

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 September 2017.

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

In Attendance Parish Clerk R J Hallam
Residents 4
Borough Councillor S Harris

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

62. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Shaikh (work commitment), A Hardie (illness) and Taylor (holiday).

63. Adjournment

The Chairman asked for an adjournment so that residents could address the meeting.

It was resolved that the meeting go into adjournment. Time 7.31pm.

Malcolm Eldridge raised several issues;

- He expressed concern that the July minutes and Agenda had not been available on the website when he first looked.
- He wanted to know why the grass on the village triangle had not been cut.
- If the PC was looking for ideas on what to spend money on then why not get the Village Triangle railings painted.
- He asked why the PC were considering hiring a Planning Consultant to fight the Local Plan. He felt there was enough information available already.
- He was puzzled why there was a proposal on the agenda to return the Cream donation.

Councillor R Hardie explained that he had been incensed by the noise and really wanted to include the idea of returning the Creamfields donation as an item for discussion.

Mrs Cartwright said that she was very concerned about the proposed development, the use of green belt land and the Western Link. She wanted to know what the PC thought and what the PC intended to do about it.

The Chairman explained that these matters would be dealt with under the appropriate section on the agenda.

64. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th July 2017 were reviewed.
It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

65. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Boundary Commission – This matter is now being dealt with by Matthew Cumberbatch the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer.

Action- Clerk to follow this up.

Walton Arms Hedge – Cllr Hardie asked if there had been any progress.

Action – Councillor Bennett to follow up.

66. Report from Borough Councillor.

Borough Councillor Harris to address the meeting later.

67. 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 001034	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£516.62
Cheque number 001035	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£129.20
Cheque number 001036	payable to St. John's PCC	Donation for upkeep Churchyard	£300.00

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

Cheque number 001037	payable to BDO LLP	External Audit	£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 Price.

68. Annual Return.

The Clerk explained that the Annual Return had been completed.

There was an Issues Arising Report which required the Clerk to include the purchase of litter bins on the Fixed Assets Register.

It was resolved that the PC approves and accepts the Annual Return and Certificate.

69. Planning Matters

In response to Mr Eldridge's comments during the adjournment, The Chairman explained why the PC was considering hiring a Planning Consultant, in that we wanted somebody to independently look at the impact of the Local Plan PDO on Walton.

Concern was expressed about the lack of residents present, but the point was raised by 2 of the residents that a separate meeting specific to the Local Plan may have been better attended. The PC recess and the launch by WBC during the peak holiday period was a factor in this.

A resident said that refusal to pay Council Tax was the answer.

Councillor Greenshields said that if we are to have any impact at all, then we must respond to the consultation, we must encourage residents to respond individually and a Chairman's letter is going out to

residents, with this in mind. He said we need to be co-ordinated and focused and have direction, otherwise we will just be picked off.

He felt that we are going to get some development, but we could try and get it watered down and spread more throughout the Borough.

Borough Councillor Harris spoke about the meeting at St Werburgh's, where 75 attended. There is also lots of activity on social media.

Reference was made to the petition circulated by Peter Priestner, a way of residents becoming further involved in the protest. <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/rethink-infrastructure-on-south-warrington-housing-plans>

It was agreed that Councillor Bennett would get some banners produced for display on his gates down the A56. Wording to be kept simple, i.e. NO TO 1800 HOUSES, SAVE OUR GREEN BELT.

Councillor R Hardie asked where does the Planning Consultant come in and Cllr Greenshields explained that he felt we needed some help with the aspect of minerals, which is one of the reasons for fewer builds in the North and help with the greenbelt assessment. It is important that we have the expertise who can advise on what is and isn't important and how a response is best structured. The future impact of Brexit could also be an issue. Why are they not doubling the population of Lymm and Culcheth and can there be any development without the Western Link.

Cllr R Hardie suggested that perhaps the case should be fought after it had gone to inspection as there was insufficient time to go through all the documentation.

Residents raised points about how the current hospital would not be able to cope and whether Moore Nature Reserve was going to be built on, which would be a disaster.

Cllr Greenshields agreed to take on responsibility for the response to the consultation, focusing on what is reasonable and unreasonable, where the areas of weakness are in the case and make it a balanced approach, that they will look at. He will also include the issue of the approval of Two Acre by taking it out of greenbelt as one of the arguments and would like to meet with Mike Bell, about why only 4000 houses on brown field sites.

