

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 5th January 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 Y R Shaikh
Councillor J R Ward

In Attendance Parish Clerk R J Hallam
Borough Councillor S Harris
1 Resident

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

111. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Taylor (work commitment), Meacock (work commitment) and Jones (work commitment).

112. Adjournment

The Chairman asked for an adjournment to allow the resident (Mr. Priestner) to address the meeting.
It was resolved that the meeting should go into adjournment. Time 7.31pm.

Mr. Priestner referred to his request to WBC to replace trees on the A56 and asked whether the PC would send another letter to follow up on his request.

He also asked for WBC to occasionally brush the cycleway on the A56, as in addition to leaves, there are frequent deposits of horse manure. This can make walking on the pathway rather tricky, particularly after frost.

He pointed out that Holly Hedge Lane was still having problems with HGVs. The Chairman said he would put up a sign as agreed previously. Mr. Priestner wondered whether a No HGVs sign could be used as he had seen at High Legh.

He asked whether it was still the intention of the PC to plant a tree that could be used as a Christmas Tree in the future. He also commented whether some-kind of picket fencing could be used around the Christmas tree, in place of the existing arrangement, as he felt this would look more suitable.

The meeting went back in to session at 7.40pm.

113. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st December 2016 were reviewed.
It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

114. Reports on Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

The Clerk referred to the report and said he had nothing further to add since the report was produced.

Grit – The new orange grit recently purchased seems to cause damage to carpets, according to Councillor Price. This will be taken into consideration when the PC purchases further grit.

Boundary Commission Appeal – Councillor R Hardie (RH) asked whether there had been any follow up to the reply from the BC, where they had laid out a process in which a possible change of title, to include Walton in the title of borough councillors, could possibly be achieved (see Matters Arising Report). RH felt strongly that we should ask WBC to go ahead and do it. A full discussion followed.

It was agreed that a full proposal should go on next month's agenda.

RH said that his proposal was "that the full title of the councillors includes Walton".

Councillor Shaikh stated that he suspected that WBC might get a little confused and that we need to write down exactly what the title is that we are proposing.

BCSH suggested that we also contact Hatton and Stretton ask whether this is something that they want.

Action – Clerk to look into the matter further and prepare a proposal for the February meeting so that councillors can decide on whether they want to take this up with WBC.

Library Closures – Councillor R Hardie asked why there was no mention in the minutes of support for the library. The Clerk clarified that this was an exchange of emails between Stockton Heath PC and Walton PC, which had been copied in to all councillors.

115. Report from Borough Councillors.

Councillor Harris (BCSH) advised that Stephen Broomhead's assistant had moved on.

At the Right of Way meeting John Thorpe (JT) confirmed that the farmer would properly mark out footpath 2 (Mill Lane).

JT thinks that there might be money available to assist in resolving the problem of water draining from Walton Lea Road on to the canal towpath.

Councillor R Hardie referred to an article in the Warrington Guardian Newspaper (5.01.17 issue) which referred to Councillor Harris's support for the use of Creamfield's donation money, for the repair of the Golf Club sandstone wall in Park Lane. BCSH said that it is well known that she has campaigned for the wall to be repaired, but denied any knowledge of the article.

116. 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: -

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Cheque number 000997 | payable to R J Hallam | Clerk's Salary | £254.57 |
| Cheque number 000998 | payable to HMRC | PAYE/Tax | £63.59 |
| Cheque number 000999 | payable to D Karalius | Expenses Xmas tree light switch on | £157.12 |
| Cheque number 001000 | payable to Blackbird Garden Co | Ranger expenses | £39.97 |
| Cheque number 001001 | payable to Warrington Lions | Donation | £50.00 |
| Cheque number 001002 | payable to R D Bennett | Grit | £203.75 |

The Clerk also asked for the following account to be included in the list of payments:-

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Cheque number 001003 | payable to Karen Dakin | Website hosting and back up | £71.86 |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|

Following a question raised by Councillor R Hardie it should be noted that the donation of £50 to Warrington Lions was discussed as part of the agreed resolution to grant a spend of £200 for the Christmas Tree light switch on event.

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

Bank Interest Rates – In view of the very low interest rates available to business accounts it was decided not to pursue this any further

Councillor Greenshields asked whether there were other banks who might pay a sum of money if the PC bank account was transferred to them.

Action – Clerk to look into this.

Councillor Price congratulated Councillor Karalius on her organisation and the success of the Christmas Tree light switch on. Everyone supported this.

Councillor R Hardie raised the question of whether a music license might be required if there was additional amplification.

Bank Mandates – The Clerk reminded Councillors Greenshields, Taylor and Jones that they still needed to complete the mandates they had and take them to the bank with appropriate identification.

117. Clerk's Salary Review

The Clerk left the room.

The Clerk was granted an increase of 1.5% in his annual salary with effect from the February payment.

118. Parish Precept 2017/18.

The Clerk had reissued the budget spreadsheet with the meeting's paperwork, along with a copy of WBC's precept letter and a factsheet which provided information to assist councillors in making a decision. The Clerk stated that his recommendation was to go along with the figure proposed by WBC and that the shortfall between budget and precept could be made up from reserves.

The Clerk referred to Councillor Taylor's proposal on the agenda to increase the precept on the rates by £2 per band D equivalent household. This would raise £9473 against a budget of £9296.

Councillor Shaikh expressed some doubt about whether Councillor Taylor's proposal could be considered in his absence, along with the fact that it asks for a 20% increase and should therefore be disregarded.

Councillor R Hardie said that he wasn't sure that that was the case, as the proposal had been submitted to the Clerk in writing.

A full discussion took place around the figures on the spreadsheet in relation to the budget.

