

## Walton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the St. Johns Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018

#### Present

Cllr. B. M. Price Chair  
Cllr. D. A. Meacock Deputy Chair  
Cllr. Y. R. Shaikh  
Cllr. R. Hardie  
Cllr. D. M. Karalius  
Cllr. A. Jones  
Cllr. G. J. Greenshields  
Cllr. R. D. Bennett  
Cllr. S. A. Harris  
Cllr. S. Davies

#### In Attendance

Ray Hallam – Parish Clerk  
Borough Cllr. S. Harris  
Observers Lara Jacob (Clerk to Stockton Heath Parish Council)  
Judith Wheeler (Councillor for Appleton (excluding Appleton  
Thorn), Stretton, Hatton and Higher Walton)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had arranged for the completion of the Declarations of Acceptance of Office for the two new Parish Councillors for Lower Walton, Sharon Harris and Stephanie Davies.

Cllr. B. M. Price, the Chair opened the meeting at 7.15pm and welcomed everybody including the two new councillors recently elected and Lara Jacob the Clerk from Stockton Heath PC, who was observing.

- 1 Apologies** - The Chair stated that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Taylor.
- 2 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting** - The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017, distributed to all present, were reviewed.  
***It was moved that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.*** The minutes were signed by the Chair.
- 3 Chairman's Report** – The Chair, Councillor B. M. Price read from a prepared report, on her year in office as Chair of the Parish Council.

### **Chairman's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

This year we welcome our new Parish Councillors, Sharon Harris and Stephanie Davies.

This has been a challenging year for Walton Parish Council and when I became chair on 4th May 2017 I did not anticipate that I would be attending so many meetings or that having my picture in the local paper would result in so much discussion of the Local Plan.

I have attended two Civic Services and lunches. One in a field at Sankey where I met our new Police Commissioner for the first time.

Early in the year WBC announced the proposed closure of Warrington Libraries. I became part of the Action Group and attended meetings and discussions with Sharon Harris our Borough Councillor. With the support of most of the South Warrington Parish Councils including our own we were able to get a reprieve for Stockton Heath Library.

I also attended various meetings with Councillor Karalius and met the Creamfield organisers. This concert is held annually in our Parish and we are working with Creamfields and the police to cause as little disruption as possible to our residents.

WBC published details of the Warrington Western Link and the Local Plan during the summer. I and some of our Parish Councillors attended the consultations and met with other Parish Councils to decide our response. At an extraordinary meeting in August Walton PC voted to employ the services of a planning consultant. Councillor Greenshields is now part of a joint committee with South Warrington PCs and is representing our interests, for this I thank him.

I met our new MP and took part in a robust discussion on amongst other things the traffic problems in Walton.

We had a service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday 12th November led by our vicar, and enjoyed coffee and biscuits afterwards in the Stag. Quite a few of the residents were with us and thanked the Councillors for the service.

Councillor Karalius arranged for Father Christmas and his reindeers to attend the switching on of the Christmas tree lights in Lower Walton on 3rd December. Our vicar did the honours. We also had trees in Walton Village and Hill Cliffe Road.

At Christmas I attended an afternoon tea organised by Barbara Parratt for the "oldies" of South Warrington and did some line dancing with the Mayoress.

Unfortunately Councillor Ann Hardie died just before Christmas. She was a long serving member of Walton Parish Council as well as a friend. She is missed by many.

Councillor Jolyon Ward resigned. He was a member of the Parish Council for 10 years and looked after the trees of the Parish amongst other jobs.

On 25th March we held our Civic Service at the Parish Church. Our vicar gave a lovely service and everyone seemed to enjoy the lunch and company afterwards. We were complimented on the decoration of our parish rooms for which we have Cllr. Karalius to thank. Thanks also to Cllr. Hardie who helped to set up and hoovered the carpet the next day. Our meetings, on the whole, are well attended and my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their support and help. Special thanks to our clerk Ray Hallam who has tried to keep me on the straight and narrow. Not an easy job!

Parish Cllr. B M Price Chairman 2017-2018

#### **4 Parish Matters**

There were no parish matters.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending. The meeting closed at 7.23pm.