

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WALCOTT

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Walcott  
Monday, May 22nd 2023, 7:00 pm  
Coastline Village Hall, Ostend Gap, Walcott**

Present: P Porter, M Whittington, W Love, P Mills, S Byham and 8 members of the Public

**1. Welcome by the Chairman of Walcott Parish Council, Pauline Porter**

Cllr Porter welcomed those present

**2. To consider and agree apologies for absence**

Keith Porter sent his apologies

**3. To consider and agree the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th April 2022**

M Withington propose the motion, S Byham seconded the motion, the minutes of the meeting of 16th April 2022 were agreed and signed at the meeting

**4. Update on matters arising from the meeting**

None

**5. Parish Council Reports**

a. Parish Council Chairman's report

*The new village sign was unveiled by Duncan Baker MP as part of the Jubilee Celebration. The PC put on an event to Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, thanks to the Kingfisher Cafe for hosting it and to Thomas Love for making the beacon. A local band, Nine-Way Spin played outside the Kingfisher Cafe. The beacon was lit at the appointed time. Also in attendance was Sugar Rush. The event was well attended.*

*The PC purchased a Christmas Tree and the lights were turned on by Duncan Baker MP - there was a reasonable turnout despite the clash with the Walcott Warblers*

*During the last year we have experienced ongoing problems with campervans emptying chemical toilets into the public toilets and into the storm drains. Inconsiderate parking also seems to be an issue with motorhomes and campervans*

*Representatives from the parish Council have met with our Highways Officer Justin Le May and had a further meeting with another representative from Highway, a representative from NNDC was also present at that meeting*

*We have requested a TRO and our County Councillor Cllr Shires offered to pay half of the money for a TRO. Since then NCC have acquired a road safety budget and Cllr Shires has requested money for a TRO on our behalf. The TRO will now proceed as a Road Safety Scheme. The PC has a few options to consider and hopefully this can be put on the next Agenda*

*Pre Covid the PC were attempting to gain extra storm drains near to the shop and Chalet park, the PC has recently been informed that NCC will install three new drains but at the moment can not say when this will happen.*

**b. Financial Report Walcott Parish Council**

*The balance of money held by Walcott Parish Council at the 1st April 2022 was £42968.27. The anticipated income for the year was £8669, which included the precept and the anticipated expenditure was £9056. The earmarked reserves being held by the council are £39,232 (£20000 of this money was the money received during the storm surge)*

*A full copy of the Councils financial report is available on their website*

**6. Village organisations and Other reports**

**a. Broadland First Responders demonstration**

The Broadland First Responders gave their report, as follows and explained how the defibrillator works and demonstrated how the emergency lifting chair works

*Another tremendous year. As a team of around 8 (it varies) we have attended 263 jobs in the last 12 months and been booked on for a total of 11,488 hours. 24% have been cardiac arrests and a further 16% chest pains which are very similar. Interestingly we are now attending more falls calls (21%) with about half of us trained to use the razor chair to lift people from the ground. I have attended 22 jobs in Walcott and Bacton in the year and I guess that figure can be doubled for when I was not available and others in the team or from Mundelsey attended.*

*January – April saw major issues nationally with hand over at the hospitals and we experienced a similar effect with waiting up to 3 hours for a crew to attend an incident. I think that demonstrates the benefit of having the team in that those patients had one of us with them to assess and if necessary raise the job if we are concerned, whereas without us the patient would have been waiting with or without their families for the long periods of time not knowing when the crew were going to arrive.*

*Fund raising at the moment is to pay for the new generation of radio / phones some of the team carry called NMAs. They provide us with a better level of contact with control and a better sat nav capability. I should be getting one shortly for this area.*

b. North Norfolk District Council

*Hello, for those of you that don't know me, I am your newly elected District Councillor, Pauline Porter.*

*I have only been in post for a few weeks so have not got a great deal to share with you,*

*Planning*

*The land which is designated as and 'exceptional scheme' in Walcott has been sold by the original developer to Flaghip.*

*Permission has been granted for 18 affordable homes, a further application to increase the number to 23 is expected in early summer 2023.*

