

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 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

**Present** Councillor B M Price - Chairman  
Councillor A Jones  
Councillor R Hardie  
Councillor S H Taylor  
Councillor R D Bennett  
Councillor D Karalius

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

The Chairman referred to the sad passing of Councillor Mrs Ann Hardie who died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. She said to Councillor Bob Hardie how sorry councillors were to hear about his loss. Ann had served as a Parish Councillor with great enthusiasm for over 20 years and would be sadly missed. The Chairman said that Ann had been a good friend and she offered condolences to Bob and his family.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.42pm.

**109. Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Greenshields (away), Shaikh (Work), Ward and Meacock (Work)

**110. Adjournment**

There was no adjournment.

**111. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 were reviewed.

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

**112. 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.

**Two Acre Caravan Park.** – The CEO had not responded to the PC's letter.

**Action – Clerk to follow up with his secretary.**

The Clerk reported that he had obtained the procedure for the complaints process.

**113. Report from Borough Councillor S Harris (SH).**

SH said that the Travellers residing on the Daresbury site had lost their appeal and must now move off the site.

The resurfacing of Runcorn Road is progressing well.

The drain on the corner of Mill Lane appears not to be working and she will make contact with Jamie Fisher.

Walton Lea Road the resurfacing completed, with old kerbs dug out and reset. Gully covers have been. Replaced and gully size increased so should improve any issues with the tow path by the canal.

**114. 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 001047	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£258.31
Cheque number 001048	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£64.60
Cheque number 001049	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£86.98
Cheque number 001050	payable to R Hardie	Wreath	£50.00
Cheque number 001051	payable to J R Jackson & Son	Replanting barrels and beds	£600.00
Cheque number 001052	payable to R D Bennett	Christmas trees X 2	£143.00

Since preparing the report the Clerk had received three further accounts and requested that these be added to the above list. The details are indicated below.

Cheque number 001053	payable to The Print Shop	6 banners	£324.00
Cheque number 001054	payable to ChALC	12 Good Councillors Guides	£48.00
Cheque number 001055	payable to Warrington Lions	Donation (Xmas tree lights switch on)	£50.00

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

**New Audit Arrangements**

The Clerk explained that as a Parish Council falling within the Transparency Code arrangements (with a credit or debit turnover of less than £25K) we can, with effect from the current financial year, declare itself exempt from the external audit. An internal audit will still need to take place and the Annual Return will still need to be completed and published on the Council's website and Notice boards. The PC would then have no fee to pay.

**115. Budget and Precept 2018/19.**

The Clerk explained the spreadsheet document which included figures that he had compiled and those put forward by Councillor Hardie.

A discussion took place on some of the figures involved, but it was agreed that councillors would spend some time before the next meeting considering the figures so that a decision on the budget and precept could be made at January's meeting. The Clerk must write to WBC with our agreed precept figure by the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**Parish Warden** – A discussion took place on this matter as part of the budget debate and Councillor Karalius agreed to get the telephone number of Lee Beardall, with a view to asking whether he would be interested in being considered for this role within the Parish. Apparently, he has carried out this role for Winwick Parish Council for a number of years.

**Action – Councillor Karalius to approach Lee Beardall.**

**Action – Councillor Taylor to do some preliminary work on a job specification.**

**Action – Clerk to include on January agenda.**

**116. Planning Matters.**

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

Councillor Hardie referred to planning application 2017/31529 which was for a grass cutting machinery store on green belt land. He did not feel this was an agricultural building i.e. not steel frame and clad. He felt that although the building was said to be for agricultural use, its construction clearly indicated that it was suitable for conversion to a house.

**Action – Councillor R Hardie to forward suitable wording in objecting to this application to the Clerk for forwarding to the Planning Dept.**

#### **117. Local Plan PDO.**

##### **The 27<sup>th</sup> November Meeting of Parish Council representatives.**

The Chairman reported that it had been decided to set up a working group with one member and a deputy being nominated from each parish council.

The Chairman had discussed this matter with the Clerk and it was felt that in view of the work that Councillor Greenshields had already done with the PC's consultation response, then he would be the best candidate. He was approached and said that he would accept the position. The Chairman agreed to be the deputy.

Councillors stated that it was important that any nominees represented the views of the PC as a whole. It was agreed that a proposal would go on the January agenda to confirm agreement on the appointment of a representative and deputy.

**Action – Clerk to include above on agenda.**

The Clerk read out a letter from Elaine Welborn the Chair of G&TPC which summarised the findings of the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> November (this was emailed to all councillors on 7<sup>th</sup> December). She confirmed that G&TPC would take the lead and begin the process of establishing the structure for co-operation between councils and they will provide the administrative support.

A joint working group is to be set up with one member and a deputy from each of the councils. The Working Group will prepare a scoping document for the role of the Planning Consultant. They will then be provided with this document and asked to indicate what advice and strategy they have to offer and propose, if selected, along with an indication of charges. They are looking for a response by Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Action – Clerk to respond to letter.**

The Clerk then read out an email he had received earlier in the day from Helen Howie the Planning Consultant at Berrys, which contained some very interesting points raised in Halton BC's Local Plan. The emailed had been forwarded to all councillors.

