

# Minutes of Walton (Wakefield) Annual Parish Meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 18 April 2023 in Walton Village Hall

**Present:** Councillor John Carlon, Chairman of Walton Parish Council  
7 members of the public

1. Councillor Carlon reported on the activities of the Parish Council:
  - a. He thanked the councillors for their hard work over the year, with particular reference to Councillor Sue Birkby who resigned during the year and Councillors Sheila Leith and Wendy Parker who are retiring this May.
  - b. There are 3 councillor vacancies on the new Parish Council from May.
  - c. The previous Clerk resigned in September 2022, with the new Clerk, Peter Walsh, being appointed in December. Councillors stepped into the breach in the intervening period, which has given them a much better understanding of the mechanics of the council.
  - d. The Council has plans for maintenance of its assets, including the block paving outside the village hall, repairing the rendering on the village hall, and rebuilding the boundary wall in front of Coronation Cottage.
  - e. Regular assessments are made of other council assets, the seats and stone signs around the village, the bus shelter, war memorial, park and Jubilee field.
  - f. A consultation was conducted on use of the old tennis courts site. The response rate was 15% with a garden being the most popular option. A local architect has volunteered to assist with the project and has facilitated a contact with Leeds Beckett University. The intention is for landscape architecture students to undertake further consultation and come up with designs as part of their final year course work. This will take place during this autumn and winter, with the intention of starting physical works on site in the spring of 2024. The Council has budgeted seed funding for the project but will need to secure other funding.
    - i. In answer to a question from the floor, the expectation is to complete the ground works by the end of 2024, the subsequent timetable for planting will be determined by the seasons.
    - ii. In answer to a question from the floor, it is intended to include a sensory aspect to the garden.
  - g. As subsequent stages to the project it is also intended to install leisure and exercise equipment for teenagers and adults on part of the tennis courts site.
  - h. The Council is pursuing bringing Jubilee field, which was donated to the Council by Yorkshire Water, up to playing field standard. Test excavations have already been conducted. The Council is in negotiation with Walton Juniors football club as to how this can be taken forward.
  - i. The Council is pursuing refurbishment of the fingerpost sign at the junction of The Balk and Shay Lane.
  - j. Flower baskets have been ordered for 49 lamp posts in the village (the 50<sup>th</sup> post having been deemed not fit for purpose) along with planters to go in front of the stone signs on Common Lane, Oakenshaw Lane and Shay Lane. A potential problem with the brackets for Christmas trees was successfully resolved through the effort of councillors in time for Christmas 2022.
  - k. The Parish Council is in a sound financial position. There has been no increase in the precept for the second year running. The Council also benefits from income from village



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