental group 'Burning Pink', who have recently thrown pink paint over both the City Hall in Norwich and County Hall, for the second time. It is a move to try to prevent similar happening at councillor addresses, councillors have been advised not to respond to any communication from the group.

CB questioned the payment of £2,500 for the market lane speed changes to go ahead and asked for a breakdown of the costs. ACTION SS

This was discussed further and a proposal to accept the £2,500 was made by HD, seconded by ND and vote carried to accept 6 with 1 against. This was made on the understanding that any changes in costs would require further discussion and vote. *

It was confirmed that the signage, once installed, would be the responsibility of Highways.

TR asked for an update on the environmental questions raised at the last meeting and SS advised that the portfolio holder was still investigating.

9. Correspondence/Communications

- a. Market Lane survey update – as discussed *
- b. SS reported that she has the Rowans as requested at the last meeting and will liase with RD on delivery.
- c. RD reported that there were 6 volunteers and HD advised of 2 more applications.
- d. Triangle of land at junction with Sutton and Little Holme Road still has no official owner and the gardener had offered to mow it free of charge.
- e. Woodland Creation proposal – this was discussed and agreed to be excellent. Acceptance proposed by PB, seconded by TR and unanimously accepted.
- f. The clerk gave an update on face to face meetings that could commence again in June and the Hall was available on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. This was proposed by ND, seconded by RD and unanimously accepted. Clerk to confirm costs. ACTION CB

10. Update on SAM: The SAM report for February is on the website and the average speed was 43mph with a top speed of 65mph on the 12th of February at 6.30pm. Now that the second SAM unit has been delivered, they both need to be co-ordinated, and another assistant will be required in the future. It will be sited initially opposite the old pub on Little Holme Road.

11. CRIME AND POLICE – none

- 12. HIGHWAYS:** Issues raised under item 6b and PB advised that the footpath on Sutton Road from the bus stop to the top requires maintenance and to be added to the list of items for Highways. The post on the Browns homes on Station Road is still awaiting removal.
- 13. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:** The trees from SS have already been discussed and TR asked if there was any update on the Hedgerows situation. SS advised that a meeting was due next Monday with this on the agenda, and she will update asap. ACTION SS
- 14. GARDENS MAINTENANCE:** The quote for clearing the millennium gardens has been received at £270.00 plus VAT. Proposed ~TR seconded RD and unanimously accepted. GC raised the question that the area needs planting asap after the weeding to ensure the weeds do not grow back. Clerk to ask for plant advice. ACTION CB
- 15. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –** None. Clerk update on CiLCA.
- 16. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**
- Flooding subcommittee update
 - Info for the new dog waste bin to be updated
 - Market Lane costings/breakdown to be confirmed
 - Highways invite
- 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 21st April 2021 with the Annual Parish Meeting held from 7.00 – 7.30pm. Details to be put on the Facebook page, website and noticeboards advising parishioners and offering to take any points from parishioners who cannot access Zoom.**

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm