

Clerk to the Council: -  
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**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 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.**

**Present**

- Councillor B M Price - Chair
- Councillor S Davies
- Councillor S A Harris
- Councillor D M Karalius
- Councillor A Jones
- Councillor D A Meacock
- Councillor R D Bennett
- Councillor R Hardie
- Councillor S H Taylor
- Councillor G J Greenshields

**In Attendance**

- Parish Clerk R J Hallam
- Residents 0
- Guest - Neil Simpson Walton Estate Manager

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed the guest.

**157. Apologies for Absence**

The Clerk reported that an apology for absence had been received from Councillor Shaikh (illness).

**158. Adjournment**

The Chair called for an adjournment to enable Neil Simpson (NS) to address the PC.

***It was resolved that the meeting would go in to adjournment in order to enable Neil Simpson to address the meeting.***

The meeting went into adjournment at 7.32pm.

NS introduced himself and spoke about his background in working for WBC and his role as Walton Estate Manager.

The catering at the Heritage Café is now run by Lewis's and at the Hall by Carrington's, both generating income for WBC. Significant investment in the Riding School, work still required on floor and doors, income being generated. Zoo still a big driver in attracting visitors to Estate and major part in Estate's appeal. Conservatory's behind schedule but will create income from Myerscough College as tenants.

It is planned to introduce 'Small High Ropes' towards end of this year, next to the zoo, this will be an income and commission generator. There has been investment in the playground, adventure golf, laundry building and the Hall extension and toilets. Still a need to invest in footpaths and power.

The Estate is no longer a service it must be sustainable and it is almost there. The rear entrance via the golf course will be developed.

The adjournment ended at 8.14pm.

**159. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were reviewed. Page 38, para 152, OPMs, Superfast Broadband, 1<sup>st</sup> line “new” should read ‘knew’. Page 37, para 147, Action, ‘ageeing should read ‘agreeing’.

***It was resolved that subject to the amendments the minutes be accepted as a true record.***

**160. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes**

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

The Clerk then covered issues that had come to light since the report had been issued.

**Lights for Christmas Tree on Triangle.**

Following omissions during Christmas 2018, the Parish Council will take the lead in providing and erecting the Christmas Tree and lights at the Village Triangle for 2019.

**Partial removal of hedge along border of QEII Jubilee Playground.**

Councillor Karalius had had a professional examine the deeds package. Copies in the pack were not actually certified and maps and drawings were missing. Councillor Hardie pointed out that these documents had been missing when the PC took over the land. Councillor Karalius’s contact will check up on this and see if pre 1942 documents can be traced as it is these documents that will give us the information we want about the boundary.

The Clerk had prepared a letter to send to the occupants of the property adjoining the QEII Jubilee Playground once the situation with the hedge had been established, via the deeds search.

**Action – Councillor Karalius to initiate further research into the deeds package.**

**Action – Clerk to contact Holly Levy at Enforcement about no breach decision.**

**Mr Priestner’s Christmas Tree Proposal.**

Councillor Hardie (BH) explained that he had written a personal letter (outside the Parish Council) to Mr Priestner (PP) as he had become irritated with his accusative tone over a long period of time aimed at himself, his late wife and other councillors. He said he had concluded his letter by asking PP whether it was now time to go forward with cooperation.

The Clerk explained that he had only received an email from PP at 16.20 that day in response to BH letter and that he would forward this on to all councillors. The Clerk stated that PP in his email had made it clear that he was not prepared to respond outside of the PC.

Councillor Greenshields said it was important that we should remain conscious of the PC’s reputation and be seen to be fair in its dealings with Parishioners and there was a suggestion from Councillor Harris that in future in order to deflect from potential personal issues that correspondence should come from the Chair or Clerk.

The matter would be discussed further once councillors had seen PP’s email (to be forwarded by Clerk) and any subsequent reply from PP.

**Walton Towpath.**

Councillor Harris advised that she would follow up on Peter Parkinson’s email in February.

**Creamfields Security and Crime.**

Following John Probyn’s reply (see Matters Arising), Councillor Karalius had drafted a response explaining that the PC only wanted the information on crime figures that he had talked through at the Liaison Group Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Action – Clerk to forward draft on to John Probyn**

**161. Report from Borough Councillor.**

Colin Walker Senior Planner has given his resignation.

**162. 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: -

Cheque number 001117	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£264.54
Cheque number 001118	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£66.13
Cheque number 001119	payable to Gardenia Gard Ltd	Warden Work/Plantg tubs & beds	£960.00
Cheque number 001120	payable to R Hardie	Xmas tree lights for Village Triangle	£43.98
Cheque number 001121	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£10.49

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

**163. Budget/Precept 2019/20**

The Clerk had issued to Councillors the Budget/Spreadsheet for consideration, along with a Factsheet, Letter and worked example from WBC, which had been sent out for the December meeting. A full discussion took place on the options open to the Parish Council.

***It was resolved that the Parish Council should request an increase of 20% in its Band D Charge from £10.63 to £12.76 resulting in a precept of £9621, as opposed to the figure of £8013 as recommended by WBC.***

**Action – Clerk to prepare a suitable letter explaining request to WBC Corporate Services by the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

**164. Clerk's Salary Review.**

The Clerk left the room.

***It was resolved that the Clerk should receive an increase in his salary of 3%.***

The Clerk re-joined the meeting.

**165. Planning Matters**

The report that had been issued with the meeting documentation.

There was nothing of significance to add to the report.

**166. Two Acre complaint to WBC CEO.**

Councillor Greenshields said that he felt that if the last WBC response was the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the complaint process, then there should have been a formal written report as part of that. But WBC had just written back basically to say that there were no grounds for complaint.

**Action - Councillor Greenshields to prepare letter and send to Clerk for forwarding on.**

**167. Report from Donations Advisory Group**

Group to meet on the 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**168. Local Plan PDO**

Councillor Greenshields said he had 3 points to raise.

1. Stockton Heath had finally decided not to join the Group.
2. There will be a presentation on the 29<sup>th</sup> January for all Parish Councils at Appleton Parish Hall by the consultant, with a further presentation on the 30<sup>th</sup> January for local groups. There will be a handout for public briefings.
3. WBC will be producing a timetable about when we get information. Should we be appointing a consultant to do our response. John Groves and Helen Howie are options. We have 7-8 weeks to respond following formal announcement.

**Action – Chair to meet up with Moore Parish Council to discuss possibility of having a joint planning consultant.**

The Transport and Local Plan are coming out at the same time and 6 weeks is a short time frame for a response.

**169. Report on Parish Matters  
Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

The Clerk had circulated a survey document that had been produced by GrappenHall and Thelwall PC in respect of their own NDP, in order to give councillors an idea about what was involved in a NDP. Councillor Harris said that this had to be resident driven and that any plan had to be realistic.

**Risk Assessment.**

Councillor Hardie had circulated an asset risk assessment to all councillors, with comments on what was required.

**Action – Councillor Karalius to prepare a letter of thank you to residents of Worsley Road for not parking on road during the Christmas light switch on.**

**Other Parish Matters  
Superfast Broadband**

The Clerk advised that he had emailed the Clerk's of all the local PCs about the presentation by BT Openreach on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the Community Church Hall 5pm-6pm. He had received positive responses from Stockton Heath and Lymm and it was agreed that we should go ahead and formalise arrangements.

**Action – Councillor Davies to confirm with BT Openreach.**

**Action – Clerk to confirm booking of Hall.**

**Civic Service 2019** – The Chair had approached Anita who would get back with suitable dates.

**Walton Arms Hedge**

**Action – Councillor Hardie to draft letter and pass on to Clerk for forwarding on to Agents/Owners.**

**GDPR – Shredder and Filing Cabinet** – Clerk confirmed that a suitably robust shredder would cost up to £100 and cabinet between £125-£140.

**Action – Clerk to go ahead and purchase.**

**Phone Box** – Councillor Davies had found that there was a possibility of a grant for refurbishment through The Lady Neville Charity.

Councillor Harris will look in to the source of the grant obtained by Appleton PC.

Councillor Shaikh had advised the Clerk, that since the last meeting, when he had reported the receipt of two positive responses to the locating of the phone box at the Village Triangle, had now received four negative replies and the Clerk had also received a negative reply. The two positive responses had also since come back expressing reservations. So there does not now appear to be any enthusiasm or support for the Village Triangle as the location.

Mrs Potter in her email had suggested next to the bench on the green at Lychgate or next to the bus stop. The PC would consider this further.

**Ann Hardie Bench** – Councillor Jones had looked in to the cost of hard wood and recycled plastic benches and these were between £700-£800.

**Action – Councillor Jones and Hardie to get together to look at benches and possible alternatives.**

**170. Report from Village Betterment Committee**

There had not been a meeting.

**171. Reports from Appointed Representatives**

**Church Magazine/Publicity** – Cllr Bennett no magazine.

**Footpaths – Councillor Price** – Nothing to report. The R of W meeting was on the 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett** – Grids are still blocked on the A56 from the TRB to the boundary and Councillor Greenshields also reported blockages down Walton Road. Mrs Potter had advised by email that the pavement along Walton Lea Road from the Village (Walton Arms) right through to Hough's Lane Bridge was covered in wet leaves with many pedestrians choosing to walk on the road rather than risk slipping.

**Action – Clerk to advise WBC.**

**Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. R. Hardie** – no report.

**172. Review of Correspondence**

Covered in other areas of the meeting.

**173. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019** 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 22.04 hrs.