

Clerk to the Council: -  
Mr. R. J. Hallam  
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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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.**

**Present**

- Councillor R D Bennett – Chairman
- Councillor B M Price – Vice Chairman
- Councillor G J Greenshields
- Councillor D M Karalius
- Councillor R Hardie
- Councillor H A S Hardie
- Councillor Y R Shaikh
- Councillor A Jones
- Councillor S J Taylor
- Councillor D A Meacock

**In Attendance**

- Parish Clerk R J Hallam
- Borough Councillor P Walker
- 1 Resident

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

**126. Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman reported that an apology for absence had been received from Councillor Ward and Borough Councillor Harris.

**127. Adjournment**

The Chairman asked for an adjournment to allow the resident to address the meeting.

***It was resolved that the meeting should go into adjournment. Time 7.31pm.***

The owner occupier of 2 Belvoir Rd explained that he had submitted 2 planning applications for a two-storey extension, both of which had been declined and had now submitted a single storey extension. He wanted to know what he could do to overcome this problem, as he had not got any help from the Planning Department.

Councillor R Hardie explained that the issue of reduced light was a matter of opinion and that in such circumstances the Parish Council did not make any comment to Planning on the application.

The meeting went back in to session at 7.40pm.

**128. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were reviewed.

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

**129. Reports on Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

The Clerk referred to the report and said he had nothing further to add since the report was produced.

Councillor R Hardie reported that Rixton's Civic Service was poorly attended by representatives of other parishes.

**Christmas Trees** – It was agreed that traditional Christmas trees, as large as possible would be planted at the QEII Walton Jubilee Playground and at the Village Triangle.

**Picket Fence** – A decision on this will be taken nearer to Christmas 2017.

**Creamfields** – Councillor R Hardie raised his concern about the drug taking, although this is only alleged and the need to get the proper facts about how the police were handling this. It was suggested that we could try and get information on this from the Creamfield's Working Party Group.

**Action – it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Police Commissioner and Chief Constable as agreed last month.**

It was also suggested that we should try and get this matter on the agenda for the next Working Party meeting, with the police being pre-notified, so they could then come along to the meeting with the information being sought.

**Finance and Governance** – Councillor Greenshields asked whether any of the payments made to a councillor contravened the Local Government Act 1972. Although he believed the payments had been made and received in 'good faith' by all parties.

**Action – Clerk to take advice on this.**

He also expressed concern about the proposal agreed at the January meeting for the Parish Council to spend up to £3000 on the planting of trees. He felt that authority cannot go to an individual and as it had not been delegated to a committee, then it would have to come back to the full parish council.

Councillor R Hardie explained the tendering process which had been followed in previous tree planting programmes, with a decision as to who the contract is awarded to coming back to the full parish council.

Councillor Greenshields said he did not have a problem if this is what is going to happen. The Clerk confirmed that this was the process and councillor Shaikh confirmed that a contract may not be let by councillors and that the Clerk lets the contracts after the council has made a decision.

### **130. Report from Borough Councillors.**

Borough Councillor P Walker reported that there were to be in excess of 1000 houses built in Appleton, Grappenhall Heys and Stretton.

The Forge car park, new charges are now in place.

There is no further news on the libraries, but it is rumoured that WBC are possibly re-thinking their earlier decision.

WBC are looking in to, how they can support parishes with doing environmental work previously carried out by themselves.

### **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 001004	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£258.31
Cheque number 001005	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£64.60
Cheque number 001006	payable to R D Bennett	Two Christmas Trees	£116.00
Cheque number 001000	payable to ChALC	Induction Training (GJG) & H & S (RH)	£125.00

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

**Walton Lea Partnership** – work is to start next week on the tidy up around the Community Church Hall.

**Action – Clerk to confirm quotation with expenditure on plants to be at the lower end of the quote.**

Councillor Karalius expressed concern about the flagged area, which is very slippery. Councillor Taylor to draw this to the attention of WLP, the use of a stiff brush and sand to be suggested.

Bulbs are also to be planted.

**Bank Mandates** – The Clerk reminded Councillors Greenshields and Jones that they still needed to complete the mandates they had and take them to the bank with appropriate identification.

**132. Report from the Donations Advisory Group.**

Councillor A Hardie confirmed that the group supported a donation of £300 to Stockton Heath Festival. The request by North West Air Ambulance was declined as guidelines were to support only local organisations with the Parish's limited resources.

**Action – Proposal to be included on March agenda.**

**133. Planning Matters**

The Planning Advisory Group Report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Councillor R Hardie updated councillors on applications.

The Ramswood application had been approved and there was wide concern amongst councillors about further impingement on green belt areas and the attitude of the Planning Department. It was agreed that a strong letter should be sent to Planning in respect of them favouring building on green belt, but first of all the planning report would need to be sighted.

The tall fencing at the Ship Inn site was discussed and it was felt to be an eyesore.

**Action – Clerk to contact Enforcement to see if this is compliant.**

**134. Boundary Commission/Borough Councillor's Title Change.**

Councillor R Hardie asked for the proposal on the agenda to be withdrawn.

It was agreed that before introducing a new proposal we should approach the other parish councils effected by the boundary changes (Stockton Heath, Appleton, Hatton and Stretton) to see if they wanted to join us in approaching WBC.

**Action – Clerk to write to the parish councils.**

**135. Report on Parish Matters**

**Civic Service**

Catering has been agreed with Sugar and Spice Catering. Anita Raggett the Priest in Charge had asked whether an 'Act of Commitment to Service' could be included in the church service and this was agreed.

**Action – Clerk to advise AR.**

**Action – Chairman to contact AR about arrangements for readings.**

**Canal Towpath**

Concern was expressed by all councillors about the state of the towpath from Stockton Heath to Walton.

**Action – Clerk to write to Peel to establish what they are doing about this.**

**Action – Clerk to ask John Thorpe what had been agreed following his meeting with Peel on this subject.**

**Internet Community Church Hall**

**Action – Councillor Karalius to contact BT about the possible inclusion of internet facilities at the Community Church Hall,**

**Other Parish Matters**

**Accident waiting to Happen** – Councillor Karalius raised the issue of the danger posed by parking in front of the cottages next to the Ship Inn development.

**Action – Clerk to refer matter to Highways.**

**Health and Safety** – Councillor R Hardie advised that he had recently been on a H & S course. He stated that it was the PC's responsibility to provide the Clerk with suitable furniture to enable him to complete his work in safety and to ensure that the equipment use was checked at intervals.

**Action – Councillor R Hardie to get further information.**

**136. Report from Village Betterment Advisory Group**

Councillor A Hardie advised that there had not been a meeting.

**137. Reports from Appointed Representatives**

**Publicity – Councillor Karalius** – There was no magazine.

**Footpaths – Councillor Price** – Nothing further to report.

**Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett** – The traffic merge sign outside the cricket ground on the A56, the pole has been flattened.

The pavement on Runcorn Road from Holly Hedge Lane to the Moore boundary is now completely soiled over.

Councillor Taylor reported on how bright the LED lights were on the main roads. Could we ask that the brightness levels are turned down.

**Action – Clerk to notify WBC.**

**South Neighbourhood Board – Councillor R. Hardie** – No meeting

**Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. R. Hardie** – gave an update on the work in hand on the riding school and progress of the lottery bid. He was concerned that WBC were holding back information on the financial status of the Hall and golf course. They will not disclose figures telling how they are doing, saying that these figures are difficult to extract. He is concerned at what they might be hiding.

**138. Review of Correspondence**

**Neighbourhood Area Consultation – Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Area.**

No requirement for the Parish to respond.

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

**The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 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 22.14 hrs.