

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 6th July 2017.

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

In Attendance Parish Clerk R J Hallam
Residents 1
Borough Councillor P Walker

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

49. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ward (work commitment) and A Hardie (illness) and Borough Councillor Harris.

50. Adjournment

There was no adjournment.

51. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st June 2017 were reviewed.

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

52. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Boundary Commission – Bryan Magan to discuss with colleagues and get back to us.

HGV Signage and Holly Hedge Lane – Councillor R Hardie to speak to Jamie Fisher about why other obligatory signs such as 'length limits' cannot be used.

Stockton Heath Library – No reply yet from Joanne Crawford about whether PC can commit to a 5 year contribution arrangement.

Register of Member's Interests – The Clerk confirmed he had sent all councillors a copy of the government guidance 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests'.

Councillors agreed to leave it to the Clerk as to whether he should forward up to date RMIs to the WBC website, in addition to holding them on our own site. The Clerk said he would send current RMIs to WBC.

Walton Arms Hedge – Councillor Bennett confirmed that the licensee was rather reticent to give information about the owners, but did promise to contact them about our concerns. Nothing has been heard from him.

Action – Councillor Bennett to follow up.

War Memorial – Councillor Meacock had not yet obtained a quote for refurbishment.

Bus Shelter – Councillors Meacock and Jones had looked at this and decided that a new roof was required.

Action – Councillor Meacock to obtain quote for new roof.

Health & Safety at Work (Display Screen Equipment) – Councillor R Hardie asked Clerk whether documentation had been completed. The Clerk advised that he had printed it off.

Action – Clerk to complete documentation as soon as possible.

53. Report from Borough Councillor.

Borough Councillor Walker advised that the application to build 1000 houses at Appleton Cross had been deferred until the Local Plan is clearer. The Local Plan is before the Executive and if approved it will go to consultation. He explained the Warrington Western Link plan.

Action – Clerk to scan copy of plan and forward to councillors.

Residents of Springbrook (Old Ship Inn Estate) are complaining that it is difficult to get out on to Chester Road owing to parked cars and are asking for double yellow lines. But residents of the cottages do not want this. Meeting to take place between, developer, WBC and Borough Councillors Walker and Welborn.

54. Report from Donations Advisory Group.

It was resolved that the PC donate the sum of £300 to St. John's PCC for churchyard maintenance.

Action – Clerk to write to PCC and ask what they have in mind for the donation and also what last year's donation was used for.

55. 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 001030	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£258.31
Cheque number 001031	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£64.60
Cheque number 001032	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£18.44

Since preparing the report the Clerk had received the account from Primrose Nurseries and requested that this be added to the above list. The details are indicated below.

Cheque number 001033	payable to J R Jackson & Sons	Replanting Tubs and beds	£600.00
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It was resolved that the Financial Report and the Accounts for Payment be approved. The cheques were signed by Cllrs. R Hardie and Shaikh.

External Audit.

The Clerk explained that the auditor had asked for an explanation as to why our reserves appear high in comparison with the precept. The Clerk referred to the 'Analysis of Reserves' document he prepares each year for the Internal Auditor, which details the impact of Cream donations and the steps taken to reduce reserves by setting the precept at a lower level than the budget.

Action – Clerk to send explanation to External Auditor.

Action - Councillors agreed that they would come to the September meeting with ideas on how Cream donations could be used to improve the Parish.

Internal Audit.

The Clerk referred to the 6 actions listed by Joanne Crawford relating to lessons learned from the Contract for Services Issue.

The final point referred to the arrangement of related training. New councillors had been on training courses, all councillors to confirm that they had read and understood the Standing Orders and all councillors had received a copy of the government guidance 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests'.

The Clerk referred to training courses currently available via ChALC.

56. Planning Matters

Councillor R Hardie gave an update on the report that had been issued. Nothing significant had come in. It may well be that a new application from Two Acre could come in and the PC should be prepared for this. Councillor Greenshields referred to the Old Coach House application. This is the property that Elan wanted to demolish. Elan sold it and the new owner didn't want to knock down but refurbish. This application has now been withdrawn. The owner refused to divulge the contents of the condition report to WBC. The owner has now boarded it up, but a neighbour is concerned as to whether this could fall down, but WBC say that they do not think that it will fall down.

Councillor R Hardie felt that this was a civil matter and it was also said that this was not a Parish matter and should be taken up with WBC.

57. Report on Parish Matters

Microphone System for Community Church Hall.

