

Clerk to the Council: -
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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 3rd June 2021.

Present Councillor S A Harris - Chair
Councillor S Davies – Vice Chair
Councillor D M Karalius
Councillor B M Price
Councillor R Hardie
Councillor Y R Shaikh

In Attendance Parish Clerk R J Hallam
Residents 0
Borough Councillor Judith Walker (Lower Walton)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everybody. It was commented on what a good job the Church had made of cleaning the room following its long period of not being used owing to Covid.

38. Apologies for Absence

The Chair reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Bennett (holiday) and Borough Councillor Jervis (Higher Walton).

39. To Sign Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Shaikh signed a new Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

40. Adjournment

There was no adjournment.

41. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th May 2021 were reviewed.

It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Karalius and seconded by Councillor Hardie, all in favour.

42. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Bank Account Signature Update.

The Clerk added that he had emailed the Bank to explain why the PC could not be a registered charity. He had also emailed Fields in Trust asking them to make contact but as yet had not received a call back. Officers at FIT are all still working from home.

Councillor Shaikh gave an explanation as to how WPC became charity registered and how it may be necessary to delist.

Borough Councillors

The Clerk confirmed that Lower Walton would be represented by Judith Wheeler and Peter Walker (alternating their attendance at meetings) and Higher Walton by Mark Jervis.

Standing Orders.

The Chair had put forward suggestions for some changes to Councillors Shaikh and Hardie and arrangements would be made for them to meet up.

Risk Assessment Advisory Group.

The Chair raised the point that at present there was only Councillor Hardie as a member of this Group and that 2 to 3 councillors would be better. The Chair put her name forward.

Action – Include proposal on July’s agenda.

43. Report from Borough Councillor.

Borough Councillor Wheeler (JW) reaffirmed the comments made by Borough Councillor Jervis in an email to the Clerk, that there had been little substantial BC business done since the election.

She said that the refurbishment of the Forge Car Park was progressing.

Councillor Hardie asked JW if she would ask the question of WBC on how the Government’s Covid grants had been spent. He also raised the matter of the poor state of the drains throughout the Borough, which he felt was the cause of some of the flooding in parts of the Town. She was asked if she would look into the scheduling of the drain cleaning.

Action – JW to look into WBC spending of Government Covid grant and the scheduling of drain cleaning.

44. 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 001290	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk’s Salary	£290.87
Cheque number 001291	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£72.72
Cheque number 001292	payable to R J Hallam	Off Exp (Ink£9.99/Zoom£14.39/Insur £475.59)	£499.97
Cheque number 001293	payable to Gardenia Gardens Ltd	Warden AplAcc (Inv0670 24X£15VAT£72)	£432.00
Cheque number 001294	payable to The Clean up My Community	Donation (duplicate chq for 001288 wrong Payee)	£100.00

It was resolved that the Financial Report and the Accounts for Payment be approved. Proposed by Councillor Karalius and seconded by Councillor Hardie. The cheques were signed by Councillors Hardie and Shaikh.

Internal Audit

This had not yet been completed.

45. To receive report from the Donations Advisory Group

It was resolved that the PC donate the sum of £300 to St. John’s PCC for the upkeep of church grounds. Proposed by Councillor Hardie and seconded by Councillor Karalius. All in favour.

46. Planning Matters

The Planning Advisory Group Report had been circulated to all Councillors.

Very little further to add.

Action – 2021/39355 Clerk to forward comment on possible violation of the 45* rule.

Action – Borough Councillor Wheeler to check with Enforcement on barn conversion on Mill Lane for which there was no planning application, along with farm shop on Runcorn Road, with new roof and septic tank, has there been a change of use.

It was resolved that the PC accept the Planning Advisory Group Report dated 3rd June 2021. Proposed by Councillor Hardie and seconded by Councillor Karalius, all in favour.

47. Local Plan.

No developments.

48. Report on Parish Matters

Website.

Nothing further yet.

Action - The Chair, along with Councillors Davies, Hardie and the Clerk to set a date for a Zoom meeting, in order to progress matters.

Trees on Village Triangle.

Councillors Karalius and Price had met the resident unarranged, when reviewing the trees on the Triangle.

Action – Councillors Karalius and Price to create a record of conversation and send to Clerk.

Councillor Shaikh pointed out that it seems that Simon Twigg (ST) is not necessarily in agreement with the report's findings.

Action – Councillors need to make themselves familiar with the report again in contrast to the findings of ST.

Action – Chair to check with ST on whether he had made any progress in establishing the ownership of the Village Triangle.

