

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> March 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 J R Ward  
Councillor A Jones  
Councillor D A Meacock

**In Attendance**  
Parish Clerk R J Hallam  
Borough Councillor G Welborn

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

**140. Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Shaikh (holiday) and Borough Councillor Harris.

**141. Adjournment**

There was no adjournment.

**142. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 were reviewed.  
***It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.***

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

The Clerk referred to the report. Items which required further comment were covered later on the agenda.

**Tall fencing at the Ship Inn Development**

**Action – Clerk to write to Tom Hill after councillors clarified the exact siting of the fence causing concern.**

**144. Report from Borough Councillors.**

No report

**145. 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 001008	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£258.31
Cheque number 001009	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£64.60
Cheque number 001010	payable to J R Jackson & Son	Replant barrels & tubs	£600.00
Cheque number 001011	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£71.96
Cheque number 001012	payable to R Hardie	Wreath, shovels, cable ties, Xmas cards	£67.74

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

**146. Payment to Councillors.**

There was a debate, during which various opinions were expressed. The crux of the matter being whether a paid contractor is the same as somebody in the paid employment in the Council. Councillor R Hardie's view was that he would like the advice we had already received substantiated by somebody with legal training. Councillor R Hardie proposed an amendment to the proposal on the agenda and this was seconded by Councillor Greenshields.

***It was resolved that the Internal Auditor, ChALC, SofLCC, along with Paul Claydon at Clerks and Council Direct, be asked to review these payments and advise the PC if any are 'ultra vires' and if so, suggested action to be taken.***

There were 6 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstained from voting.

**Action – An email to be prepared and sent to the above parties.**

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

***It was resolved that the PC would donate the sum of £300 to the Stockton Heath Festival.***

**Action – Clerk to advise the organisers that the donation should be used to sponsor the Warrington Male Voice Choir event at St. Thomas's Church.**

**148. Planning Matters**

The Chairman declared an interest and left the room.

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

Councillor R Hardie (RH) said there was nothing exceptional on the report.

RH explained the concerns outlined in an email from Mr. Priestner (PRP), in connection with the planning application submitted by Holly Hedge Farm. PRP felt that, in the interests of transparency and democracy, as the application involved a Member/Chairman of the PC, then this should have been considered by the full PC, rather than the Planning Advisory Group. RH had responded on the basis that the whole PC sees the report on planning matters, it is issued with the Agenda and the report is drawn to their attention at the PC meeting, giving opportunity for questions to be asked or comments made. That the applicant is also a member is not seen to require further scrutiny for these applications in this situation. There is not seen to be any subterfuge with the application.

The Chairman returned.

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

The Clerk went through the actions as outlined in the Matters Arising Report.

No further action until we hear the response from Stretton PC.

**150. Report on Parish Matters**

**Civic Service**

The Clerk advised that he had received 14 acceptances to attend. With Walton Parish Councillors and Borough Councillors this would give approximately 33 in total.

The Chairman declared an interest and left the meeting.

### **Creamfields**

Councillor Karalius reported on the Working Group Meeting.

The Organisers have promised to come back to the next meeting with some technical information on noise levels.

The Police have a new Officer in charge. They are looking into, the idea of a shuttle bus for residents who attend the event, to get them back safely, as they will not be allowed to go through the camp site anymore. Minutes of the meeting will be produced.

The Clerk advised that he had not received a response from the Commissioner or Chief Constable, to a letter sent on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

The Chairman returned to the meeting.

### **Other Parish Matters**

None

Councillor Greenshields left the meeting at 8.52pm.

#### **151. Report from Village Betterment Advisory Group**

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

It was suggested by Councillor Meacock that Walton Lea could be asked to do some of the tidying up jobs around the Parish, other than tree maintenance work. Councillor R Hardie suggested that we see how they do on the Community Church Hall project, before asking them to quote for any further work.

**Action – Councillor Meacock to ask Walton Lea, if they have not already done so, to complete work around the Community Church Hall prior to the Civic Service.**

#### **152. Reports from Appointed Representatives**

**Publicity – Councillor Karalius** – February and March magazines issued.

**Footpaths – Councillor Price** – Nothing further to report. Depending on response from Peel regarding the towpath, Councillor R Hardie asked whether it might be worth asking to see the Accounts of the Bridgewater Ship Canal, in order to see how the incoming money is spent and how much was actually spent on towpaths.

The Clerk advised that these should be available at Companies House.

**Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett** – The hedge from the PC bus shelter to the Toast Rack Bridge is falling down, what are WBC's plans to address this.

There is a fallen tree on the cycle path outside Orchard Cottage.

**Action – Clerk to notify WBC.**

**South Neighbourhood Board – Councillor R. Hardie** – No report, as he could not attend.

**Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. R. Hardie** – The next meeting is on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Still awaiting the result of the Heritage Lottery bid.

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting had been circulated by the Clerk.

#### **153. Review of Correspondence**

**Member Development – Code of Conduct/Standards Committee 8<sup>th</sup> March 6pm.** – Clerk and Councillor R Hardie to attend.

**EDR Landscapes** – Agreed to retain details for works around the Parish.

**Action – Clerk to forward email to Councillor R Hardie.**

**Litter on A56** – Email from Davina Woods discussed.

**Action – Clerk to report complaint to WBC.**

**Action – Councillor Karalius to approach Thorn Cross Offenders Unit about help with litter picking this stretch.**

**Mayor’s Civic Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017.** – Councillors to let Clerk know if attending.

**Email P. Priestner (PRP)** – Clerk explained contents of email. PRP was having difficulty in hearing what councillors were saying. He had previously requested that chairs and tables were moved closer to the resident’s seating area (which the Clerk now adhered to) and he had also requested low cost microphone facilities, this had previously been declined. In addition, he asked that the minutes were made available on the website in advance of the following month’s meeting.

**Action – Clerk to look into microphone facility at the Community Church Hall.**

**Member briefing – Awareness Training Gypsy/Traveller Wed. 29<sup>th</sup> March.** – Details emailed to councillors. Numbers limited to 2 per PC. Clerk to be advised of those wishing to attend.

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

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 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 21.31 hrs.