

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 4th January 2018.

Present Councillor B M Price – Chairman
Councillor D A Meacock – Vice Chairman
Councillor A Jones
Councillor R Hardie
Councillor G J Greenshields
Councillor R D Bennett
Councillor D Karalius
Councillor R D Bennett

In Attendance Parish Clerk R J Hallam
Residents 0
Borough Councillor S Harris (SH)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

123. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

124. Adjournment

There was no adjournment.

125. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7th December 2017 were reviewed.

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

126. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation. The Clerk then updated councillors on matters that had taken place since the report had been issued.

Walton Towpath – The Clerk referred to the email from John Thorpe which had been circulated to all councillors, where he thanked the PC for its kind comments. He had reiterated the need for the PC to continue to press Peel about carrying out improvements on the towpath, but stated that owing to WBC budget issues it was at present unlikely that WBC would enter into partnership with Peel to carry out significant improvements to the towpath, which was Peel's preferred option.

Action – Cllr Karalius to take photos of current state of towpath and forward to Clerk.

Action – If no response from Peel, then Clerk to write again using photos as further evidence of the state of towpath.

Parish Warden – Cllr. Karalius had been unable to contact Lee Beardall as he had been away on holiday.

Action – Cllr Karalius to follow this up.

A discussion took place on the possibility of advertising the role of Parish Warden. Cllr. Greenshields stated that the PC needed a proper process in place in appointing such a role. It was also necessary to have a job specification in place.

Action – Clerk to check with Cllr Taylor on progress of job specification and when completed to circulate among councillors for discussion at next meeting.

Action – Clerk to include as agenda item for February.

Two Acre Caravan Park. – In the light of Andy Farrall’s response to our letter to the CEO, it was the consensus among councillors that the reply was unsatisfactory.

Action – Cllr Greenshields to draft a response.

Action – Clerk to include as agenda item for February.

New Audit Arrangements – Cllr Greenshields asked whether it had been agreed that the PC would opt not to have an external audit, at end of this financial year. A decision had not been made.

Action – Clerk to include for discussion on February agenda.

Christmas Tree Light switch on.

It was resolved that the PC would spend £150 (incl VAT) on picket fencing for the Christmas tree site.

127. Report from Borough Councillor S Harris (SH).

Nothing to report owing to holidays.

128. 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 001056	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk’s Salary	£258.31
Cheque number 001057	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£64.60
Cheque number 001058	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£86.98
Cheque number 001059	payable to D Karalius	Christmas Tee lights switch on expenses	£241.78
Cheque number 001060	payable to Rowswood Timb Supp Ltd	Picket Fencing Xmas Tree	£150.00

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

The Clerk advised that included within the office expenses was the purchase of a new printer HP OfficeJet 6950 at £79.99. The printhead had broken on the existing printer and would have cost a minimum of £75 to repair.

Action – Clerk to include purchase on asset register.

129. Budget and Precept 2018/19.

A lengthy discussion took place on the budget and precept.

It was resolved that the PC agreed a precept of £8172 for the year 2018/19.

The Clerk explained that subject to full WB Council approval from 2019/20, WBC would introduce the reduction in the Band D equivalent by Council Tax Support Allowance (CTSA), this would mean a reduction in band D equivalent of 17 and a loss in precept at current band D charge rate of £10.63 of £180.65. CTSA first came in in 2013, but WBC had decided not to pass this down to the lower tier of local government until now.

Cllr. Greenshields had expressed the need for the PC to put together a properly thought out plan so that its aspirations for the future of the Parish is supported by sound financial planning.

Action – Cllr Greenshields to put some headings together.

Action – Cllr Shaikh to prepare a statement in preparation for discussion of the Clerk’s salary at the February meeting.

Action – Clerk to include on February agenda.

130. Planning Matters.

The Advisory Group report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Planning Application 2017/31794 – There was some discussion on whether there was any justification for this building.

Action – Cllr Hardie to look further at this application before compiling a response to planning dept.

131. Casual Vacancies.

The Clerk explained the process and Notices have been placed on the Notice Boards on 4th January 2018. He will have one put on the website as soon as his issue with sent emails has been resolved. The PC will be free to co-opt with effect from 19th January 2018, as long as 10 residents do not come forward requesting an election.