Councillor Karalius had looked into the possibility of radio microphones, but these were very expensive and not a realistic solution.

Good Councillors Guide.

After some debate it was decided to purchase hard copies for each councillor.

Street Trees/Maintenance.

Councillor R Hardie explained that he was unable to complete the necessary requirements to enable planting for the Spring, but was looking to resurrect this in the Autumn.

Councillor R Hardie raised the issue of the maintenance required on trees throughout the Parish for which Blackbird Garden Co. had given a quote in December 2016 (£280) and wanted to know whether councillors agreed that we should now go ahead with this work. A discussion followed on the issues involved.

It was resolved that the PC should ask Blackbird Garden Co. to go ahead with the work as per his quotation of £280 from December 2016.

The Clerk explained that he had received a phone call from Sylvia Simcock on Monday 3rd July to say that her tree on the QEII Walton Playground had been knocked down by the mower when the grass was being mowed.

Councillors agreed to carry out the necessary repair.

Action – Clerk to obtain quote for work and if in line with previous quote for tree on Stetchworth Rd then Clerk to ask Blackbird Garden Co. to go ahead. Clerk to notify Joanne Moore, Mrs Simcock's daughter.

Councillor Ward was not present at this meeting.

Phone Box.

As Councillor Bennett had left the meeting early, this matter to be carried over.

Standing Order Review.

Action – Councillor Greenshields to carry out review and report back.

Creamfields.

Councillors had all been copied in to the minutes of the last Working Group meeting.

Councillors R Hardie, Karalius and Price are to be escorted round the site prior to the concert.

Other Parish Matters

Stockton Heath Library – The Clerk had sent all councillors a copy of the minutes of the last Working Group Meeting. In Borough Councillor Harris's absence, Borough Councillor Walker advised that a meeting had been set up with Stephen Broomhead the CEO WBC, in order to try and establish what £10k will deliver. It is hoped to have clarification by the next meeting.

58. Report from Village Betterment Committee.

Councillor R Hardie went through the notes of the meeting.

Councillor Meacock to get quotes for stripping, sandblasting and repainting the War Memorial.

Action – Councillor Meacock to obtain quote for refurb.

Excess plants from Primrose Nurseries to be used to for planting around the sides of the War Memorial, which will help with tidying up of area.

Councillor Karalius had been unable to arrange a meeting with Geoff Richards of the Community Payback programme.

Action – Councillor Meacock will try and set up a meeting with Thorn Cross with regards to them doing work in the Parish.

Councillor Karalius is dealing with John Ansell of WBC about the siting of a new barrel on the corner of Hobb Lane. A cast iron barrel may be considered.

Action – Councillor Jones to get Walton Lea Project to look at the possibility of tidying up the area known as Fairy Wood

59. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Church Magazine/Publicity – Councillor Karalius – No magazine.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – Councillor Meacock reported that the hedge along the towpath from Holly Hedge Lane Bridge to Moore Post Office was overgrown and needs cutting back.

Action – Clerk to write to Peel Holdings

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett - The Hedge along the the length of Hobb Lane is very overgrown. Councillor Karalius has emailed WBC.

Councillor Greenshields had asked the resident of the cottage on A56 to cut back the tree, where Walton Road turns on to Chester Road.

On Walton Road, opposite No.160, near to the bus stop at the Walton Road Triangle, the rhododendrons need cutting back.

There is a sycamore tree outside the Lodge on the corner of Chester Road and Hobb Lane which needs cutting back.

A large puddle forms outside the Walton Arms on road after rain. This has been raised with WBC by Lychgate resident Dave Thomason. (This will be reviewed after rainfall).

On the cyclepath, the vegetation is overgrown from Hobb Lane to the Toast Rack Bridge.

Visibility is obscured by vegetation when turning left towards Warrington from Underbridge Lane.

Conifers have been fly tipped on Underbridge Lane.

When turning left from the village to Chester, the trees are overhanging so badly that they obstruct the view of buses and lorries.

Action – Clerk to report to WBC.

The fence along Walton Lea Road from the village to Walton Gardens is in poor condition and needs replacing. This belongs to Peel Holdings.

South Neighbourhood Board – Councillor R. Hardie – This is being disbanded with only the central board maintained.

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

60. Review of Correspondence

Stockton Heath Festival

The Clerk had received an email thanking the PC for its continued support. The Festival had been a huge success.

61. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be **Thursday 7th September 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 21.40 hrs.