

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th January 2016

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

In attendance: Cllr M Cummings (WMDC); 3 members of the public & the Clerk to the Council.

124. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs: J Carlon and D Pickover & F Heptinstall and A Manifold (WMDC) & APS Matthew Jackson.

125. To receive declarations of interest.

There were none.

126. To approve the minutes of the council meetings held on 1st December 2015.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 1st December without amendment as a correct record.

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

Councillor Massey reported that a member of the public has expressed concern about work being carried out at the New Inn car park, including the removal of the pub garden, and that she referred the person to Wakefield Council for further information. She has been asked by a local farmer to make dog owners aware that farm animals such as cattle can be scared by loose dogs in fields and she has put this notice on the Parish Council Facebook page.

Residents in Brooklands have reported large amounts of dog mess on the pavement when walking to school. Councillor Cummings undertook to follow this complaint up. Councillor Massey has made a grant application for play equipment.

128. 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.

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

A written report from APS Matthew Jackson was circulated showing 5 crimes in December involving burglary, theft of vehicles and other crime.

There were 12 calls relating to anti-social behaviour of which 6 related to fly tipping and others to suspicious individuals carol singing or selling goods.

27.5 hours were worked under the SAFE scheme, 23.5 by Police Officers and 4 by PCSOs.

All areas of the village were patrolled and speed checks were carried out along Shay Lane resulting in several traffic offence reports being submitted.

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Councillors reported people have been seen, once again, carrying guns along The Balk. When challenged, the men say they are shooting rabbits and have the landowner's permission.

Resolved to note the reports.

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

Councillor Cummings reported the proposed six week closure of Shay Lane for sewer works has been postponed till the school summer holidays. She was asked to make representations about the shuttle bus arrangements when the closure takes place. She will be having a meeting about parking problems at the school the following day with Bob Whyatt, Senior Traffic Engineer and Parish Councillors are welcome to attend. Following the report that a recently repaired pothole is already showing signs of deterioration it has been repaired again. A pothole on Shay Lane has also been repaired.

Councillor Cummings reported that, following widespread flooding in the region, Wakefield Council will provide skips to clear damaged goods and will waive council tax on any property affected.

Councillors reported that Drain Beck needs clearing to avoid any further flooding, and that water lying on Shay Lane will be a hazard if temperatures go below freezing. She offered to do a walk of the area with Councillor Shaw to assess any problems.

Resolved to note the reports.

131. Finance

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

The Clerk submitted details (copy attached to minutes) of accounts paid totalling £1,946.13 and income received of £615.53 in December.

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

Current a/c:	£2,782.26
Barclays Business Res a/c:	£31,324.95
HSBC deposit a/c:	<u>£15,053.69</u>
Total	£49,160.90

Resolved to approve the financial statements and payments.

2. To consider the budget for 2016/17.

The Clerk circulated a draft budget before the meeting. The draft budget was based on the forecast income and expenditure for the current financial year 2015/16 which was discussed at the December meeting and which showed a forecast balance of funds at 31st March 2016 of £34,307.

The draft budget for 2016/17 proposed that income would exceed expenditure by £500.

Resolved:

- i. to increase the amount in the draft budget for expenditure on environmental improvements by £500.
- ii. to increase the amount in the draft budget for expenditure playground equipment by £400.
- iii. to leave the amount budgeted for village security as proposed, but to re-evaluate the situation at the end of the current year when any carryover is known.
- iv. to increase the precept by £400 from £33,600 to £34,000, a rise of 1.2%, so that budgeted income and expenditure are equal.

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- v. to leave the hire charges at their current level.

132. To consider correspondence received.

Resolved:

- i to reply to the e-mail concerning village communication by giving details of the current ways the Parish Council keeps electors informed and to invite the correspondent to attend Parish Council meetings.
- ii to reply to the e-mail about the Village Hall Notice Board that Notice Boards with glass protection would be investigated.
- iii that Councillors Lee, Massey and Shaw and the Clerk would accept an invitation to attend a meeting about Brook Farm with WMDC.
- iv to note other correspondence.

133. Planning Working Party.

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

6 planning applications were validated and 6 decided since the last meeting.

A decision is expected imminently about application 14/02433/FUL for a caravan site on Oakenshaw Lane.

Resolved:

- i to comment on application 15/02847/FUL at 51 School Lane drawing attention to the comments made by the Parish Council for the previous similar application 08/02089/FUL and to request due regard is taken of Policy 4, Historic Core, of the Walton Neighbourhood Plan.
- ii to make no comment on the other validated applications.

2. To receive an update on planning application 15/02718/FUL at Walton Manor.

The relevant points noted at the last meeting have been put to the Planning Officer who is awaiting responses from the agent involved.

Resolved: to note the report.

3. Neighbourhood Planning.

Councillor Massey reported the result of the referendum held on 3 December was a resounding 'Yes' to the question: "Do you want Wakefield Metropolitan District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Walton Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" 95% of the votes cast were in favour and the turnout was 34%.

WMDC now have to officially approve the adoption of the Plan as part of the LDF.

Resolved:

- i to note the report.
- ii to thank, once again, members of the Steering Group and Carole Crookes of WMDC for a successful result.

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

Work on paving outside Coronation Cottage has started. The need for work on the porch has been identified.

Resolved to note the reports.

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

Nothing to report.

136. Environmental Improvements Working Party - to receive reports.

Nothing to report.

137. Tree Working Party - to receive reports.

The survey report has been received and circulated to the Working Party. A quote has been received for felling the elm tree with costs dependent on the method of closure of the road when felling takes place.

Resolved:

- i to note the reports.
- ii to accept the quote for felling the elm.

138. To consider correspondence relating to the boundary of the Recreation Ground.

Following the request by the Parish Council to the occupiers of 2 Walton Chase and 7a The Stables to securely re-instate the boundary, further correspondence from the owners of 2 Walton Chase was received.

Resolved:

- i to respond to the owners of 2 Walton Chase that, as owners of the land, the Parish Council has the capacity to determine how access to the Recreation Ground is arranged and to re-iterate the request to re-instate the boundary without any access point.
- ii to ask YLCA for further information in case it is required.

139. To consider the External Audit regime from the start of the 2017/18 financial year.

Resolved to participate in the audit regime of the Sector Led Body.

140. To receive matters reported directly to the Clerk.

The Chairman reported that the recently bought chairs in the Committee Room are already stained and there are children's fingerprints on the windows.

Resolved that the Clerk write to the groups who use the Hall pointing out the problem and asking for their co-operation in preventing its re-occurrence.

Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.