Action – Clerk to place advert in Warrington Guardian,

The aim is to interview candidates at the February meeting.

Action – Clerk to include on agenda.

Stefan Spiro has expressed an interest.

Action – Clerk to follow this up.

132. Local Plan PDO.

It was resolved that Cllr Greenshields would be the PC’s representative on the Joint Working Group and Cllr Price the Deputy.

Cllr Greenshields understood that he would have to represent the views of the PC as a whole, but he did want to be able to shape policy within the Group.

Cllr Shaikh wondered whether the Group would be able to offer something better than we have already got. In order to establish the position of the other parishes within the Group, prior to the first meeting, Cllr Greenshields asked whether we could obtain copies of their responses to the Local Plan consultation.

Action – Clerk to obtain copies and forward to Cllr Greenshields.

John Groves Planning Consultant and former Head of Planning at WBC.

Action – Clerk to write and thank him for his interest in putting his name forward as Planning Consultant for the Joint Working Group.

Banners Update – The banners have been ordered and will be ready next week. Cllr. Greenshields suggested we involve the Warrington Guardian with a photo opportunity when the banners are put up.

Action – The Chair to arrange this.

133. Report on Parish Matters

Christmas Tree at junction of Whitefield Road and Hill Cliffe Road.

Cllr Hardie asked what the PC’s intention was in respect of having a tree at this junction in future years.

Action – Cllr Hardie to make contact with resident.

Depending on response the PC may look into the possibility of a permanent electricity supply for the lights.

Newsletter.

The Chair and Cllr Karalius will take responsibility for the future production of the newsletter. The next edition will be in May 2018.

Phone Box

Action Cllr. Bennett to do some homework on this ready for next meeting.

Action – Clerk to include on February agenda.

Wild Flowers grant application from Kew.

Cllrs felt that a closing date of 15th January was too short notice in order to put a detailed application together.

Action – Clerk to look at application requirements with a view to being better prepared if the opportunity came up in future.

Other Parish Matters

Planting of live Christmas Trees at QEII Walton Jubilee Playground and Village Triangle and quotation for electricity supply at Village Triangle.

Action – Councillor Bennett to organise the supply of 2 Christmas Trees and undertake planting and check if there is a lamp post nearby which could source an electricity supply.

Creamfields Spend – The Clerk advised councillors that Cream had asked for some information on how their donations had been spent.

Cllr Karalius asked for spending plans to be included on the next agenda.

Action – Clerk to include on February agenda.

Stockton Heath Library - Following a question from Cllr Hardie, Bor. Cllr. Harris confirmed that the libraries had been safeguarded until 2022.

Creamfields Major Projects – Cllr Hardie asked whether the PC were going to approach Cream about undertaking some major projects within the Parish, such as a car park for the Church which could also serve the Community Church Hall. It was agreed that cllrs would look at this subject under the Creamfields Spend agenda item in February, when a decision should be made on whether to continue with this idea further or abandon the idea.

Civic Service 2018 – Anita Raggett had given the Chair some available dates and councillors agreed on the 25th March 2018.

Action – Clerk to check Hall availability and confirm with Anita.

134. Report from Village Betterment Committee.

There had not been a meeting.

135. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Church Magazine/Publicity – Councillor Karalius – No church magazine.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – Nothing to report.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett – The footpath from Underbridge Lane and down Runcorn Road to the boundary has been scraped off. There is currently no proper surface and it is dangerous and needs tarmacking.

A retaining wall on Hobb Lane is in danger of collapsing with bits of the wall falling on to the highway and water is seeping through the wall.

The drains on the A56 are overflowing in heavy rain.

The drain at the junction of Walton Road and Chester Road overflows during heavy rain and covers halfway across the road.

Still nothing done about the overgrown rhododendron bushes at the bus shelter at bottom of Walton Road.

Action – Clerk to advise WBC.

Walton Hall Estate (WHE) – Cllr. Hardie (No meeting).

Action – Clerk to write to David Boyer's office to ask for an update on dates for future meetings.

136. Review of Correspondence

Parish Remuneration Panel – Maximum basic allowance will be £1000.

137. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be **Thursday 1st February 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 21.58 hrs.

DRAFT