



WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Nick Dyble

Clerk: Caroline Boyden

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY THE 16th of MAY 2023 FROM 7.00PM AT JEPHSON HALL

PRESENT: Cllr Nick Dyble (ND) Chair) and the Parish Clerk

9 members of the public were in attendance.

Open Session for Parishioners Questions – no questions

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

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Trevor Roberts

3. **MINUTES**

To approve the meeting minutes from the 17th of May 2022 unanimously accepted by all present at that meeting.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

I suppose the big news for us this year, after a long and frustrating campaign, is the introduction of the speed limit along Market Lane. The data from our two Speed Awareness Message (SAM2) signs show that speeding in the village is always an issue, and an additional unit for use along Market Lane is on the cards. However, they can only record the speed of traffic as it approaches the sign. How effective they are at slowing traffic down is unknown.

The "Walpole" sign at Railway Garden was in a sorry state and has been replaced with a new handmade one. Thanks to Rod Radford for his top-quality workmanship.

We have an additional dog waste bin on Station Road North, but I am dismayed to see that some people still don't pick up after their dog.

Our defibrillator (at Walker's Garage) has been accessed 3 times and taken to the site of an emergency but not actually used. In an emergency dial 999 and, if it is needed, the operator will quote the unlock code for the cabinet.

As always, the state of roads and footpaths is a concern. I have had two meetings with NCC Highways pointing out the areas of concern such as: vehicles using Eastland's Bank to access the A17 from Sutton Road. It should be blocked off but the fence is long gone and needs to be replaced before an accident happens.

In June last year we celebrated The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council presented commemorative mugs to the children in the village. The Jepson Hall Committee did a superb job of laying on events over the weekend.

This year for the King’s Coronation, we gave all the school children goody bags including “Seeds for Bees” – wildflowers that are particularly attractive to bees.

Ongoing projects include:

- ☑ The Neighbourhood plan update. I am pleased to see the high number of responses to the survey and I thank all those that took the time to respond. The results of the survey will be discussed at a meeting planned for the 24 th May and I hope that those who expressed an interest will be able to attend.
- ☑ The bird box project. Several people have asked for bird boxes, and we hope to install at least two owl boxes.
- ☑ The bus shelter opposite Walker’s Garage will soon be renovated. Costs have been agreed and new panels are on order.
- ☑ The seats at the memorial garden will also be spruced up very soon.

I would like to thank all Councillors and Caroline our clerk for their hard work. We say farewell and thank you to Hazel Dobson. Her steadfast campaigning for the Market Lane speed limit having finally proved its worth. I also thank Councillors Sandra Squire and Julian Kirk for their much appreciated support.

Finally: If anyone would like to join us, we have two vacancies for councillors.

Nick Dyble, May 2023.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR’S ANNUAL REPORTS – none

It was disappointing to have no reports from our two Borough Councillors.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Julian Kirk

Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, Borough Councillor for the Walsoken, West Walton & Walpole Ward.

Norfolk County Councillor for the Marshland North Division.

Deputy Chairman Political South West Norfolk Conservative Association.

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Annual Report for Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council AGM 2023

Over the last twelve months, I have engaged with Highways and Environmental Health on behalf of Walpole Cross Keys Parish Council.

1. Highways as with other Parishes is always top of the list of concerns from constituents and parish councils.

2. Finally, we have seen the 40 MPH speed reduction signs go up on Market Lane, I am pleased I was able to help in a small way using some of my NCC Councillor Grant to help fund the scheme. I would like to thank Caroline the clerk for keeping the pressure up on highways to make sure this was eventually completed.

I have had regular correspondence with constituents regarding the roads and footpaths. I have arranged meetings with the Internal Drainage Board and Highways I continue to report damaged roads and footpaths.

3. I look forward to using a percentage of my NCC members grant to help fund future projects within the Parish.

As always, I am open to calls, messages and emails 24/7 365 and will respond ASAP.
Kind regards, Julian

7. PARISHIONERS OPEN FORUM

The hedge along the footpath at Sutton Road is badly overgrown and a health and safety issue as it is forcing wheel and pushchair users onto the main road. This urgently requires a cut back at the bottom of the hedge.

A dog bin on Low Road was requested.

Meeting ended at 7.20pm