

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 7th November 2019.

Present

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

Residents 0
Guest PCSO Phil Wilkinson (PW)

Prior to the start of the meeting Tom Jones (resident) thanked the Clerk, as the hedge on Ellesmere Road had now been cut back to the boundary wall and he was now able to pass with his mobility scooter.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everybody.

104. Apologies for Absence

The Chair reported that 3 apologies for absence had been received. Councillors Davies, Meacock (unwell) and Harris (Holiday).

105. Adjournment.

The Chair called for an adjournment to enable the guest to address the meeting.

It was resolved that the meeting should go into adjournment at 7.31pm, to allow the guest to address the Meeting.

PW reported that there had been 4 thefts from motor vehicles, 2 in Walton Heath Road and 2 in Ellesmere Road. There was no forced entry to any of the vehicles.

Following a question from Councillor Greenshields about Homewatch, PW advised that this was now starting to be replaced by Social Media.

106. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

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

107. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

Stockton Heath Library Funding Contract.

The Clerk reported that the contract signed by the Chair along with the PCs contribution cheque appeared to have been lost in the post on its way to LiveWire. A duplicate contract had been signed by the Chair. This would be resubmitted by the Clerk along with a duplicate cheque (001182 £274.50) and this time posted using recorded delivery.

Replacement trees for A56.

Awaiting reply from Simon Twigg on what trees can be obtained for the £1K budget.

Action – Clerk to continue to follow this up.

New Waste Bin for Old Chester Road.

Dave Cotterill has asked Kevin McCready (KM) to contact the Clerk. But not happened yet. KM still not been in contact.

Action – Clerk to continue to follow this up.

Banners.

The Clerk had spoken to Lucy Burrows in Planning and established how to progress the application. After a lengthy discussion and in view of where we are now at with the Local Plan, it was decided not to pursue the application any further.

Remembrance Sunday 10th November.

There will be the usual service at the War Memorial commencing at 9.30am. The Reverend Anita Raggett will conduct the service.

The War Memorial will be cleaned and the surrounding area tidied up. Councillor Meacock provided the contact details to Councillor Price of a person who was happy to do the required work and Councillor Price will organise the work to be done.

The Chair had purchased large plastic poppies and these had been placed on lamp posts close by the War Memorial.

It was resolved that the PC would spend up to £60 on the purchase of poppies and name badges.

108. Report from Borough Councillor.

No report.

109. 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: -

Chq no. 001176	pay to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£272.47
Chq no. 001177	pay to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£68.11
Chq no. 001178	pay to R J Hallam	Office Expenses	£7.99
Chq no. 001179	pay to Gardenia Gardens Ltd	Warden Work	£450.00
Chq no. 001180	pay to R Hardie	Wreath donation to British Legion	£50.00
Chq no. 001181	pay to Socy. Loc. Co. Clerks	Annual subscription	£89.00

Receipts

None

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

Precept/Budget 20/21

Action - The Clerk reminded councillors of the need for all Advisory Groups to submit any spending plans to the Clerk by the end of November.

110. Report from Audit Advisory Group.

Action – Councillor Greenshields to submit his comments.

111. Donations Advisory Group.

Nothing to report.

112. Planning Matters

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation.

An objection to application 2019/35896 had been submitted.

113. Local Plan Proposed Submission Version.

Stobart's Appeal.

Councillors expressed differing opinions on whether the PC should continue to financially support the South Warrington Parishes Group in respect of the Stobart's Appeal. The Clerk advised that the PCs share amounted to 1.59% of the total £34K bill.

It was resolved that the PC spend up to £550 with a further contribution to the SWPG in respect of extra costs relating to Stobart's Appeal.

114. Report on Parish Matters

Repairs to Golf Club Wall

Councillor Hardie's proposal was discussed.

Action – Clerk to approach Neil Simpson and ask what it is that he is proposing.

ChALC Membership

The Clerk advised the meeting that the cost of membership would be £491.04 (1364 electorate X 36p) for a full year.

He also went through the reasons why he felt the PC should consider re-joining and there was a full discussion with councillors expressing their points of view.

It was agreed that a motion will be put on the agenda for December and that this will be proposed by Councillor Price and voted upon.

Creamfields Report from the Chair.

She explained the impact that Creamfields has on residents with road closures and on local businesses, with access being restricted to such places as Walton Gardens, Walton Arms and Hatton Arms. We need WBC to come on board and engage with Creamfields, the police and residents.

The Chair will draft a letter for the Clerk to forward to WBC and she will also arrange a meeting with Neil Simpson at Walton Estate about the financial impact on the Estate during Creamfields.

Action – Chair to draft a letter which will be forwarded on to WBC by the Clerk.

Other Parish Matters

Woodland Trust Tree Planting Initiative

They are providing free trees for planting.

Action Councillor Price agreed to look into this further.

Whiskey Oak Barrels.

Action – Councillor Bennett to make further enquiries.

These could replace some of our existing planting barrels, some of which are getting beyond repair.

Christmas Lights switch on Event.

It was resolved that the PC spend up to £350 on the Christmas Lights switch on Event which includes a £100 donation to The Lions.

New Christmas Trees Lights.

It was resolved that the PC spend up to £100 on new lights for the Christmas Tree at the Walton QEII Jubilee Playground.

Flooding in Pool Lane

Following the recent heavy rain fall the pumping station was in danger of flooding as a result of a debris screen becoming blocked. The screen had not been cleared out for some time.

Action – Councillors Greenshields and Taylor to liaise in order to try and get a solution.

This is likely to involve several parties, including United Utilities, WBC, Environment Agency and Peel Holdings.

Creamfields money and Superfast Broadband.

The consensus was that it would set the wrong precedent for the PC to use Cream money to subsidise the cost of superfast broadband to a limited number of residents. Councillor Davies was looking into the withdrawal of funding as mentioned in an email from a resident.

Tree Maintenance on Walton QEII Jubilee Playground.

Quotations had been received from Holly Oak Tree Services Ltd £2500 and Gardenia £750 for maintenance work on the Playground trees. It was established that 3 of the large lime trees were the property of WBC and the cost of any work on these trees would need to be taken off Holly Oak's quote. It was decided that Gardenia's quote was lacking in detail and information and therefore it wasn't possible for a proper comparison to be made. Gardenia need to be given the specification so that a proper like for like quote can be put together. A third and further quote is to be obtained from Tree Bore and all three would then be considered.

Action – The Clerk to approach WBC about the work required on the Lime trees.

115. Report from Village Betterment Advisory Group

It was resolved that the PC spend up to £340 on the purchase of winter plants for the tubs and beds.

116. Reports from Appointed Representatives

Church Magazine/Publicity – Cllr Bennett – No magazines.

Footpaths – Councillor Price – There is still a path across the Mill Lane field.

Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett – Many of the gullies on Chester Road still have vegetation preventing the water reaching the drain.

The gullies in Halton beyond the Walton boundary have not been cleaned out for a couple of years.

Action – Councillor Harris to arrange a meeting with Highways in order to try and resolve this long standing problem.

Action – Clerk to write to Halton.

Street lights still out on central reservation on Chester Road (Stag Inn bend) opposite the War Memorial. Councillor Greenshields advised of 2 grids partially blocked and 1 fully blocked at the end of Walton Road (Chester Road end).

Action – Clerk to report to WBC.

Walton Hall Estate – Cllr. Price – Nothing to report.

117. Review of Correspondence

None.

118. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the next Parish Council will be Thursday 5th December 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 09.40 hrs.

DRAFT