

# WALTON PARISH COUNCIL minutes

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

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

**In attendance:** Cllr: F Heptinstall (WMDC Ward Councillor), Sgt Matt Jackson, PC 260 Hall, 4 members of the public and the Clerk to the Council.

**62. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr M Cummings and A Manifold (Ward Councillor), Cllrs C Wagstaff, J Carlon and E Prince.

**63. To receive declarations of interest.**

None.

**64. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

**Resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 without amendment as a correct record.

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

The Clerk advised negotiations are still ongoing on the Grove Allotment lease and water works were completed outside the Hall over the summer to fix a leak in the pipework by Yorkshire Water.

**66. 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.**

The Secretary to Working for Walton announced the unveiling of a new pit wheel in aid of the anniversary of the Colliery disaster, to be held on 19 October 2019 at 10am.

A governor on behalf of Walton Primary Academy, in support of their grant application for a pond and scientific equipment, explained the initiative would primarily support 150/200 children in KS2 with their science and maths curricula but would be used by other children in school also. The school can provide financial information to demonstrate funds within the budget are ring-fenced for other initiatives. Cllr Heptinstall advised the School may be eligible for a grant from the Neighbourhood Improvements fund and the Chair advised further funding maybe available from the Environment Agency and the Royal Horticultural Society.

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

Sgt Matt Jackson noted 20 hours were worked in July and 27 over August. Patrols conducted around the village based on community intelligence and targeted areas, including bike patrols. Traffic officer also making enforcement checks, arrested several individuals for potentially selling drugs. Over the 2 months, there has been 3 burglaries, one attempted entry to house and damage to motor vehicle, one to a caravan and lastly from a hotel room at Waterton Park hotel. 4 thefts from a motor vehicle were reported with some being left unsecured.

The Chair noted a resident complaint regarding the smoking of cannabis at bus shelters around the village which is being monitored.

Sgt Jackson will be handing over management of the SAFE scheme to PC Hall who is eager to hold a PACT meeting and meet residents to discuss any issues. A date is to be set for the meeting to be held in the Village Hall. The Chair formally thanked Sgt Jackson for all his efforts and hard work on the SAFE scheme and wished him well going forwards.

**Resolved** to note the report.

**68. To receive reports from WMDC Ward 5 Councillors.**

Councillor F Heptinstall reported:

- The hedge cutting on Oakenshaw Lane has been completed;

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- The road repairs to the Balk were also completed;
- The fly tipping on the towpath was reported and assumed cleared;
- The sale of the land at Brook Farm is imminent.

A member asked if efforts can be made by the Ward Councillors to secure £150,000 promised to remunerate organisations that will be disadvantaged due to the sale and £60,000 circa to the Parish Council for community projects.

A resident has requested a metal bin be reinstated which was taken away during the installation of play equipment at the Brooklands play area.

**Resolved** to note the reports.

### 69. Finance & Governance

#### 1. To receive a report on the External Audit.

The Clerk noted formal sign off the audited Annual Governance statements is still awaited but communications over the summer indicated they had no concerns. An amended Annual Governance Annual Return was resubmitted to correct a figure for 2018 accounts, but this does not affect the 2019 accounts or its validity. The Notice of Completion will be displayed on receipt.

**Resolved** to note the reports.

#### 2. To approve accounts to be paid, already paid under delegated powers and income received July and August 2019.

The Clerk submitted details (copy attached to minutes) of accounts paid totalling £1,410.24 for July 2019 and £15,487.23 for August 2019, and income received of £3,307.00 in July and £17,937.58 in August. The Clerk noted the VAT for March to May 2019 was repaid.

The account balances at the end of August are:

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Current a/c:               | £(10,275.43)      |
| Barclays Business Res a/c: | £15,000.38        |
| HSBC deposit a/c:          | <u>£50,355.48</u> |
| Total                      | £55,080.43        |

**Resolved:** to approve the financial statements and payments.

#### 3. To receive a budget monitor for the 5-month period April to August 2019, to consider virement and whether to establish a Village Hall maintenance reserve

The Clerk circulated figures showing figures as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 and projected the Parish Council would require approximately £8,000 to £9,000 less from reserves than previously budgeted. Members asked to defer virement and whether to establish a maintenance/roof reserve pending consideration of the figures.

**Resolved** to note the report and defer considerations of virement/future reserves to next meeting.

#### 4. To consider applications received for grants.

The Chair noted 5 applications were received which would be considered in turn.

The Heritage of Walton have applied in support of the village map. It was noted a previous grant made in 2014 was made but not spent due to a failed bid to the National Lottery fund. Members felt the project had already received grant funding by the Council for this project and concerns were raised regarding the offer of grants to projects if they are not viable.

