

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2019

Present: Cllrs: E Fairclough (Chair), K Shaw, S Birkby, P Lee, C Pearson, C Wagstaff, T Saunders, S Leith, J Carlon and H Massey.

In attendance: Cllrs: Ward Councillor A Manifield (WMDC), Sgt Matt Jackson and the Clerk to the Council.

153. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs: M Cummings, F Heptinstall (Ward Councillors) and E Prince.

154. To receive declarations of interest.

None.

155. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 4th December 2018.

Resolved to approve the minutes of both parts of the meeting held on 4th December 2018 without amendment as a correct record.

156. To be notified of matters accomplished or arisen since the last meeting not included elsewhere on the agenda.

(Ref 140(3)) The sum of £50,355.43 has been invested in HSBC in a one-year fixed term high interest deposit account.

Gas heater has been checked on two occasions following a second report of a gas smell. After the second visit, the heater's pilot light would not light resulting in a third visit from a gas engineer just before the Christmas closure.

WDH have given permission for the Parish Council to site a memorial bench on the land between Grove Crescent and Cherry Tree Crescent at a resident's request.

157. Public forum session – To permit members of the public to make representations, answer questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda.

None present.

158. To receive a report on the SAFE scheme and Police matters.

The item was deferred until the arrival of Sgt Jackson.

Sgt Jackson reported 27 hours have been worked over December 2018. Fly tipping was reported too WMDC on Common Lane and patrols of the 'Walton' stone sign indicated bottles and cans had been discarded there on or 11, 15th and 25th December 2018.

There were also three separate reports of youths either smoking drugs or attending premises they should not be.

It is thought the individual on Brooklands View may be known to the village and could perhaps fit the description of suspect at the Nature Park and/or the male reported following the teenage girls' home from school.

Resolved to note the reports.

159. To receive reports from WMDC Ward 5 Councillors.

Cllr A Manifield reported:

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- the drain identified near School Lane had been cleared. The Chair noted the drains near the School Lane development seemed filled with concrete and requested if the surrounding drains could also be checked and cleaned out if necessary;
- A meeting regarding Brook Farm was due to take place in the coming weeks – an update will be issued by the Ward Councillors on the date/time;
- The Cllrs had received the list of road signs from the Chair that needed repairs;
- There has been a report of a dangerous tree on Common Lane which WMDC are investigating;
- Road closures notice have been issued for School Lane and Oakenshaw Lane as well as the Chevet Footpath number 2;

An update was requested on the resurfacing of Shay Lane where it meets with Common Lane.

The Chair raised reports of fly tipping on Sike Lane and that the perpetrators name/address was found in one of the items disposed of.

A 'No dog fouling' sign was requested for the Transpennine footpath between Grove Crescent and Cherry Tree Crescent as numerous reports have been made by elderly residents of dog fouling.

Resolved to note the other reports.

160. Finance & Governance

1. To approve accounts to be paid, already paid under delegated powers and income received December 2018.

The Clerk submitted details (copy attached to minutes) of accounts paid totalling £3,859.38 and income received of £2,490.93 in December.

The account balances at the end of December are:

Current a/c:	£1,722.28
Barclays Business Res a/c:	£43,964.96
HSBC deposit a/c:	<u>£50,355.43</u>
Total	£96,042.67

Resolved: to approve the financial statements and payments.

2. To consider renewal of the SLCC membership for 2019.

Resolved to renew the Clerk's SLCC membership for 2019 for £156.

3. To consider the budget for 2019/20 and to approve the NJC Salary scales for 2019/20.

The Clerk had circulated a proposed budget with the agenda and she explained the basis on which it had been prepared. It was agreed to remove the £20,000 reserve from the forecasted column for this financial year as the cost will be incurred next financial year. Councillor Saunders suggested increasing the training budget for new councillors following the new elections. Discussions took place as to whether the Parish Council could deliver all the anticipated projects and whether it would embark on new Christmas decorations for lampposts. A motion was proposed to remove £4,000 from the budget for Christmas decorations. Following a vote, the motion was defeated.

Resolved

- (i) to approve the budget subject to clearly identifying on the budget the deficit would be met from the respective reserves;
- (ii) to approve and apply the NJC Salary scales for the Clerk from 1st April 2019.

4. To consider hire charges for 2019/20 and to review the policy for charitable lettings.

The Clerk circulated details of the hire charges to all users with the agenda.