*Affordable homes built on an exception site are let or sold to people on the housing register that have a local connection to the host parish or adjoining parish.*

*Beach*

*Due to the easterly wind that has been blowing for weeks now the beach has been scoured and there is a large drop from the apron. Coastal engineers will be undertaking an inspection. The sand should replenish the beach when the direction of the wind changes.*

*I will be walking along the coast from Bacton to Walcott with one of the engineers at the end of this month.*

c. Norfolk County Council

*Cllr Shires reported that the County Council were looking into installing bike racks on Seafront at Walcott and the likely site would be outside the public toilets.*

*The extended waiting times for Social Services referrals continues*

*Norfolk County Council now has a new Female Leader and 50% of all members are now Female.*

*The Mobile Library service at Walcott is to continue whilst other areas have seen a removal of this service*

d. Walcott Village Hall

*In 2019 it was decided to upgrade and improve the hall for the Walcott community, and, where possible make the hall more eco friendly and energy saving. A timetable of repairs and improvements was decided upon and fundraising commenced.*

*As of May 2023 a new ceiling has been installed, new heaters and air conditioning, and new windows. The electrics have been upgraded, and improved in the kitchen area, there is new hall lighting and stage lighting, and most recently outside lighting has been installed.*

*The road outside the hall had been repaired on both sides as a gesture of goodwill for our neighbours.*

*The next project is to fundraise for a new patio roof. Our thanks must go to the County Council, the Sandscaping project, Walcott Warblers and local businesses for their support.*

*The hall is very popular and is used every day by different groups.*

*We continue to hold a popular Charities Day once a year which benefits local charities, the Annual Walcott Plant and Produce show, which gets more popular each year, and Walcott Warblers hold two shows a year in order to raise funds for the hall.*

*We collect old, unwanted, or damaged jewellery for Alzheimer's U.K., used postage stamps for the RNLI, and recently have installed a blister pack collection point to recycle used packs. This is next to the Book Swap cupboard installed earlier this year which has proved a big hit.*

*For the second year running we have held a successful plant sale in May to fundraise for our local First Responders and we hope this will become an annual event.*

*We'd like to thank all those who support us.*

e. Walcott Flood wardens (WEVA)

No report received

f. Walcott PC Church

No report received

g. Walcott Allotment Association

*Little to say other than we have all 13 allotments rented and no waiting list. This is the first full year where we changed the date of payment for the allotment from 1.4 to 1.1 which means if someone is taking over an allotment, they can spend time preparing it for the spring. The allotment sign has been taken down before it fell down but no new one is required. We are plagued by rabbits breeding in the rough ground next door and deer so we are all taking measures to protect our allotments using whatever fencing material we can.*

h. Coastline Village Residents Association

No report received

i. MOD Police

*The MOD police are still working closely with Norfolk Police to support them in the area.*

j. Norfolk Police

*At the last Safer Neighbourhood meeting the priority for the area was Liaison with members of the Public*

k. Community Resilience Team

*There have been a couple of high tides and flood alerts in the previous year, the flood gate at Walcott Fap has been closed a few times as a precaution. Recently the wind has carried spray across the road at high tide.*

*There were two occasions when incendiary devices were found on the beach and a Partial Evacuation was undertaken. Walcott Village Hall was opened for residents that were evacuated. Thanks to Maria Withington and Denise Revell for their assistance at the evacuation centre*

l. Vattenfall

*Will from Vattenfall gave an update on the current projects. The two wind farms, Vanguard and Boreas, known as Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone, will be fully operational by the end of the decade.*

*Will had reassured parishioners that no part of the pipeline will be visible on the beach. The 180-250 turbines will be situated 35 miles off shore and will produce 10% of the UK's electricity.*

*There will be more information meetings arranged in the area with the first being on the 6th July 2023 at the Wynn Evans Centre at Happisburgh.*

*There will also be meetings arranged to discuss the Community Fund, 15th June 2023 at the Wynn Evans Centre Happisburgh with a view to the money being available from the Summer 2024 for sustainable community projects*

**7. Parishioners Open Forum**

Parishioners present asked members of the groups present questions and these were answered

**8. Any other business**

**9. Date of the Next Meeting - To be arranged**