



# WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Miss Sarah Thorpe  
[walpolecrosskeysparishcouncil@aol.co.uk](mailto:walpolecrosskeysparishcouncil@aol.co.uk)  
01945 430930

88 Smeeth Road  
Marshland St. James  
Wisbech  
Cambs  
PE14 8JF

Chair: Andrew Watson

## MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2019 FROM 7.30PM AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Andrew Watson (Chair), Cllr Stephen Carnell, Cllr Gillian Coates, Cllr Hazel Dobson, Cllr Frances Fox, Cllr Graham Roberts, Cllr Trevor Roberts, and Miss Sarah Thorpe (Clerk).

Three members of the public were in attendance.  
No matters were raised by the members of the public before the start of the meeting.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ian Edwards and Cllr Sandra Squire (County Councillor).

### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 16 January 2019, having been distributed to all members, were accepted as correct and signed.

### 3. COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Watson declared an interest in item 6a (i,ii and iii).

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Response from NCC Highways to issues reported after the January PC Meeting – the matters had been referred to the Rangers for action on their next visit. Cllr T Roberts advised that the blocked drain on Station Road North had already been resolved, but the procedure had resulted in a hole around the drain cover which had been scheduled for repair.
- b. Response regarding new footpath on Station Road North – the work had been supervised by Highways and they were satisfied that the road had not been narrowed at any point. Cllr Watson confirmed that he had examined the area and it was agreed that this was the case.
- c. Response from the BC Planning Officer regarding letter sent from PC about Planning Application 17/02324/O Outline application for residential development on land between Bimbos Ark and 15 Station Road North – the response was read out, and was available on the BC website; it advised that the BC had no record of the response from the PC, but it had not been possible to resolve the drainage at the outline stage and therefore the issue raised by the PC would be put on file, and could hopefully be dealt with under reserved matters.

### 5. CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

#### Correspondence

- a. Letter from Walpole St Andrew Dole Charity about defibrillator for parish – A letter had been received from the Charity offering to purchase a defibrillator for the northern area of the parish. A discussion took place on possible locations; it was noted that the BT phone kiosk had now been removed at the junction of Station Road North/Sutton Road. It was agreed that the best option was probably the Jephson Hall and therefore the Charity should be advised to contact the Hall Committee to seek their opinion on the matter.
- b. Email from Carers Matter Norfolk – an email had been received advising of the service and support available from them.
- c. Cllr Watson advised of the sad news of the death of Mr Tony Nuccoll, who had laid the wreath at the Remembrance Day Service in the village for the last few years.

### 6. PLANNING MATTERS

*Cllr Watson left the meeting at the stage and Cllr Fox took over in the Chair.*

Signature .....

Date .....

The Clerk explained to Cllr T Roberts that he would need to leave the room as well as he was not able to take part in the discussion and decision on the planning applications. This was because he already placed comments on the BC website giving his objections to the applications; therefore, he had shown predetermination and his presence in the room during the discussion and decision could invalidate any decision made by the PC. The Clerk advised that she had sought the advice of the BC Monitoring Officer who had advised that Cllr T Roberts would need to leave the room while the discussions and decisions were made on the applications. A brief discussion took place on this and Cllr T Roberts asked for clarification on why comments he had made on the BC website were not treated as his personal views, rather than his views as a Councillor. The Clerk explained that as he had expressed his views in the public domain before the PC meeting, he had shown predetermination. Cllr T Roberts confirmed that he had placed objections to the first and third planning application but not the second. The Clerk asked whether he felt expressing his views on the first application meant that he was able to say he had not shown predetermination on the second application and he advised that everyone was aware of his views on planning applications for new dwellings in the parish. Cllr T Roberts advised that he would take the advice given by the Clerk.

