

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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

**Present**

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

Residents 1

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.33pm and welcomed everybody.

**119. Apologies for Absence**

The Chair reported that 2 apologies for absence had been received. Councillors Greenshields (family commitment) and Taylor (election work).

**120. Adjournment.**

No adjournment.

**121. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were reviewed.

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

**122. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes**

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

**New Waste Bin for Old Chester Road.**

**Action – Councillor Karalius to collect bin from Neil Simpson.**

**Action – Councillor Jones to ensure sufficient space on Old Chester Road for a pushchair to pass and site the new bin.**

**Action – Clerk to advise Kevin McCready when bin fitted to arrange for inclusion on the emptying schedule.**

**QEII Walton Jubilee Playground**

Councillor Hardie had approached former Councillor Ashcroft about the damaged tree, planted in memory of his wife and he asked for this to be replaced.

Councillor Hardie also informed the meeting of the deaths of John Ashcroft's and Peter Walker's sons.

**Action – Clerk to send the Parish Council's condolences.**

#### **War Memorial Trust**

Councillor Hardie had approached the Trust and they saw no reason why missing names could not be added to the plaque. However, they asked that it should be run past them first.

He sees it as impractical for alterations to be made to bronze plaques as they are castings. As a result, any additions would need to be on additional plaque(s).

They also provide advice on War Memorial refurbishment.

#### **Steep drop in pavement at stepped entrance to cottages opposite Furness Rigby on Chester Road.**

Councillor Hardie again raised the danger that this presented to pedestrians and the fact that WBC had declined to do anything about this in view of the time that these had been there. Councillor Hardie suggested that a post could be placed in a position so that pedestrian's attention was drawn to this danger.

**Action – Councillor Hardie to ask the views of the occupants of the cottages.**

#### **123. Report from Borough Councillor.**

Borough Councillor Harris (SAH) said that things were quiet in view of the forthcoming election.

SAH congratulated the Chair and everybody involved with the Christmas Lights Switch on Event, which was a huge success.

**Action – Christmas cards to be sent to the six residents living closest to the QEII Walton Jubilee Playground.**

A number of people who attended the Event had expressed a wish to make a donation. There was no facility for this, but the Chair said that she would mention this to the Lions when booking them for next year.

#### **124. 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: -

Chq no. 001182	pay to LiveWire	Library Donation (duplic chq 001165 went missing)	£274.50
Chq no. 001183	pay to Warrington Lions	Switch on Event donation	£100.00
Chq no. 001184	pay to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£272.47
Chq no. 001185	pay to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£68.11
Chq no. 001186	pay to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£95.80
Chq no. 001187	pay to Gardenia Gardens Ltd	Tubs/beds and Warden Work	£1300.00
Chq no. 001188	pay to R Hardie	Plaque for Commemorative bench	£33.99
Chq no. 001189	pay to D M Karalius	Poppies and name badges	£58.85

The Clerk asked for the following account to be added to the list for payment.

Chq no. 001190	pay to Hayley's Snack Shack	Catering at Switch on Event	£76.33
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#### **Receipts**

None

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

#### **125. ChALC Membership.**

A full discussion took place on the pros and cons of the Parish Council re-joining after a number of years of non-membership.

*It was resolved that the PC would spend up to £500 on re-joining ChALC with effect from the financial year commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.*

**126. Report from Audit Advisory Group.**

No report the Group had not met.

**Action – Councillor Greenshields to submit his comments.**

**127. Budget/Precept 2020/21.**

All councillors had been sent copies of the initial draft of the budget that had been prepared by the Clerk. The Clerk explained the letter and worked example that had been sent by the Director of Corporate Services at WBC and all councillors had received a copy.

The Clerk went through the budget document and discussions were had on the various entries.

A key factor in the budget was the 2020 election and the trend for residents to call for an election rather than the use of co-option. Costs for this are in the region of £3300 which can be spread over a 4 year period but nevertheless have a significant impact on any budget set.

It was agreed that a discussion could be had between members of the Audit Advisory Group and the Clerk prior to the January meeting in order to confirm the wording and amount for the proposal to be included on January 2020's agenda.

**Action – Clerk to include proposal for the Precept on January's agenda.**

Councillor Harris suggested that the Audit Advisory Group set dates to meet on a quarterly basis.

