

# Walton Parish Council

## Report on Matters Arising 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### Highway Related Issues

See 'Issues Raised with WBC Report'. Updated requested 18/08/17.

### Boundary Commission Appeal

An email has been sent to Bryan Magan who is a senior officer at Democratic Services 24/04/17. Both Hatton and Stretton have been copied in.

25/04/17 – Bryan said he will discuss with colleagues and get back to us.

25/05/17 – Asked Bryan if there was any further news.

30/06/17 – Followed up.

06/07/17 – Asked for update. Bryan said he would discuss with colleagues.

01/09/17 – Asked for further update.

### Parish Tree Maintenance

18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 emailed Councillor Ward and asked him to include the work outlined in his December 2016 quote in his Autumn schedule for work.

Emailed Joanne Moore 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 that we had agreed to carry out the necessary repair on her mother's tree which had been damaged on the QEII Walton Jubilee Playground. 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017 texted Councillor Ward and asked him if he could do this work based on a quote of £47 including putting the cage back in place and putting the nameplate back. Councillor R Hardie had done some temporary repair work on the tree. Councillor Ward was on holiday but advised that he would be back on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### Stockton Heath Library

Email sent to WBC Legal Dept. re. legality of a 5 year contribution arrangement 10/06/17

Follow up sent 18/07/17.

Reply received from Joanne 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

*Dear Ray*

*I refer to our discussion just and apologise again for the delay in replying due to my being heavily engaged with live court cases, then an office move and annual leave last week.*

*I've set out a quick summary of our conversation below:*

- The PC is satisfied that funding the library is an appropriate type of expenditure for the PC ie within its powers and unlikely to attract criticism in itself, but was concerned whether it can contract/commit for a period of 5 years.*
- I asked if you had referred to any specific parish councillor guidance, training or organisations, and you said you would but I was your starting point*
- I referred to my discussion with my manager Paul Clisby, and his view that, as with the borough council there is no legal prohibition on long term financial commitments that he is aware of*
- I therefore advised that you manage risk by (1) considering the reasonableness of the proposed commitment in terms of the amount requested in the context of the PC's current financial position, and its likely financial position over and at the end of the next 5 years AND (2) documenting that clearly in a report and/or minute of decision*
- You said no firm figure had been reached but you expected it may be somewhere between £1 - £2K spread over the 5 years eg unlikely to exceed £400 or £500 pa and that the PC's income is currently circa £8k pa from the precept, with several thousand pounds reserves from a build up of the unspent donations from Creamfields (currently expected to continue at £5k pa). You were satisfied that the contribution would be affordable even if there were no further donations from Creamfields.*

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*Please let me know if I can be of any further help.*

*Kind regards,*

*Joanne Crawford, Solicitor*

*Legal Services*

*Resources and Strategic Commissioning*

*Warrington Borough Council*

**Good Councillors Guide**

12 ordered 18/07/17.

**Warrington Western Link**

Correspondence sent to the Clerk, scanned on and forwarded to councillors 15/07/17.

**Internal Audit**

19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 sent an email to JDH Business Services Ltd in response to his recommendations following the Internal Audit. Chair and Vice Chair copied in.

**External Audit**

15<sup>th</sup> July 2017 sent explanation to External Auditor on why our reserves appear high. This was accepted. There will be a qualified issue on our Annual Return to include the purchase of litter bins on our Fixed Asset Register.

**Creamfields Donations**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 Councillors asked to email Clerk with their ideas on how this money can be best spent.

**Hedge on Bridgewater Canal**

Scheduled to be cut for the middle of week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**Donation to St. John's PCC**

*Hi Ray,*

*Thank you so much for this great news and for taking our request to the Parish Council. While we don't have anything specifically in mind (leaving to one side for the minute our desperate need for a carpark), we used the donation last year (and will do so again this year) as help toward the payments we make to our gardeners (John Moon and his merry men) who keep the churchyard looking neat and tidy for us.*

*Thanks once again.*

*Best regards,*

*Tony Robins*

*Church Warden*

**Register of Member's Interests**

Forwarded to Adam Kellock at Democratic Services for inclusion on the parish council section of the WBC website 24/07/17.

**War Memorial**

Quote to power wash and paint War Memorial from John Pendleton £450.

**Ray Hallam – Clerk to the Council**