

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

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of Walton Parish Council held at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.**

**Present**  
Councillor B M Price - Chair  
Councillor R Hardie  
Councillor S Davies  
Councillor S A Harris  
Councillor D M Karalius  
Councillor A Jones  
Councillor Y R Shaikh  
Councillor R D Bennett  
Councillor S H Taylor

**In Attendance**  
Parish Clerk R J Hallam  
Residents 4

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.32pm.

**125. Apologies for Absence**

The Clerk reported that an apology for absence had been received from Councillor Greenshields (family commitment).

**126. Adjournment**

The Chair called for an adjournment to enable Stuart Gwilliam (SG) a resident to address the PC.

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

The meeting went into adjournment at 7.34pm.

SG had written to the PC about the erosion of land to the side of Park Lane due to the overflowing stream and photographs had been provided. Cars driving too quickly and throwing water on to the land also contributed.

SG explained the situation and had obtained a verbal quote of £1120 for the existing wall to be continued along the area where the land erosion was taking place. Councillors to discuss under item 12 on agenda OPMs.

The meeting went back in to session at 7.38.

**127. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were reviewed. Page 26, para 106, line 2 (Tylor should read Taylor). Page 28, para 116, line 2, (Worsley Road should read Walton New Road).

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

128.

**Malcolm Eldridge Email**

At the request of Mr Eldridge, councillors agreed to bring the discussion of his email of the 24<sup>th</sup> October forward from item 15 on the agenda.

**Walton Towpath**

Mr Eldridge had expressed his concerns about the state of the towpath in the long term and the perceived lack of action by the PC.

The Clerk referred to emails he has sent to Peter Parkinson (PP) at Peel Ports about the PC's concerns with the towpath.

**Action – Clerk to forward email (PP email) to Councillor Harris who had offered to take this up in her capacity as Borough Councillor.**

**Action – Clerk to write to WBC requesting that leaves are removed from Walton Lea Road in case water spills over kerb and down on to towpath.**

**Action – Councillor Hardie said that the Clerk should send a letter to PP as PC find it discourteous that he has not responded.**

**Telephone Box**

The Clerk referred to the email he had copied on to Matters Arising, which stated that planning permission would be required to place the phone box near the Parish bus shelter. Councillor Harris said that this was not a difficult process. Councillor Taylor would assist with any planning application.

The placement options that the PC had mentioned in the past were touched upon (village triangle, Walton Arms, Walton Gardens and the Parish bus shelter). Grants are available for phone box refurbishment and there are people who specialise in this. Councillor Davies happy to do grant application. But prior to any further decision it was agreed that Councillor Shaikh would prepare a flyer for delivery to all residents in Walton Village about the possible placement of phone box in the Village Triangle.

Mr Eldridge reminded councillors that his original idea for the phone box was that it be used as a Notice Board.

**Action – Councillor Shaikh to prepare flyer and pass on to Clerk.**

**Village Triangle**

Apology offered to Mr Eldridge about removal of the small conservation area. The Chair suggested that if Mr Eldridge wanted to re-construct the conservation area, then we would support this and take steps to keep this in isolation from the work done in the remainder of the triangle.

**Christmas Tree**

Mr Eldridge had stated in his email that the small Christmas Tree at the Village Triangle will grow and that for a few years it will be an appropriate size, but then it will become too large. He felt that to plant a potentially large conifer was out of character for an area of deciduous trees.

Councillor Hardie said that the decision to put small trees in was something that had been discussed over a fair period of time, years in fact. The ground down at the QEII Jubilee Playground is a mixture of soil and clinker and some trees had not done well down there and some had become water logged. He felt it was a pity to spend good money on a bigger tree and find that it didn't grow. Also, if a small tree is put in, it finds its own roots and he believed it would grow stronger than a tree that is several metres high and popped in a hole.

He also said that the smaller tree would catch up with the bigger of the two trees and be a much better tree when it does.

Councillor Karalius supported Mr. Eldridge's point of view as she didn't feel that there was any place on either village green for a conifer/fir type of tree, it was just not right in an English Village with a village green.

Councillors Taylor and Karalius both stated that we should no longer source an electricity supply from the resident in the village even with an RCD, as this could create unforeseen problems for the PC. There was agreement with this.

**Action – Councillor Bennett to look in to battery supply power for tree on Triangle.**

### Walton Gardens

Mr. Eldridge to email the Clerk with a donation request for display board, which could be referred to the DAG

#### **129. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes**

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

#### **Phone box/Defibrillator**

Email from the Development Management Team Leader explaining that planning permission would be required to place a phone box near to the Parish bus shelter.

#### **Hedge removal from house on Walton New Road adjoining QEII Jubilee Playground.**

Clerk explained plans were not clear. Councillor Harris suggested QEII contact made with Enforcement. The removal of the hedge had changed the look of the area.

**Action – Clerk to ask Enforcement to review the situation of hedge removal.**

### Walton Arms Hedge

**Action – Clerk to include on December's agenda.**

#### **130. Report from Borough Councillor.**

Councillor Harris reported that the leader of WBC was standing down.

