

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd November 2015

Present: Cllrs: E Fairclough (Chairman), S Birkby, J Carlon, G Glenn, P Lee, H Massey, C Pearson, D Pickover, E Prince and K Shaw.

In attendance: Cllrs. M Cummings, F Heptinstall and A Manifold (WMDC); Acting Sgt Matthew Jackson & the Clerk to the Council.

91. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr. T Saunders.

92. To receive declarations of interest.

There were none.

93. To approve the minutes of the council meetings held on 6th October 2015.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 6th October without amendment as a correct record.

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

A former Parish Councillor has offered to catalogue the photos held by the Parish Council at the Village Hall. Councillor Shaw volunteered to assist and be the point of contact.

95. 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.

There were none.

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

APS Matthew Jackson reported 2 crimes in October involving burglary. There were no calls relating to anti-social behaviour.

16 hours were worked under the SAFE scheme, 9 by Police Officers and 7 by PCSOs.

All areas of the village were patrolled. Traffic offence reports for vehicles along Shay Lane were submitted and fixed penalty tickets issued for vehicle obstruction on the Brooklands estate.

APS Jackson said that the times officers are available for the SAFE scheme do not coincide with the school drop off and pick up times, so he has passed the problem about parking around the school to the NPT.

Resolved to note the reports.

97. To receive a report from WMDC Ward 5 Councillors.

In addition to the various responses to issues raised by Councillor Manifold that were circulated to Councillors with the agenda, Councillor Manifold reported that:

The fly tipping reported on Chippie Lane has been removed.

Issues with quad bikes have been referred to the police.

The pothole on Greenside has been repaired.

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A commitment has been received for the white lining at Elmwood to be renewed.

Councillor Manifield has surveyed the area himself and will take up other matters on the return of Paul Platts, Group Engineer - Network Management, including:

Overhanging hedges and vegetation not yet dealt with along Walton Station Lane; The Balk; near the junction of Ambleside Drive and Lakeland Way; Oakenshaw Lane where signage is obscured; and Greenside.

Councillor Manifield pointed out that, if the vegetation is growing from private land, WMDC have first to write to the landowner to ask him/her to remove it before taking further action.

Regarding the request for parking restriction signage at the school, Bob Whyatt, Senior Traffic Engineer, has offered to meet with him and anyone from the Parish Council to discuss the issues.

Members felt that Bob Whyatt may not be aware of the existing arrangements for parking at the Community Centre.

Councillor Manifield has held a street surgery on the Manor estate at which complaints were received about speeding vehicles and vehicles which are parked and blocking pathways. He is in contact with Network Rail about a conifer which is on Network Rail land but which is growing too high.

Complaints were received about the number of times the Jubilee Field is cut and the edges which are left to grow wild which prevents people walking on the field. He suggested that if the Parish Council, as landowner, wished to respond he would forward the response to the complainant.

Councillor Cummings reported on new legislation about travellers' sites which may help to prevent unauthorised use of land followed by retrospective planning applications. She confirmed that WMDC now has sufficient plots available to meet gypsy and traveller requirements.

She reported there are changes to bus services 193,194 & 195, but that these changes don't affect residents of Walton.

She reported that work has started on Brook Farm and she is chasing up with Network Rail complaints about the stone walls, which are their responsibility, which are crumbling and the stones being stolen.

Councillor Cummings also reported that a tree house built at the Brooklands recreation area by a resident has been removed for health and safety risks to children using it. She stated that there is an elector's surgery held on the third Saturday of every month at the Methodist Chapel.

Councillor Heptinstall reported on a successful visit to the South Kirby waste recycling plant, which the Clerk attended, and she said further visits will be arranged for anyone interested.

All the Ward Councillors congratulated the Parish Council and all those involved on the production of its Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved:

- i to note the reports.
- ii that the Clerk send Councillor Manifield a response about the Jubilee Field.

98. Finance

1. To approve accounts to be paid, already paid under delegated powers and income received October 2015.

The Clerk submitted details (copy attached to minutes) of accounts paid totalling £3,275.45 and income received of £1,478.50 in October.

The account balances in the books at the end of October are:

Current a/c: £3,796.01

Barclays Business Res a/c: £34,320.67

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HSBC deposit a/c: £15,053.69
Total £53,170.37

Resolved to approve the financial statements and payments.

2. To consider the amount to contribute to a memorial wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

Resolved:

- i to contribute £50.00 to the Royal British Legion.
- ii to cover the cost of 30 poppy crosses for the War Memorial, if necessary.

