

Clerk to the Council: -
Mr. R. J. Hallam
31 Farnham Close
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 3BG
01925-264201
07801 472083

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of Walton Parish Council held at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, on Thursday the 4th May 2017.

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

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

16. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman reported that three apologies for absence had been received. Councillors Ward (work commitment), Meacock (work accident) and Greenshields.

17. To Receive nominations and elect the Chairman of the Council and to receive the Chairman's declaration of office

The Chairman invited nominations for Chairman.

Cllr. A. Hardie nominated Cllr. Price, this was seconded by Cllr. Taylor and the motion approved, all in favour. Cllr. Price completed the Declaration of Office and took the Chair. The Chairman's pendant was handed over.

18. To Receive nominations and elect the Vice Chairman of the Council and to receive the Vice Chairman's declaration of office

The Chairman asked for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Cllr. A. Hardie proposed Cllr. Meacock. As Councillor Meacock was not present, it was decided to leave this over to the June meeting.

19. To receive nominations for Representatives of outside bodies

The list of representatives had been indicated on the agenda. Everybody agreed to stay on in their positions.

It was resolved that the representatives should be agreed en bloc.

20. To receive nominations for Advisory Groups.

Planning – Cllrs. R. Hardie, A. Hardie, Meacock and Karalius. Councillor Jones agreed to join the Planning Advisory Group.

Parish Internal Audit – Cllrs. R. Hardie and Shaikh.

Risk Assessment – Cllrs. R Hardie and Karalius. Cllr. Karalius asked to come off. Cllr. Taylor agreed to join.

Village Betterment – Cllrs. Ward, Meacock, A. Hardie and R. Hardie. Cllr. Karalius agreed to join.

Donations – Cllrs. Meacock, A. Hardie and Price.

It was resolved that all representatives should be agreed en bloc.

21. To carry out an inspection of deeds and investments, review insurances and confirm Parish Records etc, review internal controls, standing orders and financial regulations and conduct further business appropriate to the APCM.

The Clerk gave a detailed report on all aspects of parish assets.

The Clerk confirmed that he now held the Deeds and Land Certificate for the QEII Walton Playground.

The Clerk explained that the Insurance policy with Zurich was up for renewal on the 1st June 2017. The renewal premium was £519.15 and the Clerk recommended that this be renewed. This is the 2nd year of the 5 years long term agreement.

It was resolved to accept the renewal premium of £519.15 with Zurich.

The Clerk explained that the minutes from January 2000 to March 2013 were now lodged with the Chester Records Office and that he held the minutes from April 2013 onwards.

The Clerk outlined the existing Internal Controls which are carried out monthly, Quarterly, half yearly and yearly.

It was agreed that these should continue.

The Standing Orders underwent a significant review during 2015.

The Financial Regulations underwent a significant review in 2016.

Action – In line with S/O No 30b, it was agreed that Clerk would write to all councillors to confirm that they have now read and understand the Standing Orders.

It was agreed to ask Councillor Greenshields to undergo a review of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

22. Adjournment

There was no adjournment.

23. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th April 2017 were reviewed.

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

24. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reminded councillors that this was an opportunity to review the minutes. The minutes would be approved at the next APM in April 2018.

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 6th April 2017 were reviewed and found to be an accurate record.

25. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Since issuing the report Bor. Cllr. Walker had sent the Clerk details on a neighbour's complaint about application 2017/29941 The Barn. This had been forwarded to PAG.

26. 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 001020	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£258.31
Cheque number 001021	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£64.60
Cheque number 001022	payable to St. John's PCC	Hire of Community Church Hall	£220.00
Cheque number 001023	payable to MSCC Ltd	Rents – Easements & Privs	£36.00
Cheque number 001024	payable to Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£519.15

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

It was resolved to approve the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st March 2017.

It was resolved that the Annual Governance Statement is approved.

It was resolved that the Accounting Statements are approved.

The Clerk explained that there now had to be an annual review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit and he explained the Audit Plan put forward by JDH Business Services Ltd.

It was resolved that the Parish Council approved the Audit Plan put forward by JDH Business Services Ltd.

27. Payments to Councillors.

All councillors had received a copy of the report compiled by Councillor Shaikh and considered its recommendations.

It was resolved to accept the recommendations as outlined in the report compiled by Councillor Shaikh.

Action – Clerk to include the invoices from Councillor Ward on the Accounts for Payment in June.

28. Planning Matters

Councillor R Hardie gave an update on the report that had been issued.

More information is to be sought on application 2017/30283 142 Ellesmere Road.

On application 2017/29941 The Barn, Councillor R Hardie said that in spite of the originality of the Ship Inn that had still gone, so he felt that any objection would be ignored.

