

Clerk to the Council: -
Mr. R. J. Hallam
31 Farnham Close
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 3BG
01925-264201
07801 472083

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Walton Parish Council held at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, on Thursday the 2nd January 2020.

Present
Councillor D M Karalius - Chair
Councillor Y R Shaikh – Vice Chair
Councillor R Hardie
Councillor S Davies
Councillor D A Meacock
Councillor R D Bennett
Councillor A Jones
Councillor S A Harris

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everybody.

135. Apologies for Absence

The Chair reported that 3 apologies for absence had been received. Councillors Greenshields (Illness), Taylor and Price (Illness).

136. Adjournment.

No adjournment.

137. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5th December 2019 were reviewed.
It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

138. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

New Waste Bin for Old Chester Road.

No action had been taken on the waste bin.

Action – Councillor Karalius to collect bin from Neil Simpson.

Action – Councillor Jones to ensure sufficient space on Old Chester Road for a pushchair to pass and site the new bin.

Action – Clerk to advise Kevin McCready when bin fitted to arrange for inclusion on the emptying schedule.

Superfast Broadband

Following on from an earlier email from Mr. Eldridge, Councillor Davies confirmed that the voucher scheme is still running up to £1500 per resident.

Gateway Signs

Councillor Harris (SAH) had confirmed with Jamie Fisher of WBC Highways that the PC would have to pay if it decided to put up signs in Walton, as no grants were currently available.

Action – SAH will obtain some costings.

If it was subsequently decided to go ahead the sites could be explored by the VBAG and a recommendation made to the full PC.

139. Report from Borough Councillor.

Nothing to report.

140. To receive and accept the report from the Clerk on the Parish Accounts and to formally approve the accounts for payment.

The Clerk had issued with the Agenda the Financial Report (FR) and a copy of the Receipts and Payments Account for the current year to date, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk presented: -

Chq no. 001191	pay to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£272.47
Chq no. 001192	pay to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£68.11
Chq no. 001193	pay to R J Hallam	Office Expenses (ink)	£7.99
Chq no. 001194	pay to D M Karalius	Keys cut	£18.50
Chq no. 001195	pay to Children with Cancer UK	Donation in lieu of War Memorial clean	£25.00
Chq no. 001196	pay to Hayley Beardall	Catering at Switch on Event (replacement chq 001190)	£76.33
Chq no. 001197	pay to R Hardie	Christmas Lights and Batteries	£122.48

The Clerk asked for the following account to be added to the list for payment.

Chq no. 001198	pay D M Karalius	Switch on Event expenses	£123.15
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Receipts

None

It was resolved that the Financial Report and the Accounts for Payment be approved. The cheques were signed by Councillors Shaikh and Hardie.

141. Report from Audit Advisory Group.

Following an intervention from Councillor Hardie it was decided not to accept the AAG remit in its current format, until it had been reviewed by Councillor Greenshields.

Action – Councillor Greenshields to submit his comments.

The Clerk reminded councillors that it was necessary for members of the Group to review the Risk Management document.

Action – Clerk to re-send Risk Management document to members of the AAG.

Action – Councillor Shaikh and Group to respond and Clerk to include on February's agenda.

142. Risk Assessments.

The Risk Assessments carried out by Councillor Hardie in November 2019 on the parish assets, War Memorial, Bus Shelter, benches, grit bins and QEII Walton Jubilee Playground trees, were reviewed and accepted by councillors.

Action – Councillors Meacock and Jones to provide costing for re-roofing the bus shelter.

143. Budget/Precept 2020/21.

Copies of the Budget/Precept Spreadsheet and the WPC 10 Year spend analysis for 2020/21 budget (as prepared by Councillor Shaikh) had been sent out to councillors with the meeting documentation.

Councillor Shaikh explained that after a discussion with the Clerk, he had grouped the spending in to 5 categories:

- Governance, Administration and representation
- Amenities and Betterment

- Community Events
- Election Costs
- Donation

After some discussion it was decided to accept the budget and resulting precept as outlined on the WPC 10 year spend analysis.

The Clerk pointed out that the figure of £13182 was £366 less than the original prepared budget. Based on 759 Band D equivalents this would give us a Band D Charge of £17.36. The increase from £9685(2019/20) to £13182 was £3497 and represented an increase of 36.1%.

It was resolved that the PC should request a precept of £13182 which represented an increase in the Band D Charge from £12.76 to £17.36 based on 759 Band D Equivalents.

144. Planning Matters

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Councillor Hardie talked through some of the cases on the report.

Councillor Bennett declared an interest.

Various councillors commented on 2019/36100 The Western Link.

2019/36194 was discussed and it was agreed to comment on the lines that a neighbour had raised a concern and that the development was unattractive and not in keeping with its surroundings.

145. Local Plan Proposed Submission Version.

Councillors Greenshields and Price were not present.

Councillor Harris declared an Interest.

The Local Transport Plan has been approved by WBCs full council.

The possible delay in the Local Plan may well be till at least June 2020, owing to the very many detailed representations.

It was resolved that the PC spend the sum of £397.50 in relation to a further financial provision in supporting the South Warrington Parish Council's Working Group.

Action – Clerk to ask Janet Richards for the feedback on the report provided by GT Planning.

146. Report on Parish Matters

Flooding on Pool Lane.

No report in absence of Councillors Greenshields and Taylor.

Civic Service Budget

A full discussion took place on how the budget for this has steadily increased over the years. It was agreed that costs would be closely monitored in future, but that the event was popular and worthwhile.

Other Parish Matters

Christmas Trees – Councillor Bennett to take both trees down, with the assistance of the Chair and her husband.

147. Report from Village Betterment Advisory Group.

No report.

148. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Church Magazine/Publicity – Cllr Bennett – No magazine.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – No report.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett – reported that WBC had cleared the drain by the Creamfields entrance.

Councillor Meacock reported on the poor state of Mill Lane with potholes etc. It was becoming very difficult to drive down. A resident had copied the Clerk in on a complaint sent to WBC and this included photos indicating the state of the Road. The resident said that they would hold WBC accountable in the event of any accidents or damage to cars and cycles.

In addition, during heavy rain the bottom of the Lane at Runcorn Road became badly flooded so that it was impossible to walk through.

Action – Clerk to report to WBC.

Walton Hall Estate – No report.

149. Review of Correspondence

Invite to meeting at Warrington Police Station on Tuesday at 6.30pm. Councillors to notify Clerk about attendance.

150. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be **Thursday 13th February 2020** at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, **commencing at 7.30pm.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 21.02 hrs.