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Resolved

- (i) To remain with the current rates from 1 April 2019;
- (ii) to re-approve the same number of charitable lettings identified within the policy offering named organisations use of the hall free of charge for the specified number of events throughout 2019.

5. To consider the precept for 2019/20.

The Clerk circulated the proposed precept based on the budget. It was noted this was less than the rate of inflation and in line with the projected income/expenditure.

Members felt that increasing the precept in line with inflation would reflect the increasing prices the Parish Council will incur in expenses.

Resolved to increase the precept by £895 from £35,800 to £36,695, a rise of 2.5%.

161. To consider correspondence received.

Resolved:

- (i) To allow the Walton Nature Colliery Park to retain the £90 given as part of a grant for the purchase of a tree popper.
- (ii) to note other correspondence.

162. Planning Working Party.

1. To consider planning applications validated and decided December 2018.

There have been 5 applications for Walton validated and 4 applications decided since the last meeting.

Resolved:

- (i) 18/02750/FUL - Willow House Eleven Acre Woods Haw Park Lane Walton - The Parish Council considered the above application at its meeting held on 8th January 2019 and would like to formally object to the plans on the following grounds:
 - The Parish Council is of the view that the proposed development does not meet the tests of paragraph 145 of the NPPF 2018.
 - The proposed application is on a larger scale than the existing footprint and will become a “disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original building.” It is considered the nature and extent of the scheme will have an adverse impact on the Green Belt;
 - No special circumstances have been demonstrated to allow development to take place on Green Belt land.
- (ii) To note the remaining validated and decided applications.

163. Village Hall and Coronation Cottage Working Party - to receive reports.

1. To receive Risk Assessment report on Coronation Cottage and the Tennis Club.

The risk assessment for Coronation Cottage is deferred to next month.

Cllrs Birkby and Pearson visited outside the Tennis Club and noted a neighbour was disposing of tree clippings on Parish Council land adjacent to the Tennis Club and setting fire to this despite requests not to do so.

Resolved:

- (i) to write to neighbour to request the tree clippings be moved within 10 working days otherwise the Council will remove it by requesting SR Tree to shred it and seek to recover costs for doing so.
- (ii) In the absence of a response or action from the neighbour, the Clerk to obtain a quote to extend the existing fence along the boundary wall.
- (iii) A list of jobs has been compiled for the groundsman.

164. Recreation & Playgrounds Working Party - to receive reports.

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1. To consider delegating authority to the Recreation Working Party to evaluate tender bids and agreeing winning contractor.

Cllr Massey felt the Parish Council needed to take the decision collectively to determine the winning bidder. It was agreed the Working Party members would evaluate the bids and the best two would be presented at an extraordinary meeting called to determine the winning contractor, to avoid duplication of work.

Resolved:

- (i) For the Working Party members to evaluate the tender bids submitted;
- (ii) For the Clerk to arrange an extraordinary meeting scheduled to be held on 22 January 2019 to determine the winning contractor.

2. To ratify the decision to obtain a financial contribution from Berkeley DeVeer Ltd for work to the recreation ground and procuring the signature to a Boundary Agreement regarding the boundary walls.

Resolved:

- (i) The Clerk to seek a financial contribution towards the filling in of the stairwell;
- (ii) To request clarification from the developer that the references to the sale of transfers refer to the boundary walls and not just the timber fences.

3. To consider changing the locks to the Recreation Ground gateway.

Resolved: to take no further action at this stage.

165. Environmental Improvements Working Party - to receive reports.

1. To receive a risk assessment report on the village seats.

Cllr Saunders noted 8 seats have plaques which have been listed within the assessment. The seat opposite the New Inn next to the Grove bus stop needs painting and the seat in QE II Field is damaged beyond repair.

Resolved:

- (i) for the seat at the Grove to be repainted as a priority amongst other work identified within the risk assessment;
- (ii) Cllr Wagstaff to remove the damaged bench located in QEII Field.

166. Tree Working Party - to receive reports.

Cllrs Birkby and Pearson have reviewed the boundaries surrounding the recreation ground and prepared a list of jobs for the grounds attendant.

167. New website working party – to receive reports.

1. To consider including a section on Community Amenities on the website.

To defer to February 2019 meeting.

168. To consider grant application submitted by Walton Methodist Church.

Resolved to approve the grant of £250 for Walton Methodist Church towards initiatives for the support of residents and carers living with dementia.

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- 169. To receive matters reported directly to the Clerk.**
None.

Meeting closed at 10 p.m.