The Chair stated that we should look to bring this to a conclusion before the next meeting.

Councillor Vacancies and co-option.

The 35 days allowed for co-options to take place without the need to post a notice, expires on the 10th June 2021.

Some possible candidates had been spoken to, but although still interested they were not available at present.

Action – The Chair, Councillors Karalius and Price and Davies to follow up on other candidates.

Action – Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for possible interviews at next PC meeting.

Other Parish Matters.

Litter Picking.

Councillor Davies outlined all the options open to the PC, in setting up its own litter picking group. It was agreed that we would look further into getting one in Walton set up.

As part of the Great British Spring clean up Tony Dixon has offered to extend his pick into Walton on the 12th or 13th June and the Chair said it would be good if councillors could involve themselves with this event.

Forward Planning.

Councillors had been sent a copy of this, which had been prepared by the Chair and Councillor Davies. Councillors were asked to look at this and come up with their own suggestions.

Councillor Hardie questioned the relevance of the FP and felt that most things could be better managed and timely, by the Chair via the agenda.

The Chair felt that it would focus the PC more on what it would like to achieve over the coming 12 months and the aim of a Forward Plan is to help the Parish Council work more effectively as a whole group.

A Forward Plan is not intended to be a constraint but an aide. If an item on the Plan is not achieved for whatever reason, those reasons can be noted and the item removed or deferred to the next Forward Plan.

It was not necessary to make a decision on this tonight, but if councillors would consider the document, possible additions could be made and the matter voted on at a later meeting.

Lamppost Poppies.

The Clerk had sent an email about this on 16/4, but we had missed the date for May and the Chair asked whether we could purchase some for November. Borough Councillor Wheeler said that WBC had not given permission for these to another PC.

However, we still have some of the softer versions from last year, but we need to establish how many we have their condition and the size and confirm with WBC that they are acceptable.

It was decided that the VBAG would look into the possibility of acquiring Tommy signs.

Action – To find out what WBC regulations/restrictions are, before the PC purchases any.

49. Report from Village Betterment Committee

Councillors were advised of the sitings of the new planters. These had now been approved by Trevor Gleave at WBC.

Councillor Shaikh commented that consideration should be given to putting some planters where there was the most population i.e. Lower Walton.

Action – At suggestion of the Chair the VBAG to take up the idea of different sitings in Lower Walton.

Councillor Shaikh also questioned the overall costing of the planters' project in view of the two new proposals to spend a further £400. Councillor Karalius and the Clerk pointed out that historically £600 had been set aside for replanting the barrels and beds with summer and winter plants.

It was resolved that the PC spend up to £200 on the planting of the new planters and flower beds. Proposed by Councillor Karalius and seconded by Councillor Davies, all in favour.

It was resolved that the PC spend up to £200 on the supplying and laying of flags to site the new planters. Proposed by Councillor Karalius and seconded by Councillor Price. The motion was approved with Councillor Hardie voting against.

Flower beds.

Councillor Hardie (RH) raised the matter of the 3 flower beds and how they had shrunk in size and in one case disappeared and asked whether these could be reinstated. Passers by had given RH encouragement when he had been working on the beds.

Action - It was proposed that the VBAG should come back to the PC with some recommendations.

RH said that the PC should make its views known to the VBAG.

Christmas Trees and Lights.

Councillor Hardie felt that the battery lights for the Christmas Trees at Whitefield/Hill Cliffe Roads and at the Village Triangle were not really bright enough. Sometime ago we had tried to get a power point at the junction of Whitefield/Hill Cliffe Road, similar to the one at the QEII Walton Jubilee Playground, but WBC had refused this. He wondered whether this could be resurrected. Councillor Hardie said that the PC should be giving these matters its attention in plenty of time for Christmas.

Action – Clerk to research again possibility of powerpoint.

Action VBAG to also consider these matters.

The Chair commented on the fabulous events that had been organised in the past by Councillors Karalius with the aid of Councillor Price.

50. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Footpaths – Councillor Price – No report.

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

Action – Clerk to take up with Highways the danger posed by the tree at the junction of Chester Road and Hobb Lane, obstructing the view of traffic wanting to exit Hobb Lane either turning right or left.

Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. Price – Update from Neil Simpson had been circulated.

51. Review of Correspondence

The PCSO's Crime Report had been circulated to the councillors by email.

52. Date and time of next meeting

Action – The Chair will consult with all councillors on the matter of bringing meeting times forward by 15 minutes.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be **Thursday 1st July 2021**, at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, **commencing at 7.30pm.** (Time to be confirmed)

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 21.03 hrs.