*Cllr T Roberts left the room at this point.*

**a. Planning Applications received.**

- i. **19/00063/F Erection of 4 x 2-bedroom semi-detached houses at Land S of 54 Sutton Road.**
- ii. **19/00064/F Erection of 2 x 2-bedroom semi-detached houses at Land S of 54 Sutton Road.**

The above two applications were discussed at the same time with members considering the documents relating to the applications, which were available on the BC website. The Clerk explained that the Neighbourhood Plan advised that "small scale first time housing (defined as developments of less than five in number of 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings) is encouraged, particularly in locations where necessary amenities can be met such as within a safe walking distance to a bus stop." Cllr Dobson advised that she felt that earlier phases of planning applications on this site had been discussed at length and did not feel that there was a need to enter into another lengthy discussion; she felt the developer had installed a suitable new drainage system on the land and that there was a need for more affordable housing in the parish. Cllr Coates asked the developer, who was present at the meeting, some questions about the drainage system which had been installed and the developer confirmed that it was now all connected and that the IDB had inspected the work and were happy with the system, which seemed to be working well. Cllr Coates asked if the IDB were going to adopt the new drainage system and the developer advised that he was not sure but if not, then the landowner would have a responsibility to keep the system operational, as he did the other ditches around the site. A question was also asked about whether a suitable distance, between the last dwelling and the ditch was being left for maintenance of the ditch; it was felt that a suitable distance had been allowed. Cllr Coates mentioned a concern about rubbish from the site which had blown into the ditch on Station Road North; the developer advised that he had not been aware of this but would arrange for it to be cleared the following day. Following a proposal by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Carnell, it was agreed by a majority to SUPPORT the two planning applications. Cllr Coates asked for a recorded vote. Voting in favour: Cllr Carnell, Cllr Dobson, Cllr Fox, Cllr G Roberts; voting against: Cllr Coates.

- iii. **19/00149/F Change of use from agricultural field to paddock land and erection of a stable and horsebox garage/haybarn at Land W of 8 Station Road North and S of 49 & 51 Sutton Road.** Members considered the documents relating to the planning application. A brief discussion took place on the proposed location of the buildings. It was felt that they did not represent a problem. Following a proposal by Cllr Dobson, seconded by Cllr Fox, it was agreed by a majority to SUPPORT the application.

*Cllr Watson and Cllr T Roberts returned to the room; Cllr Watson took over the Chair.*

**b. Planning decisions from BC.**

- i. **18/02154/F Proposed 2 storey extension to front, side and rear of property at Fern House, Market Lane.** Application permitted.
- ii. **18/01876/F Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden and proposed new access to agricultural land at Old Farm, Market Lane.** Application refused.
- iii. **18/02116/F Division of single dwelling to form two dwellings and creation of new highway access to the new dwelling at Sedum, 114 Sutton Road.** Application permitted.

Cllr Coates advised that she had seen two additional planning applications for the parish advertised in the local paper last week, but neither were available on the BC website. The Clerk

advised that she had not been informed of any other applications and that if they were for non-material amendments the PC did not get consulted on that type of applications.

**7. REDUCED SPEED LIMIT TO ADDRESS THE DANGEROUSNESS OF MARKET LANE**

The Clerk reported that Terrington St Clement PC had now advised that they would contribute to the cost of the study to provide a report on a proposal for a reduced speed limit. This meant that the cost of £5K would be split with Terrington St Clements PC and Walpole PC paying 50% of the cost between them and Walpole Cross Keys PC would therefore need to find the other 50% of the cost if they wished to proceed. A discussion took place on the cost of the study and what would be provided by Highways. The Clerk reminded members that if the scheme went ahead, following the study, Cllr Squire had pledged funding from her Highways Budget to help with the cost of the scheme. Following a proposal by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Dobson, it was agreed by a majority to go ahead with the study to provide a report.

