

## Walton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the St. Johns Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

#### Present

**Cllr. M. D. Eldridge** Chairman

**Cllr. R. Hardie** Vice Chairman

**Cllr. Y. R. Shaikh**

**Cllr. H. A. S. Hardie**

**Cllr. R. Hewitt**

**Cllr. B. Price**

**Cllr. C. M. Chadwick**

**Cllr. R. D. Bennett**

**Cllr. D. A. Meacock**

#### In Attendance

**Ray Hallam – Parish Clerk**

**Borough Cllr. P. Kennedy**

**Residents 3**

Cllr. Eldridge, the Chairman opened the meeting at 7.16pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1 Apologies** - The Chairman stated that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Ward.
- 2 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting** - The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014, distributed to all present, were reviewed. It was moved that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 3 Chairman's Report** - Councillor M. D. Eldridge read from his prepared report, on his year in office as Chairman of the Parish Council

### **Chairman's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015.**

The formal business of the Parish Council was conducted at its monthly meetings. Five committees exist: Parish Internal Audit, Planning, Risk Assessment, Betterment and Donations. In addition there were appointed representatives to a number of bodies or interest area: Walton Hall, South Neighbourhood Board, Transport, Footpaths, Waste and Road Traffic & Lighting.

We have welcomed guest speakers on a number of occasions, to hear about issues such as the Mersey Gateway, provision for Creamfields, WBC arrangements for street and vegetation maintenance, WBC position over the Two Acre site and developments at Walton Gardens.

The Parish Internal Audit, Planning and Risk Assessment functioned as required through the year and I would particularly acknowledge the work by Councillor Bob Hardie in leading these activities.

The Betterment Committee was active through the year and led much of the work for improving the appeal and appearance of the Parish. Its projects and activities included organising and looking after

the flowering tubs and trees. I would like to acknowledge the work by Councillor Ann Hardie in leading the Committee.

Through the year Borough Councillor Paul Kennedy has acted as a link with the Borough Council both at our Parish Council meetings and also in between times. Paul has become involved in many issues through the year and has used his ability to target the right person at WBC to great effect. I would like to acknowledge and thank Councillor Kennedy for all his support.

John Green has continued to work voluntarily as a Parish Warden and it should still be our aim to supplement this role with more volunteers.

During the year Viv Lacey stood down as Councillor. We have benefitted greatly from Viv's considered opinion on many matters but her value has been appreciated by organisations with more pulling power than Walton PC and she has found the demands on her time make it impossible to continue. The vacancy has been advertised.

The Annual Civic Service was held on 29 March 2015. The Service was led by Revd John Harries at St John's Church and as he is leaving, it was his last service for us. It was followed by a reception and excellent lunch at the Parish Rooms. Judy Eldridge decided to cater and worked very hard preparing food. At the event she was helped by residents. I was pleased that amongst our visitors were the Deputy Mayor of Warrington and Mayoress, our Borough Councillor, representatives of other Parishes, Church Officers and representatives from Walton Gardens, both staff and volunteers. There were many complimentary comments.

The Parish Council has once again worked towards minimizing the disruption caused by the Creamfields event. I have kept in touch with the people who responded to my survey last year and I am pleased to report we had few complaints this year. The stewarding was much better, firm but sensible. I was shown around the site by Inspector Sarah Heath and was impressed by the action behind the scenes to control the huge number of people present.

A big issue for Higher Walton this year has been the expiry of the temporary planning permission for the Two Acre site. The Parish Council objected once more to any renewal. Local residents held a meeting which resulted in many letters of objection to the proposals. WBC turned down the application for permanent residency and a large increase in the number of vans. WBC has advised the occupants on how to revise the application and we await details.

An observation and regret is that we have many ideas that fail to come to fruition for a variety of reasons. I have always said that if a committee solves all the problems there is nothing left for next year but perhaps we should try harder to conclude initiatives.

I would like to thank the Vice Chairman Bob Hardie for his wise council and resilience when I have expressed myself openly and my fellow parish councillors for the support that they have given me during the year. I would also like to thank the Parish Council Clerk, Ray Hallam for all his work and his diligence in ably conducting and progressing the business of the Parish Council. Lastly I would like to thank all the Parishioners who have contributed to Parish Life by making us aware of issues that we can influence.

**Malcolm Eldridge**

Chairman of Walton Parish Council

#### 4 **Parish Matters**

The Chairman handed out to all present a document he had prepared, which outlined the traffic problems in Higher Walton.

Using a projector and screen, he showed slides of the repairs carried out to Walton Bridge, following the damage caused by a lorry attempting to cross the bridge.

A discussion about the repairs to the bridge followed. Cllr. R. Hardie stated that if the bridge was listed then it should have been restored to the condition it was in when it was listed (1964) and that if it had been subsequently repaired incorrectly, then that work should also be corrected.

Sharon Harris (SH) (resident) felt that the work was not satisfactory as the appearance does not fit in with the way it was before, it should be aesthetically acceptable, the parapet is too uniform and stands out like a sore thumb. Cllr. Meacock said that '2<sup>nd</sup> hand brick' should have been used. SH said that we should not accept this as the finished version and every effort should be made to put it back to its original position.

The Chairman felt that it was quite reasonable for the PC to ask Peel what they are going to do about it.

***Action – Clerk to write to Peel Holdings.***

A discussion then followed on the traffic issues of Higher Walton.

Bernie Elebert (resident) showed photos of how her husband was nearly killed whilst sitting in his garden.

SH said how pleased she was that the PC were taking these traffic issues seriously, but felt that the traffic calming measures suggested by WBC would not work, owing to the nature of the roads. She would like us to consider designating the whole area as a 'Quiet Lanes' area and to look at this philosophy in some detail.

The Chairman concluded that we need to get WBC to sit down with us and find a solution to the traffic issues discussed.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending. The meeting closed at 7.50pm.