

WALTON PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, School Lane, Walton on Thursday 19 April 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillor E Fairclough (Chair); approx. 8 Local Electors in addition to Councillors: J Carlon, P Lee, K Rolinson, T Saunders, K Shaw, H Massey, C Wagstaff, Sue Birkby and C Pearson.

In attendance: Cllrs M Cummings (WDMC), Sgt Matthew Jackson & the Clerk to the Council.

1. **Apologies for absence** received from E Prince (Walton Parish Council).
2. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2017.**
Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2017 were circulated before the meeting commenced. The meeting accepted the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair as such.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.**
There were none.
4. **Chairman's report on activities 2017/18.**
Walton Parish Council is a team of volunteers who work together to ensure that this village is run properly and carefully for the benefit of all parishioners.

The team is one member down since the resignation of Karen Rolinson who was a valued and respected Parish Councillor who has given full commitment to the village but will continue to do so in her role as part of the Working for Walton committee and we wish her well.

Our team is very well supported by our Clerk and Financial Officer, Marianne Haworth who took over from her predecessor last April. We are very grateful to her for all she does. Our team would not be complete without the services of our Caretaker and Groundsman, Paul Readman. He works quietly behind the scenes keeping these premises, the war memorial and the recreation ground in good order and our thanks, and those of the many hirers go to him for all he does.

West Yorkshire Police have been one of our support groups for over 20 years through the Safe Scheme. Under the direction of Sgt. Matt. Jackson, a team of dedicated officers who know this village well are employed to patrol outside of normal shift hours. We shall continue to contribute to what is a very worthwhile service and we thank them all for their work.

We have been happy to support various groups in the village, like the Library, the Heritage of Walton group and Working for Walton, and I would encourage more parishioners to do the same.

The floral displays around the village will be continuing to appear this summer. The lamppost baskets are generously sponsored by members of the public and we are grateful for their continuing support.

The refurbishments programme which we have compiled for this year takes up much of the budget left after our mandatory payments list. The Parish Hall and Coronation Cottage require expenditure on a rolling programme as they are two of our major assets. The four village boundary signs on Walton Lane, Shay Lane, Common Lane and Oakenshaw Lane have been replaced with stone signs with laser etching which should last considerably longer.

The first of the new metal village benches has been installed on the approach road to Walton Hall.

The play equipment in the Recreation Ground has been part of this rolling programme for many years. We have now reached the point when we need to replace all six items and the flooring under them as soon as funds allow.

We have a reserve fund which we have been trying to increase for many years. But when emergency requirements such as felling weak trees occur, we seem to be thwarted in our efforts. We need to move forward now and seek outside help to fund replacing what is a much – loved and very well – used playground as soon as possible. It was a priority in the neighbourhood plan along with footpath up – grades and we are now addressing both issues urgently.

There has been little progress on the Brook Farm and West Yorkshire Sports and Social Club issue to date. But the Grove Close Care Community development is well underway. A village meeting was held with the developer Keepmoat and their representative is here for you to speak to after this meeting.

The three local ward 5 Councillors, Maureen Cummings, Faith Heptinstall and Albert Manifold are always available to deal with your concerns. Their details are displayed on the notice board and I thank them all for their continued support.

Finally, I thank all my fellow Parish Councillors and you for supporting this very special village.

5. Financial Statements 2016/17 and 2017/18.

1. 2016/17 Copies of the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31.03.17 were included in circulated documents. These last two pages form part of the Annual Return in the format required by Audit and Accounting Regulations. It was approved by the external auditor and was publicly displayed as required last August. The figures are shown again in a different format in the Budget and Accounts summary for the following year which are more meaningful.

2. 2017/18 Copies of a Budget and Accounts Summary were circulated showing the actual figures for 2016/17, the budget for 2017/18, draft final figures for 2017/18 and the budget for 2018/19. The Clerk noted a saving was made on the overall payments totals from the previous year, but a new fire door caused an overspend on the Village Hall costs. The Council anticipated a surplus of £3,000 at year end however a surplus of £17,114 was achieved, namely due to £6,500 being set aside for new playground equipment which is yet to be spent, £2,000 underspend on tree maintenance and £2,000 on neighbourhood projects which are still in progress. Finally, income from hiring's and support from the floral displays was higher than expected. She invited questions or comments but there were none.

6. Observations from Parish Electors.

Cllr Maureen Cummings was invited to formally thank the Chair on behalf of electors for serving 25 years as a Parish Councillor and 12 years as Chair. Since Cllr Cummings was elected in 2014, she has been made to feel very welcome by the Chair and noted the Parish Council has been dedicated in bringing services to the village. Cllr Cummings was delighted to present a gift to the Chair from all present on behalf of the residents.

The Chair thanked Cllr Cummings for her kind words and those present for the unexpected honour.

7. Conclusion.

The Chair thanked those attending and concluded the meeting at 7.50 pm.