

Clerk to the Council: -
Mr. R. J. Hallam
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Walton Parish Council held remotely by Zoom Conferencing, on Thursday the 7th January 2021.

Present Councillor D M Karalius - Chair
Councillor Y R Shaikh – Vice Chair
Councillor B M Price
Councillor R Hardie
Councillor S Davies
Councillor S H Taylor
Councillor R D Bennett

In Attendance Parish Clerk R J Hallam
Residents 0

Councillor Karalius had asked the Vice Chair Councillor Shaikh to take over the Chair, as she had printer issues and had been unable to print off the meeting documentation.
Councillors agreed.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.33pm and welcomed everybody and wished everybody best wishes for the New Year.

111. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Harris (another meeting).

112. Adjournment

There was no adjournment.

113. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 3rd December 2020 were reviewed.

It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Hardie and seconded by Councillor Karalius, all in favour.

114. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Website – The Clerk gave further information on the website provided by Mark Millmore of Eyelid Productions using WordPress. He is a parish councillor in Hereford and has recently completed a new website for Stockton Heath Parish Council and many others across the country. He is able to transfer information across from our existing site and training is then given on how to update.

Councillor Karalius also referred to Sharon Jones who ran a Zoom training session that she had attended and also helps to set up new websites for parish councils.

Action – The Clerk would send out further information to councillors on both these providers and include as an item on the agenda for February or March.

115. Report from Borough Councillor.

No report as Councillor Harris not at meeting.

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: -

Cheque number 001257	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£281.13
Cheque number 001258	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£70.28
Cheque number 001259	payable to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£24.38
Cheque number 001260	payable to Gardenia Gardens Ltd.	Nov Acc. Grounds (24 hrs)	£360.00
Cheque number 001261	payable to The Envir Part (TEP) Ltd	Tree Survey Vill Triangle	£451.20

It was resolved that the Financial Report and the Accounts for Payment be approved. Arrangements would be made for the cheques to be signed. Proposed by Councillor Karalius and seconded by Councillor Davies. All in favour.

117. Budget/Precept.

The Clerk had sent out to councillors before Christmas the following documents:-

- Budget and Precept Spreadsheet (including forecast of income and expenditure up to 31/03/21).
- Creamfields Donations and Expenditure (forecast up to 31/03/21).
- Notes to Budget/Precept for 2021/22.
- WBC Precept Letter and Worked Example.

Councillor Shaikh explained the reasoning behind his proposal to ask for an increase in the precept to £15159, this would mean a Band D charge of £19.97, which was still the lowest in the Borough. He talked through the 10 year Analysis of Annual Expenditure spreadsheet that he had prepared. There would be no Cream donation again this year (2nd year without) and the possibility of this donation not recommencing had to be considered.

Councillor Hardie proposed a lower figure of £14400, as he felt we should draw from reserves, but there was no seconder for this.

It was resolved that the PC agreed a Precept of £15159 for the year 2021/22. Proposed by Councillor Shaikh and seconded by Councillor Karalius. Councillors voted in favour of the proposal with the exception of Councillor Hardie who voted against.

118. Parish Council Vacancies.

There had been no contact with the Clerk.

Owing to the elections coming up in May 21 it was decided not to actively look to co-opt new councillors at this stage.

119. Planning Matters

The Planning Advisory Group Report had been circulated to all Councillors.

There were no further comments to be made.

120. Local Plan

Western Link – A response had been received to the letter and this had been circulated to all councillors. It was felt that a number of questions remained unanswered and it was agreed that Councillor Davies would follow these up.

Action – Councillor Davies to follow up.

121. Report on Parish Matters

The Tree Survey Report provided by TEP on the trees in the Village Triangle.

The Clerk had circulated the report to all councillors.

Councillor Hardie did not like the format of the report and felt that a report should have been provided that did not entail the need to keep referring back to links.

The report indicated that intervention was needed on one of the trees, removing of branch deadwood, which could be done when convenience and budgets allow, within months. The other 4 trees intervention was suggested, with again the issue being branch deadwood.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the resident, who had first raised concerns, making her aware of the PCs position.

Councillors agreed that the PCs position was as follows:-

- The PC was not the owner of the land and had neither the benefits nor the obligations of ownership.
- It acknowledged that in approximately 4 years time, the PC aspires to take control of the Triangle for the benefit of the Parish.
- As concerns had been expressed by a Parishioner, as a community service the PC had commissioned a Tree Survey Report Report and this could be made available to Parishioners.
- If householders want to have work done on trees that overhang their property, then as long as this is done responsibly, the PC would have no objections, but it is up to the householder to use that information.

It was agreed that the PC wanted to do the best that it can, but there was a balance to be struck between giving all our attention to a single householder, or whether it should be our intention to work across the Parish on a more equitable basis.

Other Parish Matters.

Bus Shelter – The PC had received two quotes and Councillor Hardie had offered to do the work for the price of the materials.

A full discussion took place on the merits and concerns of all councillors in allowing Councillor Hardie to do this work. The main points of the discussion were on the one hand wanting to support volunteering in the Parish and on the other hand that the volunteering should be done safely. Councillor Hardie explained the experience he had had in doing this kind of work.

It was resolved that Councillor Hardie could carry out the required work subject to the Clerk receiving a satisfactory risk assessment. Proposed by Councillor Shaikh and seconded by Councillor Taylor. Voting was tied but the Chair gave his casting vote in favour.

Clerks Salary

Action – Include on February agenda.

122. Report from Village Betterment Advisory Group.

There had not been a meeting of the group.

123. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Church Magazine/Publicity – Cllr Bennett - available online.

Action – Clerk to remove from future agendas.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – Nothing to report.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett – Councillors mentioned that waste bins had not been emptied, but WBC had been notified of this.

A speed sign had slipped down its pole at the bottom of Hill Cliffe Road opposite Walton Lodge.

Action – Clerk to advise Highways.

Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. Price reported that the café was still open but all other amenities remained closed under the Covid lockdown.

124. Review of Correspondence

None.

125. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Thursday 4th February 2021 by Zoom conferencing, commencing at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

DRAFT