29. Report from Borough Councillor.

BCSH reported that she had sent the Clerk a copy of the minutes of the Stockton Heath Library Working Group meeting of the 24th April. She extended invitations to all interested PCs for the next meeting on the 15th May, which is at the Library at 5.30pm.

She asked whether a proposal could be included on next month's agenda for a donation to the Group.

30. Report on Parish Matters

Creamfields Working Group Meeting.

Cllr. Karalius said the meeting was very productive and the police were well represented. They fully explained their processes for the prevention of drugs getting on to the site. Cllr. R Hardie was sceptical about what the police said they would be doing to prevent drugs getting on to the site and on the monitoring of noise levels. Cllr. Karalius and the Chairman urged him to attend the next meeting, so that he could put the concerns he has direct to the police.

Towpath

Improvements have been made to the stretch from Walton Gardens to Hough's Lane Bridge, with mud being removed and aggregate being added to improve the surface of the towpath. Cllr. R Hardie said that we need to establish what plans/programmes Bridgewater Trust had for the towpath, but they had not responded to an email sent by the Clerk. He also wanted to know what were the plans of WBC, in respect of the water coming off Walton Lea Road, flowing down the bank and badly effecting the towpath.

Action – Clerk to write to (Peter Parkinson) Peel and (David Boyer) at WBC about these issues.

Walton Arms Hedge.

Cllr R Hardie said that the hedge is sprouting and wanted to know about the future intentions of the company, are they going to let it regrow.

Action – After discussion on available options it was decided that Cllrs. R Hardie and Bennett would visit the Pub.

Engaging workers for casual jobs.

Cllr Karalius still trying to get together with Geoff Richards who organises the Community Payback programme. They are able to do all varieties of work and it is hoped that they will get together very soon. She will liaise with the Clerk on this.

Health and Safety

Action – Cllr. R Hardie to send the Clerk the appropriate form for completion, which on completion will be reviewed by Cllr. Taylor, who has experience in this area.

Civic Service attendees.

Cllr. R Hardie wanted the numbers attending to be recorded in the minutes. He also questioned the holding on the Civic Service when so few Chairs from other parishes attended. There was support from other councillors for the future holding of the Civic Service.

5 special guests, 3 other parish councils, 14 Walton PC and 8 from Church = 30 attending service and 28 attending the meal.

Microphone for Community Church Hall.

Cllr. Karalius said she felt that we should look at this again. Cllr. R Hardie said that we do have an obligation to ensure that members of the public can hear, as it is a public meeting. Mr. Priestner's email on this matter was discussed, as it had been circulated to all councillors to read.

Action – Cllr. Karalius to look into this further.

Other Parish Matters

Waste Stored at Warrington Port – At this time Peel have removed approx. 17000 tonnes of waste with another 11000 tonnes being currently cleared. They are also monitoring the inside temperature of the bales.

Japanese Knotweed – BCSH reported that Ryan Dyson the Senior Transport Planner of Transport for Warrington had advised that chemical treatment was likely to be the most productive, cutting back and removal could be counter-productive with the risk of spread. Highways have been asked to consider temporary management (signing/fencing).

Holly Hedge Lane – HGV Signage – Councillors expressed concern that HGVs were continuing to use HHL as a means of getting to Warrington Port and WBC inflexibility about the use of appropriate signage. BCSH had written to Jamie Fisher in Traffic Management and received a response that may be more positive. She will forward the email to the Clerk.

Action – Clerk to forward to councillors on receipt.

Councillor Bennett said that the signage he had promised would be ready shortly.

Phone box – The PC had previously decided to site the box at the village triangle once refurbished.

Action – Cllr. Bennett to cost up refurbishment.

31. Report from Village Betterment Committee

Primrose have been contacted about a quote for replanting tubs and beds.

It was resolved that the PC should spend up to £600 on the summer planting of the tubs and flower beds.

32. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Footpaths – Councillor Price – Mill Lane to Runcorn Road Footpath – the field has been cropped and the footpath no longer available, this has been reported to John Thorpe.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett - On the A56 when coming from Warrington, trees from the Walton Arms are restricting the view of the traffic lights.

A light has been knocked down in the middle of the road near to the War Memorial, where the refuge is.

On Hobb Lane, vegetation sprouting from the bottom of a tree is obstructing views on to Chester Road.

There is a sign knocked down outside of the Cricket Ground.

BCSH will enquire about the future road works to be carried out on Whitefield Road.

Action – Clerk to report these to WBC.

South Neighbourhood Board – Councillor R. Hardie – He said that the Board is going to be disbanded, but BCSH said that this may be the case, but it has actually not yet been stated.

Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. R. Hardie – Next meeting on the 22nd May.

33. Review of Correspondence

Police & Crime Commissioner's Meeting with Warrington Parish Councils – Meeting re-arranged to Tuesday 4th July, at 6.30pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall.

34. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be Thursday 1st June 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 21.52 hrs.