#### **131. 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 001105	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£264.54
Cheque number 001106	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£66.13
Cheque number 001107	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£8.49

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

The Clerk asked that Advisory Groups and councillors email the Clerk with items that should be included in the 2019/20 budget by the end of November.

**Action – Clerk to write to Chair with details of 2018/19 donations.**

#### **132. Donations Advisory Group**

The Group had not met and adoption of an application form had not been discussed. This would be discussed by the DAG after Christmas.

#### **133. Planning Matters**

Councillor R Hardie gave an update on the report that had been issued. Application 2018/33712, it was decided that the PC should raise a concern.

**Action - Councillor Hardie to make contact with the Clerk about progressing the banner's application.**

#### **134. Christmas Tree Switch on Event.**

***It was resolved that the PC would spend up to £350 on the switch on event.***

The event to take place at 5pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Flyers to be delivered.

**135. Local Plan PDO**

The Chair advised that the revised Local Plan would go before the Executive Board on the 10<sup>th</sup> December and the Full Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. It would go to consultation after the Christmas and New Year holidays.

**136. Report on Parish Matters**

**Phone box** – Discussed earlier.

Councillor Bennett left the room.

**Creamfields** – A meeting of the Parish Council Liaison Group had been rearranged for 29<sup>th</sup> November. The Chair and Councillor Karalius to attend.

It is understood that the setting up of the Board of Trustees will be discussed at this meeting.

Councillor Bennett re-joined the meeting.

**Other Parish Matters**

**Superfast Broadband**

Councillor Davies (SD) explained the work she had done so far. Councillor Harris's landline has now been registered on the Community Fibre Partnership website. As a result of her being on the Connecting Cheshire Board it has become apparent that more issues and concerns are being raised by PCs, particularly those in rural areas away from cabinets. Connecting Cheshire are planning to have a session involving PCs, which would talk PCs throughout Cheshire, through all the options available. SD felt it would be beneficial to wait for this meeting so that we could learn more about the options available. The Connecting Cheshire meeting later this month should make clear when this session with PCs is going to be held. It is hoped that the session will take place prior to the end of the year.

**Action – SD to report back to PC on what she has found out about the PC session & Clerk to include on December's agenda.**

If the session is not due to take place prior to the end of the year then, the PC could always pursue the option with the Community Fibre Partnership.

**Christmas Tree Proposal**

The Clerk fully outlined the proposal from Mr Priestner for the PC to replace the buying of two Christmas Trees each year and for the PC to plant two larger Christmas Trees (Norway Spruce) at the QEII Jubilee Playground and Village Triangle. The proposal had been outlined in an email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October and circulated to all councillors. Councillors stated that much of what they wanted to say had been covered under paragraph 128 earlier in the meeting. Councillor Hardie said that Mr Priestner's costings had not included the cost of taking the trees away after they had reached 20 feet high. At that height it would be impossible without a platform to decorate the tree with lights.

Councillors appreciated the effort that Mr Priestner had put in to his proposal, but it was resolved that the PC would continue with the current arrangement, until the smaller trees reached a suitable height.

**Action – Clerk to advise and thank Mr. Priestner for his contribution.**

**Erosion of land to the side of Park Lane.**

It was agreed that prior to the PC considering extending the wall, we should be asking WBC to do this. In the event of WBC declining to take this work on, then it would be likely that appropriate permission would need to be sought from WBC before any action could be taken by the PC if it chose to do so.

**Action – Clerk to write to WBC.**

**Remembrance Sunday**

The wreath laying service will be conducted by Anita Raggett at 9.30am at the War Memorial on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. This will be followed by a service at St. John's Church.

**137. Report from Village Betterment Committee**

***It was resolved that the PC would spend up to £600 on the replanting of tubs and beds.***

**Action – Councillor Karalius to obtain quote for the above from the Parish Warden**

The Clerk to consider the options once received.

**138. Reports from Appointed Representatives**

**Church Magazine/Publicity** – Cllr Karalius – No magazine.

**Footpaths – Councillor Price** – There is no path at present at the Mill Lane R of W. A new gate and stile has been erected at the Mill Lane path and at the R of W meeting there was concern that this new gate could be locked.

**Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett** – again advised that vegetation growing from the Golf Club was encroaching up to half way across the carriageways of Hough's Lane and Park Lane.

**Action – Clerk to follow up with Angus Lord.**

The gullies from Holly Hedge lane on both sides of carriageway of A56 to the boundary need sucking out. There is vegetation down the whole of Hobb Lane.

**Action – Clerk to advise WBC.**

**Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. R. Hardie** – nothing to report.

**139. Review of Correspondence**

**Replace diseased tree.**

Following an email from Matthew Barnes, Councillor Hardie will take the required steps to replace the tree that had been taken down as a result of disease.

**Remembrance Poppies**

Mr Priestner had emailed about 12 inch wide poppies he had seen in East Lancashire. He felt that these would look good if displayed in and around the village. It was agreed that the PC would look in to this for next year, as they have been sold out for this year.

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

**The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 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 21.40 hrs.