

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL
SPRING NEWSLETTER

Edited by Cllr Ann Hardie

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Officers for 2013/2014

Chairman Yousuf Shaikh
Vice-chairman Malcolm Eldridge

Extract from the report of the retiring Chairman, Cllr J A Ashcroft.

The Chairman commented on the change of Cllrs at the last election and that the election had been uncontested.

He said that the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was a welcome relief in these days of austerity and poor weather - the Parish Council made donations towards the cost of two street parties and with Appleton and Stockton Heath put on a firework and beacon display. There will also be other permanent reminders of the Jubilee.

The Creamfields concert was something of a disaster because of the bad weather, both for the organisers and patrons - the event was stopped only part way through. The torrential rain flooded the roads, paths and fields. This was made worse by the excess run off from the tented areas and the detritus left by the concertgoers. Hopefully the awful weather will not be repeated and, the £500,000 being spent by the organisers will remedy matters.

Dr Harries of St John's led the service on Remembrance Day at our War Memorial and it is gratifying to see the number of parishioners, old and young, who attend. The Council expressed its gratitude to Mr. Hammersley and his staff at the Stag Inn for cleaning up round the area and painting the memorial, and also for the coffee provided at the Stag after the ceremony.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Cllrs and the Clerk for their work throughout the year.

Parish Precept

The precept for this year was kept the same as last year and again additional spending will come from the reserves - created when we did not have to pay election costs last year.

Walton Hall Estate Development

The new cafeteria was opened in October and provides some very nice food – go and try it. The plan for new toilets to serve the zoo & playground have been passed and construction will start soon. Plans for the toilets at the hall have been submitted and they should all be built by mid 2014. The lift for the golf club house is complete. “Friends of Walton Hall” have made great progress in clearing around the conservatory so that the glass could be removed thus allowing them to clear within the conservatory. They are encouraging public interest and are hoping that a Heritage Lottery Grant can be obtained to pay for its renovation. Contact Cllr Eldridge for more information or go to www.fowe.btck.co.uk. A new pond has been created in the zoo, which offers a refuge to the red squirrels.

Creamfields

Live Nation now owns the event and they are now making changes to prevent the flooding problem of last year. We are interested to know what arrangements the previous owners made for Parishioners so we can ensure that the new owners are aware. **Please ring and inform Ann Hardie.** We also would like to hear of any difficulties the event causes. If you think the noise is unacceptable – **then report it at the time** to “environmental health” or any Parish Cllr. Lack of complaints allows the organisers to claim the event has no detrimental effects. We will put phone No's on the notice boards and on the website.

Village Betterment

The PC was successful in obtaining the agreement of WBC to plant more trees in the verges. Another 26 have just been planted in locations agreed with residents (along Stetchworth, Wardley, Rutland, Melton and Grantham Rds) and three vandalised trees replaced. As they were planted late in the season, it would be helpful if residents watered them as necessary in their first year. We are pleased to see that some residents are already doing this. We also invite you to plant bulbs around their base – which the PC will provide on request in the autumn

The copse alongside the Bridgewater canal near Acton Bridge has been named “Acton Grange Wood”. Parish Cllrs, with the help of Parishioners, spent a morning tidying up and cutting back vegetation along the footpath in preparation for bulb planting. Together with Mr Priestner we supplied and planted 3000 bulbs – wild daffs, snowdrops and bluebells. The canal company, Peel Holdings, have refurbished the benches and table.

We are keen to hear of other ideas to bring about improvements in the Parish - any suggestions?

We thank the Parishioners who tidied-up and then straightened and painted the railings at the “Triangle”, opposite the Walton Arms.

Parking & Roads

Drains

Would you please report to us any drains where the water has not cleared within 2 hours of the rain stopping.

Parking

The double yellow lines on Walton Lea Rd close to the Sports Club have been legalised. It should be noted that parking on highway land (e.g. pavement or verge) on the other side of the lines is also unlawful. Please note the new reduced times for free parking in Stockton Heath.

Potholes

Please report any potholes deeper than 40mm to a P Cllr or to www.fixmystreet.com.

Buses

Please note that there is a new Arriva bus service (No 329) between St Helens and Daresbury Business Park via the Bus Station, running from 7am. A timetable will be put on the notice boards.

Parish Website

Karen has kindly added features to the website www.waltonpc.org.uk. Please see the website for agendas, minutes and news

Parish Council Meeting Dates

The PC will meet at 7.30 on the first Thursday of each month, except August
A full set of the minutes can also be seen at the Public Library, Alexandra Rd, Stockton Heath or on the website

Contact details

Please contact any Cllr or our Clerk about any matters that we can help with.

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