Cllr. Greenshields agreed to prepare the letter and make contact with Berrys the Planning Consultant. There was some discussion on whether a meeting was required to approve any response, but it was decided that it should be circulated to all councillors prior to submission.

Councillor Meacock withdrew his proposal.

It was resolved that the PC creates a budget of £10K against which the costs of

a) informing the Walton Residents about;

b) obtaining advice on;

c) actions associated with objecting/supporting (as appropriate) and responding to; the WBC Local Plan, will be charged.

Councillor R Hardie gave an update on the report that had been issued

70. Creamfields

Councillor Hardie explained the reasons for his proposal in wanting to return this year's donation. He felt the noise at times was excessive and that it showed their total disregard for their obligations and our distaste for their disrespect.

There was no seconder for the motion.

Following a discussion Councillor Hardie proposed an amendment to his proposal on the agenda and

It was resolved that the PC should ask Creamfields for a significant sum of money that would make a real difference in parts of the Parish.

Ideas on specific projects would be considered at a later meeting.

Councillor Karalius to take a look at other festivals that Live Nation run throughout the country and attempt to find out what other Parish Councils receive, with a view to possibly having a coordinated approach to driving up what we receive from Creamfields.

Spending Ideas. Councillors R Hardie and Karalius had sent in their ideas on spending the Cream donation and the Clerk had emailed the report to councillors. It was agreed to cover this at a later meeting.

It was agreed that the PC would confirm bank details and accept their donation.

P. Hodkinson Email. Concern was expressed about the contents of the email.

Action – Clerk to send a suitable response.

Cream T Fields.

It was felt that this generally was a success and that the PC would give support to an event next year. It would have been good to see more Walton residents there, but this was something that could be built on. It may be held at Walton Hall next year.

Action – Clerk to send letter of thanks to Barbara Parrott.

71. Report on Parish Matters

Street Trees/Maintenance.

Action – Councillor Meacock to make contact with Councillor Ward with regards to commencing the work he had quoted for in December 2016.

War Memorial

It was resolved that the PC spend up to £450 on the refurbishment of the War Memorial.

Action – Councillor Meacock to provide the contractor with written specifics of what is required, along with a completion date and a written quote provided.

Phone Box.

This matter to be carried over.

Standing Order Review.

Councillor Greenshields asked for this to be postponed to a later meeting.

Other Parish Matters

Stockton Heath Library £10K is the figure required to keep the library open. If all parishes contributed then based on resident's usage Walton's share would be £600. However, as Grappenhall and Thelwall and Stretton seem unlikely to contribute, then Walton PC would be asked to donate £900pa commencing in April 2018 till 2022. This figure may reduce year on year as other sources of income are found. Borough Councillor Harris must submit her report to WBC by the end of September, she will try and get an extension. She would like an agreement in principle, but the PC would be asked to sign a contract. The PC has set aside £1K in budget, but has not voted on a proposal.

Action – It was agreed that a proposal would be included on October's agenda

72. Report from Village Betterment Committee

There had not been a meeting.

73. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Church Magazine/Publicity – Councillor Karalius – No magazine.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – There is no path across the field at Walton.

Action – Chairman will report this to John Thorpe.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett - Councillors had been issued with a report of issues that had been raised. In addition, there is a bush sticking out near the electric cabin on Walton Road opposite no.160, it is blocking the footpath and you are unable to see from the right.

Action – Clerk to report to WBC.

South Neighbourhood Board – Councillor R. Hardie – The Clerk explained the process for applying for the Community Initiative Fund.

Walton Hall Estate (WHE) – Cllr. R. Hardie (RH) – They are looking to significantly improve 9 of the 18 holes. There are patches of land around the golf course which could be sold off to build a small number of houses and raise income. Councillor R Hardie is of the opinion, that this could be the thin end of the wedge.

74. Review of Correspondence

Warrington Western Link – The Clerk read through Mrs Cartwright's letter which expressed her concerns on the impact this could have on Walton, if this was to go ahead. This had been circulated to councillors on 23rd July. It had been stated earlier in the meeting, that the success of the Local Plan in Walton could be dependent on this link going ahead.

North West Air Ambulance Charity - The Parish Council was not in a position to help with this.

Our Conversation on Policing and Crime Survey – It was agreed that we would participate in this survey. It was pointed out by Councillor Greenshields that we should be kept informed about the Parish's crime figures.

Action – Clerk to reply saying we would participate and contact PCSO about receiving crime figures.

75. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be **Thursday 5th October 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 21.45 hrs.