99. To consider correspondence received.

Resolved:

- i to publicise the provision of a Christmas tree in the Walton column of the Wakefield Express and to put a plaque saying "Provided by Walton Parish Council" near the tree.
- ii to note other correspondence.

100. Planning Working Party.

1. To review planning applications validated and decided October 2015.

7 planning applications were validated and 0 decided since the last meeting.

Resolved to make no comment on the validated applications.

2. Neighbourhood Planning.

i To receive reports

Councillor Massey distributed copies of the final Neighbourhood Plan and showed a leaflet which will be distributed to every household encouraging people to vote in the referendum.

The date of the referendum is 3rd December and many homes have already received their polling cards.

Banners have been ordered and will be displayed in the village.

A reminder to those asking what they are voting for is that the Neighbourhood Plan is a legal document with legal weight in dealing with planning applications in the village.

WMDC is statutorily bound to take into account the Plan policies in its decision making. Walton's Plan, if passed by referendum, will be the first in Yorkshire.

A press release has been prepared and will be sent to newspapers and TV stations.

Members expressed their gratitude to Dave Rolinson, to Councillor Massey and members of the Steering Group.

Resolved: to note the report.

ii To consider arrangements for a referendum.

Resolved that the Village Hall be used as a polling station and for the counting of votes afterwards, and that WMDC be invoiced at the normal rate for hirers.

101. Village Hall and Coronation Cottage Working Party

1. To receive reports.

Paul Readman has nearly completed the attic insulation.

Credit against the water bill has been obtained for over usage due to the water leak at Coronation Cottage. Yorkshire Water have now said that the stop cock at entry to the Cottage needs to be replaced and new meter measurements can then be taken to ensure the problem has been solved.

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Quotations for the total costs of paving outside the Village Hall and around Coronation Cottage were circulated. A breakdown of the costs will be obtained so that the work at Coronation Cottage can proceed.

Resolved to note the reports.

2. To consider costs for displays of photos in the Committee Room.

Councillor Fairclough presented choices and costs for framing the seven photos to be hung in the Committee Room.

Resolved to proceed with the framing at a total cost of approximately £200.

102. Recreation & Playgrounds Working Party -

1. To receive reports.

The annual inspection report of the playground equipment by RoSPA has been received. Discussions need to be held with WMDC about the actions to be taken. A quotation for re-surfacing the area around the roundabout has been obtained but action will be held in abeyance until other issues with the roundabout have been resolved.

Resolved to note the report.

Councillor Lee declared a personal interest before the next item because the owners of 2 Walton Chase and 7a The Stables are known to him.

2. To consider further correspondence about the boundary with the Recreation Ground.

Resolved that Councillor Carlon and the Clerk formulate a communication to each of the occupiers of 2 Walton Chase and 7a The Stables requesting them to securely re-instate the boundary by an appropriate date.

Councillor Massey left the meeting at this point.

103. Environmental Improvements Working Party.

1. To receive reports.

Risk assessments are nearly complete, but need to be written up. A bench found in the Jubilee Field is assessed as being beyond repair.

Resolved:

- i to note the reports.
- ii to arrange for the bench in the Jubilee Field to be removed.

2. To consider floral displays for 2016.

A quotation from First Impressions at the same price as last year has been received.

Resolved to order 35 displays for 2016.

104. Tree Working Party

1. To receive reports.

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Altofts have concluded their tree maintenance work and a report of the survey is awaited.

2. To consider a quotation for the removal of the diseased elm.

Altofts are waiting for information about the costs of signage which will be needed when School Lane is closed during the felling, so a full cost of removal is not yet available.

Resolved:

- i to note the reports.
- ii to proceed with the removal of the elm on the basis of the cost of the previous occasion when an elm was removed outside the Village Hall.

105. To receive a report on the recent Town and Parish Liaison Group meeting.

The Clerk circulated a report of the meeting with the agenda.

Resolved to note the report.

106. To consider dates of Council meetings in 2016.

Resolved:

- i Council meeting dates for 2016: 12th January; 2nd February; 1st March; 5th April; 3rd May; 7th June; 5th July; 6th September; 4th October; 1st November; 6th December.
- ii The date of the Annual Parish Meeting will be Tuesday 19th April 2016.

107. To receive matters reported directly to the Clerk.

A recent article in the Wakefield Express referred to heritage places 'at risk', but did not include the wall around Waterton Park.

There appears to have been no progress on the retrospective application for a caravan site on the border with Crofton.

Resolved:

- i Cllr Birkby will investigate the criteria for classing a heritage site to be 'at risk'.
- ii The Clerk will contact WMDC Planning Department about the caravan site application.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.