

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 7th February 2019.

Present
Councillor B M Price - Chair
Councillor Y R Shaikh
Councillor A Jones
Councillor D A Meacock
Councillor R D Bennett
Councillor R Hardie
Councillor S H Taylor

In Attendance
Parish Clerk R J Hallam
Residents 0
Guest – PCSO Philip Wilkinson

Owen Hughes had completed his litter picking in Walton (June 2018 till February 2019) for his D of E (bronze award) and the Clerk with the agreement of the chair had signed off his statement.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed the guest.

174. Apologies for Absence

The Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Davies (work), Harris (illness), Karalius (work) and Greenshields (family issue).

175. Adjournment

The Chair called for an adjournment to enable Philip Wilkinson (PW) to address the PC.

It was resolved that the meeting would go in to adjournment in order to enable Neil Simpson to address the meeting.

The meeting went into adjournment at 7.33pm.

PW reported that things had been quiet in Walton. There had been one burglary of power tools from the stables next to Walton Golf Club. A vehicle registration number had been noted and it was hopeful that somebody could be apprehended.

PW is also looking into a possible motorcyclist using the towpath.

The adjournment ended at 7.37pm.

176. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 3rd January 2019 were reviewed.

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

177. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

The Clerk then covered issues that had come to light since the report had been issued.

Erosion of land to the side of Park Lane

Action – The Clerk to follow this up.

Precept 2019/20

WBC had acknowledged receipt of the PC's precept request.

178. Report from Borough Councillor.

No report.

179. 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 001122	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£272.47
Cheque number 001123	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£68.11
Cheque number 001124	payable to Gardenia Gard Ltd	Warden Work/Dec & Jan	£720.00
Cheque number 001125	payable to R D Bennett	2 X Xmas trees	£224.40
Cheque number 001126	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£114.97

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

Councillor Hardie expressed some concern about the amount of money that was going to Gardenia. Since June 2018 £2880 has been spent on Warden/Ranger work and £600 on replanting tubs and beds. He felt that the work should be reviewed, as he was unsure about what they had been asked to do and whether it was being overseen. Some councillors felt that they were doing a good job and the Parish appeared to be much cleaner, but would like some reassurance to actually understand better, what was being done.

Councillors felt that we needed to know if we were getting value for money.

The Clerk advised that the May minutes stated that we would appoint Lee Beardall as a contractor on a 3 months probationary basis and that if this was a success then the PC would look to make the arrangement permanent.

As a review had not been carried out after the 3 months probation period, the Clerk was asked to ask Councillor Karalius to provide a report at the March meeting, which provides councillors with a better understanding of what they do and how they are managed and whether the PC is getting value for money.

Action – Clerk to ask Councillor Karalius to provide a report for the March meeting.

180. Planning Matters

The report that had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Action – Councillor Hardie to provide Clerk with suitable comments to send to Planning in respect of 2019/34207.

181. Report from Donations Advisory Group

The DAG met on the 10th January.

It was resolved that the PC adopts the January 2019 Policy and Application Form for donation and grant applications.

It was resolved the PC agrees to donate the sum of £350 to the Stockton Heath Festival.

Action – Clerk to invite David McDonald, Manager of Warrington Foodbank to address a PC meeting.

182. Local Plan PDO

The Clerk and Councillor Harris had attended a briefing for Parish Councillors presented by John Groves. The Chair had attended Moore's PC meeting and was advised that they did not want to share a Planning Consultant, as they felt that their issues were very different from Walton's.

183. Report on Parish Matters

Civic Service 2019.

The MP had accepted an invitation.

The Chair had seen the Mayoress and was advised that she would be unable to attend. The Deputy Mayor may be able to take her place.

Action – The Chair to advise Clerk of any guests she would like to invite.

Action – Clerk to send out invites to Parish Councils and Church.

Other Parish Matters

Superfast Broadband - The presentation by BT Openreach was well received by all who attended and it was agreed that Councillor Davies should be asked to progress the matter.

Action – Councillor Davies to progress the matter.

Phone Box - The Clerk explained that we had two options to choose from with regards to grant aid for refurbishment of the phonebox. The National Lottery Community Fund which Appleton PC had used and The Lady Neville Charity identified by Councillor Davies. Both sources would require the PC to have made a decision on the project purpose of a refurbished phone box.

Action – Clerk to approach the Clerk at Appleton to establish what criteria was used with their application.

Ann Hardie Bench – Councillors Hardie and Jones had identified a suitable bench. This was the Heskin, supplied by Lost Art. Councillor Hardie will come back to the PC about siting.

184. Report from Village Betterment Committee

There had not been a meeting.

Councillor Hardie referred to the situation with regards to asking for quotations for the planting of the tubs and beds. Primrose had provided a quote, but he had not seen one from Gardenia. It was his intention to carry out some necessary repairs to the tubs prior to any new planting taking place as some of the tubs required rebanding.

He reiterated the need to watch our financial control and procedures.

185. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Church Magazine/Publicity – Cllr Bennett magazine issued.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – Councillor Hardie said that earth was still coming down the bank on to the towpath and that we should persist with asking WBC and MSCC to work together on resolving this. The Clerk said that Councillor Harris at the last meeting said that she would follow up the email from Peter Parkinson in February.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett – There is a lot of trash and leaves that have accumulated around the Walton Traffic Lights, also in front of the Walton Arms and down Old Chester Road and needs sweeping.

On A56 there are 5 blocked grids outside the cricket ground and Cream entrance. The gullies have been emptied but the debris has not been cleared away and as a result the gullies are not doing the job they are supposed to do.

There is a tree on Holly Hedge Lane, coming from Runcorn Road on the left hand side after crossing the hump back bridge. This belongs to Peel Holdings and needs cutting back.

The following lights are out;- RB 02 opposite the War Memorial, RB03 opposite the former Ship Inn. Light No.20 in between trees near the Cream entrance. Light No. 12 now totally missing in central grass area on the A56.

Street light on Hobb Lane needs replacing 150 yards on the right from Chester Road.

The bus stop on A56 Chester Road to Chester has been completely knocked down.

Action – Clerk to advise WBC.

Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. R. Hardie – To be removed from future agendas.

186. Review of Correspondence

Police Commissioner's Office Stakeholder Bulletin – Residents and businesses given opportunity to express views on £2 Band D increase in police precept. Click on link if you want to express an opinion.

Mr Priestner email dated 6th February. – The Clerk had forwarded the email to councillors. It was agreed that if councillors wanted to express an opinion then they could respond to Mr. Priestner directly.

187. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be Thursday 7th March 2019 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 21.10 hrs.

DRAFT