**Action – Clerk to include the costs involved with the Civic Service on January's agenda.**

**128. Planning Matters**

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Councillor Hardie talked through some of the cases on the report.

**129. Local Plan Proposed Submission Version.**

Councillor Price advised that there would be a revised Local Plan published after Christmas to reflect the fact that the infrastructure may not be able to cope with the proposed level of building.

The SWPCWG's request for further financial provision was discussed and the Clerk would check with Janet Richards on the requirement.

**Action – Clerk to include proposal on January 2020's agenda for new financial requirement.**

**130. Report on Parish Matters**

**War Memorial Cleaning**

*It was resolved that the PC pay The Children's Cancer Society the sum of £25.*

This was at the request of the man who had cleaned the Memorial.

**Chester Road Tree Planting.**

**Action – Clerk to email Simon Twigg asking him to go ahead with 4 limes and a gum tree as outlined.**

**Draining Issues on Chester Road**

Councillor Bennett (RDB), his Land Agent, Councillor Harris and the Clerk had met on the 21<sup>st</sup> November and RDB pointed out at various sites the ongoing drainage issues. This had been followed up on the 28<sup>th</sup> November by a meeting between Jim Turton and Trevor Gleave of WBC Highways along with Councillor Harris, Councillor Bennett and his Land Agent.

The situation is ongoing and a report on the meeting by the representatives of WBC is awaited.

**Flooding on Pool Lane.**

No report in absence of Councillors Greenshields and Taylor.

### **Creamfields Report from the Chair.**

The meeting with John Probyn took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Solutions to the matter of mud being carried on to the highway by HGVs were discussed. Cattle grids on exits, permanent roads and new drainage and wheel wash facility were all been considered.

Following the drugs death, sorrow had been expressed and a hospital consultant had visited the site and was happy with the facilities being provided.

It was felt that a solution to the taxi issue could be helped by more local residents making contact with WBC, when taxis were not using the designated drop off points.

Councillor Harris mentioned that the clean up of outlying areas needs to be addressed, litter, bottles and cans.

All these points will be taken up again at the pre-Creamfields meeting next year.

### **Christmas Lights switch on Event.**

The Chair gave her report on the success of the evening. She also briefly touched on improvements that could be made for next year.

The Clerk suggested that possible gritting of the paths around the Playground should be considered as part of the risk assessment, depending of course on the prevailing weather.

### **Other Parish Matters**

**Warrington Central Community Initiative Fund** – Grants of between £50-£3000 are available to Groups in the community and ideally supported by the Parish Council. The deadline for applications is the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

### **Christmas Trees**

***It was resolved that the PC would spend up to £325 on the purchase of Christmas trees and new lights for the existing tree on the grass triangle at the junction of Whitefield and Hill Cliffe Roads.***

**Action – Councillor Hardie to purchase new set of battery lights and put up at the grass triangle.**

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

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November had been circulated to all councillors. The items covered during the meeting were touched upon by Councillor Hardie and a copy of the minutes are attached to a copy of the November Parish Council minutes.

**Action – Councillor Hardie to ask the Trust about the availability of grants for the renovation of the War Memorial.**

### **Repair to Golf Club Wall**

A full discussion took place on whether the Parish Council should support making a contribution to the repair of the wall.

***It was resolved that the PC should contribute the sum of £1000 towards the overall cost (£5550) of repairing the Golf Club wall in the financial year commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.***

**Action – Clerk to advise Neil Simpson.**

### **132. Reports from Appointed Representatives**

**Church Magazine/Publicity** – Cllr Bennett – The December/January magazines were distributed.

**Footpaths** – Councillor Price – Nothing to report.

**Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting** – Councillor Bennett – The only street light in Underbridge Lane outside of Orchard Cottage is out.

Water is bubbling up from the pavement outside Hilly Hedge Farm due to a damaged land drain.

The grids at the Mill Lane/Chester Road junction are blocked causing flooding which can only be passed in a vehicle.

**Action – Clerk to report to WBC.**

Grit bin on Stetchworth Road needs filling.

**Action – Councillor Bennett to order new grit.**

**Action – The Warden to empty the grit bin of rubbish on corner of Park Lane.**

Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. Price – Nothing to report.

**133. Review of Correspondence**

**Walton Lea** – A representative of Walton Lea to be invited to address the Parish Council at the February meeting, in order to update the PC on developments and plans for the project.

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

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020** 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 10.10 hrs.