**8. DOG WASTE BIN FOR JUNCTION OF STATION ROAD SOUTH/MARKET LANE**

Cllr Watson had confirmed that there were three posts at the junction which might be suitable to hold the dog waste bin. The Clerk had taken some photos of the site and believed that the street light post would be the best option. She had contacted the Highways Engineer to ask for his opinion, as he would need to issue a license for the bin. A discussion took place on arrangements for emptying the bin when it was installed; the Clerk advised that the BC would empty the bin on a weekly basis and charge the PC approximately £70 per annum for this service. Following a proposal by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Dobson, it was agreed by all that a bracket should also be ordered, at a cost of £11, to attach the bin to the lamp post when the Highways Engineer had issued the license.

**9. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON 2 MAY 2019**

The Clerk provided information on the procedure for the forthcoming PC elections.

**10. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Statement of Account:

Current balance was £16,917.75 as at 31 January 2019 – confirmed to the Chair by sight of the bank statement.

Payments for authorisation

1	Miss S J Thorpe – February salary/expenses	£276.09
2	East Anglian Air Ambulance – S137 Donation	£25.00
3	SLCC Enterprises Ltd – Practitioners conference	£88.00
4	E-on – Streetlighting electric Jan-Feb	£8.56
5	Norfolk ALC – Election training	£36.00

To make these payments: proposed by Cllr Carnell; seconded by Cllr Fox, agreed by all.

**11. CRIME AND POLICE ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE**

Cllr T Roberts advised that the police had carried out more speed checks on Sutton Road on 18 January and asked for the Clerk to request information on the number of vehicles caught speeding. *Action: Clerk to request information.*

**12. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

- a. Market Lane (near Tim Browne Ltd) – pot hole.
- b. A17/Station Road North junction – damage to barriers.
- c. Sutton Road – Following the decision by Highways that they would not consider installing yellow lines on Sutton Road, due to the lack of incidents on this piece of road, Cllr T Roberts advised that there had been two incidents since the last PC meeting. One involved a driver crashing into a parked vehicle; it was reported that the driver was over the limit for alcohol. The other involved a red car, which had been left parked near the traffic lights after being involved in an incident. It was also reported that there had been problems with the traffic lights, as some vehicles were parking too close to the lights and causing an obstruction while other vehicles had been seen driving through the red lights.
- d. New developments on Sutton Road and Station Road North/Little Holme Road junction – at both locations new footpaths had been installed but these had been installed around current telegraph posts and it was felt this would be a health & safety issue.

*Action: Clerk to report all items to Highways.*

**13. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Cllr T Roberts advised of a problem with rubbish in the ditch on Station Road North – this had been referred to the developer during item 6a, who had agreed to get the rubbish removed. It was reported that buzzards had been observed being mobbed by crows and eight large deer had been seen in one field off Fence Bank.

**14. GARDENS**

Cllr Watson had met with Norse, who were the current grounds maintenance contractors, since the last PC meeting and they had agreed that the gardens were in a reasonable condition. A quotation had been provided for 2019 of £853.56 plus VAT which was an increase of about £40 from 2018. It was felt that this was reasonable and following a proposal by Cllr G Roberts, seconded by Cllr T Roberts, it was agreed by all to accept the quotation.

It was reported that the contractor who had been appointed to refurbish the seats had not yet carried out the work, despite the Clerk chasing up the matter and being assured that the work would be done.

Cllr Watson advised that he had asked Norse to also provide a quotation for installing the new trellis fencing at the Eva Kemp Memorial Garden; this quotation was for £921.89 plus VAT. A discussion took place on this and the other quotation and following a proposal by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr G Roberts, it was agreed by all that Mr Paget should be instructed to carry out the installation as his quotation had been £850. Clerk to speak to manufacturer of trellis panels and ask them for a meeting at the site to take measurements for the panels prior to manufacture. *Action: Clerk to chase up refurbishment of seats and arrange meeting with trellis manufacturers.*

**15. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

Representative advised that no meetings had taken place since the last PC meeting.

**16. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Items to remain on the agenda as already agreed.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 7.15pm for the Annual Parish Meeting followed by an Ordinary Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm