

# Walton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the St. Johns Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

### Present

**Cllr. Y. R. Shaikh** Chairman  
**Cllr. M. D. Eldridge** Vice Chairman  
**Cllr. J. R. Ward**  
**Cllr. H. A. S. Hardie**  
**Cllr. R. Hewitt**  
**Cllr. R. Hardie**  
**Cllr. C. M. Chadwick**  
**Cllr. R. D. Bennett**  
**Cllr. D. A. Meacock**

**In Attendance**      **Ray Hallam – Parish Clerk**

Cllr. Shaikh, the Chairman opened the meeting at 7.15pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1      **Apologies** - The Chairman stated that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Price and Borough Councillor Kennedy.
  
- 2      **Minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting** - The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013, distributed to all present, were reviewed. It was moved that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was proposed by Councillor Hewitt and seconded by Councillor Eldridge. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
  
- 3      **Chairman's Report** - Councillor Y. R. Shaikh read from his prepared report, on his year in office as Chairman of the Parish Council

### **Chairman's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 4 April 2014.**

The formal business of the Parish Council was conducted as planned at its monthly meetings. Five committees were established: 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 and South Neighbourhood Board, Transport, Publicity, Footpaths, Waste and Road Traffic & Lighting.

During the year John Ashcroft decided to step down after 34 years public service as a Parish Councillor here at Walton, 5 of which were as Chairman. I'd like to thank John for all his contribution to the parish. Filling the vacancy created by John is Councillor Barbara Price who was co-opted on the Council. We were very pleased to welcome Barbara and I would like to wish her a successful tenure as Councillor.

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. I would acknowledge and thank Councillor Kennedy for all his support.

John Green took up a new role as a 'Parish Warden'. This is a new role and a voluntary role and can be developed in a number of ways. I'm sure that parts of the parish will benefit from it – and if it works well perhaps there is scope for extending it to perhaps a couple more parish wardens for other parts of the parish.

During the year, the Parish Council considered a Parish Plan. Of course a Parish Plan is for parishioners, and not for the Parish Council to organize. If a group of parishioners were particularly interested in a Plan, then I'm sure the Parish Council would lend its support.

Although the Parish Council has little influence regarding the granting of the Creamfields license, once again it worked towards minimizing the disruption the event would otherwise cause local residents. Halton Borough Council have not granted a continuous license for 69,999 people. Inspired by the Vice Chair of the Parish Council, Malcolm Eldridge, the Parish Council made a statutory declaration to claim ownership of the neglected village triangle. In the mean time the Parish Council has resolved to take care of it until a responsible owner comes forward or until the Council takes ownership in 12 years time.

The Annual Civic Service was held on 9 March 2014. The Service was led by Revd John Harries at St John's Church. It was followed by a reception and lunch at the Parish Rooms. I was pleased that amongst our visitors were the Mayor of Warrington, our local MP, our Borough Councillor, representatives of other Parishes, and Church Officers. There were many complimentary comments and a successful event.

I would like to thank the Vice Chairman 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. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank all the Parishioners who have contributed to Parish Life.

**Yousuf Shaikh**

Chairman of Walton Parish Council

**4 Parish Matters –** There were no parish matters.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending. The meeting closed at 7.30pm.