***“The agenda for Halton Borough Council’s 14<sup>th</sup> Dec Executive Board has been published today and includes a very strong objection to the Warrington Local Plan. A copy of the relevant report is attached for your information; Halton BC are particularly concerned about the Port Warrington and South West Urban Extension proposals and the loss of the Green Belt gap between the two local authority areas. Objections from a neighbouring local authority carry a very significant amount of weight in the planning process, which greatly increases the likelihood that Warrington Borough Council will have a major re-think. Meanwhile Halton Borough Council are expected to commence public consultation on their own Local Plan around 15<sup>th</sup> December when their supporting evidence is ready, including their own Green Belt Assessment for Runcorn. It will be interesting to see whether they have made their own assessment of the gap between Runcorn and Warrington, which may provide additional evidence against the Warrington South West Urban Extension. I will be in touch when there is more information available”.***

***Kind Regards,***

***Helen***

***Helen Howie MA (Hons) MCD MRTPI***

***Planning Consultant***

Borough Councillor Harris commented that a senior member of WBC's Planning Team has said to her, that WBC "were almost back to the drawing board".

A variety of views were then expressed by councillors on whether we should have just one consultant representing all the parishes.

John Grove's request to be included as one of the consultants to be considered was not supported.

The letter from Alistair King was covered, all councillors had received a copy. It was agreed that the outcome from the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> November largely supported the requests made in his letter.

**Banners Update** – It was agreed that Councillor Bennett should arrange for another 6 banners to be printed with the website detailed on the banners along with "**SAVE WALTON'S GREEN BELT**".

**Action – Councillor Bennett to order and put up banners.**

#### **118. Report on Parish Matters**

##### **Christmas Tree Lights Switch On.**

All councillors agreed that the event was a great success and Councillor Karalius was congratulated for her efforts.

**Action – Clerk to include proposal on agenda for picket fence around Christmas tree.**

It was agreed that the PC would provide a Christmas Tree for the lady who provides the power to light the tree on the Triangle.

**Action – Councillor Bennett to deal with this.**

##### **Autumn Newsletter.**

The Clerk said that it was perhaps time for a councillor to take ownership of this issue.

**Action – Clerk to include on January agenda.**

##### **Risk Assessments.**

The risk assessment completed on parish assets by Councillor Hardie was discussed.

**Action – Councillor Taylor to obtain quotes from Walton Lea and Jolyon Ward for the repainting of the parish benches.**

##### **Councillor Ward.**

The Clerk confirmed that he had received a text from Councillor Ward saying that it was his intention to resign.

**Action – Clerk to write and accept his resignation.**

##### **Other Parish Matters**

##### **Maintenance of trees on Village Triangle/QEII Walton Jubilee Playground (email from Helen Guest director of Ashcroft Guest Estate and Letting Agents Stockton Heath.**

The Clerk explained that our insurers had confirmed that they would only settle a claim when the PC had taken full ownership of the Village Triangle and only after a full risk assessment had been carried out on the trees.

Councillors also concluded that if we did start to undertake work on the trees at the Village Triangle then we were indicating that the PC had an on going responsibility for the trees. As a result, it was decided not to initiate any work on the trees.

**Action – Clerk to write to Helen Guest advising her of the Parish Council's position.**

##### **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.**

**Grit Bins**

**Action – Councillor Hardie to get bins ready for winter.**

**119. Report from Village Betterment Committee.**

There had not been a meeting.

*It was resolved that the PC would spend up to £300 on the purchase of Christmas Trees and lights including the tree at the junction of Whitefield Road and Hill Cliffe Road.*

**120. Reports from Appointed Representatives**

**Church Magazine/Publicity – Councillor Karalius** – Councillor Bennett supplied copies of the church magazine.

**Footpaths – Councillor Price** – John Thorpe had advised that the Mill Lane footpath was safeguarded.

**Action – Clerk to write to David Boyer and John Thorpe to thank them for the work done on Walton Lea Road which resolved the issue on the towpath.**

**Action – Clerk to write to the Bridgewater Trust to ask when they are going to upgrade the towpath and include on their works programme.**

**Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett** – Is meeting with representatives of WBC to discuss the blocked drains on Chester Road.

**Action – Clerk to write to Mr. Riley and ask him to cut hedge from Pear Tree Farm to Mill Lane.**

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

**121. Review of Correspondence**

**Stretton Parish Council**

The Clerk read out an email received from Gillian Lett the Clerk to Stretton PC and an email from Alison McDonald the Electoral Services Manager at WBC, where both referred to the Community Governance Reviews in respect of the Boundary Commission changes which came into force in 2016. Apparently, Stretton PC are considering raising a petition about a change of ward title, at their meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**Action – Clerk to write to Stretton PC to establish the outcome.**

**Action – Include on January agenda.**

**Meeting with Faisal Rashid MP**

**Action – Clerk to write and advise that the Chair is available for both meeting dates.**

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

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 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 21.40 hrs.