An application by Tiny Hand Baby Bank was noted to be a worthy cause but it is not located within Walton or would directly benefit its residents and therefore does not meet the criteria.

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An application by Walton Primary Academy for a pond and associated equipment was to directly benefit the education of children within the village which would also seek to build relations with the School. A member opposed the application on the grounds the Academy's last published accounts from their website noted they had circa £4million surplus. The governor explained there were 11 schools within the Academy and can provide information to demonstrate all available funds to the school are budgeted elsewhere. Members felt the education sector was not generally well-funded. A vote was held following a proposal to decline the application which failed. A further motion to approve the application was carried.

An application was submitted by the Garden Club run at the Primary School by a group of volunteers and separate from the School/PTA. Members felt for the same reasons as above, the application should be approved. A vote was held and carried. Members wished to ensure the project would be viable and release of the monies would be made once evidence was provided the monies would be spent on the specified project.

Final application by Working for Walton in support of the pit wheel project. A motion was submitted the Parish Council wished to support the anniversary of the Colliery disaster and this was an apt way to do so. Members voted in favour of the application.

**Resolved** to approve a grant of £250 to Walton Primary Academy, Walton Garden Club and Working for Walton.

#### 4. To consider amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations.

The circulated amends were advanced by NALC/YLCA and the Clerk ahead of the meeting. The Clerk's proposed amends allows for the Clerk to release payment of an approved expenditure to avoid disruption to services.

**Resolved** to approve the proposed wording subject to the inclusion of all professionals at Regulation 11.1(a)(ii) acting in disputes.

#### 70. To consider correspondence received.

A member suggested the Parish Council submit a response to the consultation on polling stations to ensure two polling stations are secured for the benefit of residents at future elections.

**Resolved** to note correspondence received and for the Clerk to submit a response to the public consultation on polling stations.

#### 71. Planning Working Party.

##### 1. To consider planning applications validated and decided July and August 2019

There have been 3 applications validated and 7 applications decided since the last meeting.

**Resolved** to

- (i) Ratify the Clerk's response on planning application 19/01331/FUL – 127 Shay Lane, that the Parish Council is concerned about the scale of this scheme in the context of the immediate locality and that the it feels that the principles in the Residential Design Guide may be breached.
- (ii) To note all other validated and decided applications.

#### 72. Village Hall and Coronation Cottage Working Party - to receive report

The Clerk reported there is a reported hole in the roof of the garage at Coronation Cottage which the Clerk will ask a roofing contractor to check.

##### 1. To consider correspondence from Walton Tennis Club and any steps required.

**Resolved** to defer pending meeting with the Chair of the Tennis Club.

#### 73. Recreation & Playgrounds Working Party - to receive reports.

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1. **To consider and approve the Annual Grounds Maintenance Contract for renewal by WMDC for 2019/20.**

**Resolved** to approve the renewal of the contract at a cost of £1,541.54 plus VAT.

2. **To consider whether to retain offer of £500 towards spares or utilise for any new equipment.**

**Resolved** to request a payment of £1,000 be paid to the Parish Council towards repairs.

## 74. **Environmental Improvements Working Party**

1. **To receive a report on the florals' display and sponsorship.**

The Clerk noted several sponsors have withdrawn support over the last two years for various reasons. The Parish Council wished to maintain the displays even if sponsors fall and maintain the style of the baskets.

**Resolved** to note the report.

## 75. **Tree Working Party**

A member reported a large conifer tree appeared to be swaying heavily in the wind. The Working Party to review on the map and report to WMDC for advice if work is needed.

## 76. **New website working party**

1. **To consider steps to take following the implementation of The Public Sector Bodies (Websites And Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.**

The Clerk has been advised by our website designer, the cost to make the website fully compliant on all areas would be disproportionate and so an accessibility statement is advisable. Council's have been quoted £2,000 to £4,000 by companies to ensure compliance, which is excessive for the number of users to the website and the information which they would mainly be interested in (attachments). Work will be undertaken to test the website to identify areas of non-compliance and links added to tools which can improve accessibility.

**Resolved** the costs imposes a disproportionate burden and to adopt an accessibility statement which indicates the parts which are non-compliant.

## 77. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2) – In view of the confidential nature of the business concerned, to resolve to exclude the Press and Public to receive a report on risk assessments completed.**

**Resolved**

- (i) To exclude the press and public;
- (ii) To note the risk assessment and to proceed with the final risk assessment relating to the ground's attendant duties.

## 78. **To receive matters reported directly to the Clerk.**

A resident continues to remove vodka bottles from the Walton sign on Common Lane.

Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.