

Clerk to the Council: -
Mr. R. J. Hallam
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Walton Parish Council held remotely by Zoom Conferencing, on Thursday the 2nd July 2020.

Present Councillor D M Karalius - Chair
Councillor B M Price
Councillor R Hardie
Councillor S A Harris

In Attendance Parish Clerk R J Hallam
Residents 0

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.40pm and welcomed everybody. The meeting was late starting owing to IT issues.

36. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Shaikh (work commitment), Davies (medical appointment) and Taylor. Councillor Bennett attempted to join the meeting, but IT issues prevented it.

37. Adjournment

There was no adjournment.

38. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th June 2020 were reviewed.

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

39. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Holly Hedge Lane Tubs.

Jamie Fisher had previously advised us that owing to Covid 19 he was unable to attend site meetings. Both Councillors Hardie and the Chair had sent him photographs of where the tubs could be sited but there had not been a response.

Action – Clerk to follow this up.

Bank signatures and Online Banking.

Action – Clerk to continue to follow this up during Summer recess.

Walton Camper.

A man had recently been pitching a tent on the QEII Walton Jubilee Playground and other areas around South Warrington. The PCSO had advised that he was aware of this and had spoken to him, but as such the police do not deal with civil trespass and can only intervene if an offence is committed.

Councillor Hardie said that this could be a problem if more than one person started to follow this example.

Action – Clerk to write to Matthew Comberbach for advice on the matter.

40. Report from Borough Councillor.

Councillor Harris (SAH) said she had nothing much to report.

A report prepared by Neil Simpson on recent developments at Walton Hall had been circulated.

Councillor Hardie asked whether SAH had enquired about the reasons behind the closure of Haigh Hall in Wigan. He felt that if we had this knowledge then it could prevent a similar situation happening to Walton Hall. SAH and Councillor Price felt that the management structure at both places was not the same. WHE are following commercial avenues which are appropriate and sustainable. The approach now is completely different than it was when selling off the Hall was being considered.

41. 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 001225	payable to Gardenia Gardens Ltd	May Acc Tubs	£340/grounds	£750	£1090.00
Cheque number 001226	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary			£281.13
Cheque number 001227	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax			£70.28
Cheque number 001228	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses			£7.99
Cheque number 001229	payable to St. John's PCC	Hire of Hall			£220.00
Cheque number 001230	payable to Warrington Foodbank	Donation			£300.00
Cheque number 001231	payable to Care UK Charity	Donation			£300.00

Prior to approving the Accounts, the agenda item under Reports on Parish Matters "Report from Councillor Karalius on review of Gardenia's May Account" was brought forward, as this account was one of those on the list for approval. The report from Councillor Karalius had been circulated to all councillors earlier in the day and her findings were accepted.

The following Account had been received following the completion of the Report and the Clerk requested that it be added to the above list.

Cheque number 001232	payable to Gardenia Gardens Ltd	Warden work			£360.00
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Councillor Hardie asked whether Gardenia provided detail of what he had done during the month and what he planned to do during the following month.

Action – Clerk to supply this information to Councillor Hardie.

It was resolved that the Financial Report and the Accounts for Payment be approved. Arrangements would be made for the cheques to be signed.

In view of the summer recess it was also agreed that when presented, arrangements to pay Gardenia's account for July should be made, on condition that the Clerk is advised by the Warden's supervisor that the work detailed on the invoice has been completed.

42. To receive report from the Donations Advisory Group

Nothing to report.

43. Local Plan.

The notes from the recent meetings of the SWPCG had been circulated.

Parish Councils could write to the Secretary of State in respect of the Stobart's case, but as Councillor Harris and the SWPCG were already writing, this was felt to be sufficient.

44. Planning Matters

The Planning Advisory Group Report had been circulated to all Councillors and there was nothing further to add.

45. Report on Parish Matters

Porch House Farm Cheshire Railings.

Councillor Bennett had previously asked whether the PC should adopt these railings and keep them refurbished. They had been erected by Cheshire County Council many years ago.

Councillor Harris declared an interested but had looked into the ownership and found that they were not on the deeds of the houses and also that WBC had no responsibility for them.

Councillor Hardie thought they belonged to the householders.

Action – Councillor Hardie to ask Brian Priestner whether he still has the original deeds.

Superfast Broadband.

Carried forward as Councillor Taylor not present.

Bus shelter roof repairs and fitting of Waste Bin.

Action – Clerk to enquire of Councillors Meacock and Jones of their plans and date for carrying out the above work.

In the event of this not being forthcoming then it will be necessary to seek quotations for the work to be done, as the bus shelter roof in particular could be a danger to the public with falling slates.

Memorial Bench.

Councillor Hardie said that this will be in place by the end of July.

Other Parish Matters.

It appears that an attempt had been made to steal the bench on the QEII Walton Jubilee Playground, but Councillor Jones had kindly refitted the bench securely.

The Chair reported the overgrown hedge at the Lodge on the corner of Chester Road and Hobb Lane.

Action – Clerk to contact resident.

46. Report from Village Betterment Committee

It was resolved that the PC can spend up to £400 on the purchase of summer bedding plants to replant the tubs and beds.

A discussion took place on whether the PC should purchase barrels made from composite materials or those made with traditional materials. A planter made of composite materials was in place at Stretton and it was suggested that councillors should take a look at this.

In the end it was decided that this decision should be made when a greater number of councillors were present and would be considered again after the recess.

Notice Boards.

A full discussion took place on whether the board at HW should be replaced or refurbished.

It was resolved that the PC spend up to £1000 on a new Board for HW and a refurbishment of the existing Board at LW.

Action – The quote for this work obtained by the Chair is to be forwarded to the Clerk.

It was resolved that following refurbishment the LW notice board be re-sited to the left of the bench that edges Worsley Road.

The siting of new flower tubs at prominent positions around the Parish will be considered by the VBAG and a recommendation made which can then be considered by the full Council.

47. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Church Magazine/Publicity – Cllr Bennett – Not present.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – The Mill Lane footpath has been planted with potatoes. It has been reported to Stephen Bartley and he is to contact the farmer/agent, to get the path re-instated. It is understood that a representative from Peel has met with WBC in relation to applying for a grant to fund the refurbishment of the Walton towpath.

Action – Councillor Harris to approach Neil Simpson for an update on this.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett – No report.

Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. Price - A report from Neil Simpson has been circulated.

48. Review of Correspondence

None

49. Date and time of next meeting

The Clerk advised that he would be on holiday for the first two Thursdays in September. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to all councillors with a view to establishing a preference on an alternative date. A response would be requested within 7 days.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be either Thursday 27th August 2020 or 17th September 2020 by Zoom conferencing, commencing at 7.30pm.

Councillor Attendance.

There was some concern about the non-attendance at meetings of some councillors over recent months and during Covid 19 and the Clerk was asked to write to those involved and seek assurance about future attendance.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 09.15 hrs.