



WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Nick Dyble

Clerk: Caroline Boyden

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY THE 22ND OF MAY 2024 FROM 19.00 AT JEPHSON HALL

PRESENT: Cllr N Dyble (ND), G. Coates (GC), Cllr G Roberts (GR), Cllr R White (RW), Cllr R Dyble (RD), Cllr A. Sylvester (AS). Note Cllr N Dyble acts as chairman and all other parish councillors attend as members of the public. County Councillor Julian Kirk and Parish Clerk

NO members of the public were in attendance, other than as above note.
Open Session for Parishioners Questions: NONE

1. **WELCOME** – a formal welcome was given by the Chairman

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr T Roberts

3. **MINUTES**

To approve the meeting minutes from the 16th of May 2023 proposed RD, seconded ND and unanimously accepted by all present at that meeting.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

I suppose the main focus for me this year has been the creation of the new Neighbourhood Plan. After taking the results of the village survey into consideration and including all the new statutory parts, the new plan is now with the Borough Council awaiting approval. The next step is to ask parishioners for comments before final approval and implementation.

Maintenance of village assets is always required and we have recently replaced the panels in the bus shelter opposite Walker's Garage, stripped and re-oiled the benches in the memorial garden and touched up the paintwork on the village sign. There's always more to do: the information board at the Millenium Garden needs it's support posts replacing and it would be nice to have some seats in the bus shelters.

Bird boxes and "hedgehog highway entrances" have been delivered to villagers that asked for them and at least two owl boxes will be installed in the village soon.

Our defibrillator (at Walker's Garage) has been accessed twice 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 more meetings with NCC Highways to prioritise repairs. Several roads in the village have recently had potholes filled ready for "surface dressing" soon.

Our speed activated message (SAM) signs continue to provide interesting data, and the reports can be found on the Parish Council website. We are awaiting delivery an additional SAM unit for use along Market Lane and 3 locations have been approved for use.

We have also purchased village gateway signs that have been installed each end of Sutton Road. Unfortunately, the installation at the west end of the road is completely un-satisfactory and the battle has commenced to get it corrected. I am dismayed and frustrated by such shoddy workmanship.

At the moment, new development in the village is mainly focussed on the old onion factory site and several planning applications for detail changes come before us. The Parish Council raised some important concerns on the original application that seem to have been ignored by the planning officers. We have therefore withdrawn our support and will object to all further amendments until they are addressed.

I would like to thank all Councillors and Caroline our clerk for their continued hard work. Also, “thank you” to Councillor Julian Kirk for his much appreciated moral and financial support.

Finally, we still have vacancies for councillors if anyone would like to join us.

- 5. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS:
Cllr Kunes & Squires – No reports or apologies**
- 6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT: Please see appendix 1**
- 7. PARISHIONERS OPEN FORUM - NONE**

The meeting closed at 19.20pm

Page 2 of 3