It was proposed by Councillor Shaikh that the PC set the precept at £7970 as suggested by WBC and recommended by the Clerk. This was seconded by Councillor Price. 6 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

It was resolved that the Parish Council set the precept at £7970.

Councillor R Hardie (RH) asked for it to be put in the minutes as to why Councillor Taylor's proposal didn't go forward. Councillor Shaikh (YRS) said that it wasn't tabled because Councillor Taylor wasn't there to make the proposal. RH didn't think he needed to be, as the proposal was on the agenda. YRS said that a councillor had to make the proposal and RH stated that he wasn't sure he had to be there. YRS said that alternatively another councillor would have to take that up. RH said that he would have taken it up had he been in favour, but he personally preferred to take the money from reserves if need be and correct the situation in a year's time.

119. Planning Matters

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

Councillor R Hardie updated councillors on applications 2016/29284 and 2016/29479 and sought councillor's views.

120. Community Asset Transfers

No councillors wished to attend the training sessions.

121. Report on Parish Matters

Newsletter

No further progress.

Civic Service

Action - Councillors Karalius, Price and Ward to pursue catering options.

Action – Clerk to invite former Borough Councillor Paul Kennedy and Malcolm Eldridge.

Councillor R. Hardie will attend Rixton's Civic Service.

The Chairman left the meeting.

Creamfield's

Noise Levels – Nothing further to report as yet.

Creamfield's Feedback Meeting – Councillors Karalius and Price to attend Margaret Winstanley's (MW) group on behalf of the Parish. The councillors would bring up the PC's concern about how drug taking at the event is being dealt with by the police.

Action – Clerk to Advise MW.

Councillor R Hardie expressed concern about the level of drug taking at the event and felt that we should take the police to task on this. A full discussion took place.

Action – Clerk to write to the Police Commissioner and copy in Chief Constable with regards to the implementation of drugs policy at large scale events like Creamfields.

The Chairman re-joined the meeting.

Other Parish Matters

PCSO updates – Action – Clerk to advise Neil Drum of the need for a Walton flavour in any PCSO reporting at PC meetings.

Heritage Sites – The Clerk reminded councillors of the email from BCSH to himself and Neil Simpson. She referred to the WBC Local Plan Review and wondered whether the Estate sandstone wall was included and whether anything else should be added. The Clerk and Councillor A Hardie produced records from the archives which indicated the sites in Walton.

Councillor Shaikh said that he was of the view that it was the surroundings that go with a site, that keep it in character.

122. Report from Village Betterment Advisory Group

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

She once again thanked Councillor Karalius for all the work she did with the Christmas Tree lights switch on event.

Councillor R Hardie had planted bulbs and still had a sack full, Councillor Ward to take some of these.

Grit.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would cover the overspend in the purchase of grit up to £105.

Tree Maintenance.

It was resolved that the PC would spend up to £280 on 2 days' work by Councillor Ward in carrying out tree maintenance.

This work to be completed by March 2017.

Planting of further Street Trees.

Councillor R Hardie explained that at a previous meeting the PC had agreed in principle to further spending on street tree planting. In principle Dave Cotterill had agreed to planting in the narrower verges of Worsley Road.

Having consulted residents, Councillor R Hardie explained the proposal to plant a further 11 trees in Worsley Road, Stetchworth Road and Walton Heath Road, plus 4 trees on the A56 dual carriageway. In addition, in view of WBC's admission that they did not have funds available to plant the trees on the A56 as requested by Mr. Priestner, he proposed that we offer something towards the cost of the £2040, which WBC had indicated it would cost.

Councillor Greenshields wanted it noting in the minutes that he would vote against the proposal as it was not logical and not good business to agree to exceed a budget that had already been set earlier in the meeting.

Councillor Shaikh suggested that for the next meeting the Clerk incorporated the cost of the proposal on the current agenda into the budget figures on the spreadsheet.

It was resolved that the PC would spend up to £3000 on the planting of Street Trees.

Tree Replacements on the A56

The Clerk explained that Mr Priestner (PP) had raised the matter of verge trees needing replacing on the north side of the A56, near the junction of Holly Hedge Lane towards Daresbury in October 2015. Despite several emails to Dave Cotterill DC) the Clerk had not received a response. As a result, PP followed this up with DC in November 2016. PP received a reply from Chris Gaughan (CG) implying that he was liaising with Highways, who he said were funding the replacements. PP acknowledged this, saying that he hoped to hear from them about plans to replace the missing trees no later than Spring 2017.

In December 2016 I received an email from CG explaining PP's request, but that unfortunately WBC were unable to fund these works and asked whether the Parish would consider taking this on over a phased timescale.

WBC estimated the cost of this work at £2040 and Councillor R Hardie suggested that the PC offer something towards this cost from the agreed street tree planting spend of £3000.

123. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Publicity – Councillor Karalius – The church magazine was issued.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – Nothing further to report.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett – Councillor Hardie reported a pot hole on Hill Cliffe Road.

Street lights 33, 36 and 46 (this one has a telephone indication sign attached) still out on A56, opposite the Walton lights. Also, lights outside the Ship Inn.

There had still not been any action with the protruding bush on Hobb Lane, which sticks out on to the cycle way as reported earlier.

Action – Clerk to notify WBC.

South Neighbourhood Board – Councillor R. Hardie – There is a meeting next week.

Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. R. Hardie – The next meeting is February.

Councillor Karalius to email Clerk about a parking issue close to the cottages on the A56, just prior to the entrance to the new Ship Inn housing development.

124. Review of Correspondence

North West Air Ambulance Charity – Donation request.

Action – Clerk to refer to Donations Committee.

125. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be **Thursday 2nd February 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 22.14 hrs.

DRAFT