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**The Minutes of the Meeting of Walsoken Parish Council held in
Walsoken Village Hall on Tuesday 7th January 2014 at 7pm**

PRESENT

Councillors Fred Leach (Chair), John Woolley (Vice Chair), Andy Houghton, Jenny Snow, Joanna Woolley, Frank Smith, Lisa Wiffen and Allan Landall.

Borough Councillors Brian Long and Roy Groom.

County Cllr Fred Agnew (arrived at 7.35pm)

County Cllr Harry Humphrey (arrived at 8.30pm).

00. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present.

01. APOLOGIES AND REASONS

Cllr Bettinson – injured foot, Cllr Harvey – prior engagement, County Cllr Humphrey – will be arriving late due to Borough Council meeting, Bridget Wall – car won't start.

02. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

03. NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS TO BE PUT ON THE AGENDA UNDER 'AOB'

Clerk had item of correspondence regarding allotments..

Cllr Houghton had an item under Highways.

Cllr Snow wished to discuss emails under the A47 junction under Matters Arising.

04. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 5th November 2013

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2013 had been circulated.

Cllr Landall had circulated an amendment dated 2nd January 2014, regarding the omission of his suggestion that the Parish Council make some sort of presentation as to why a roundabout was its preferred option, which he asked to be included in the November Minutes. It was decided to include and attach his email to the November Minutes.

Cllr Houghton asked that Cllr Long's name was wrongly quoted in the amendment to the September Minutes and asked for it to be changed to Cllr Humphrey.

With the inclusion of the above two amendments, Cllr Landall proposed they be accepted as a true copy, seconded Cllr Snow, unanimously agreed.

05. MATTERS ARISING

a) **Public Meeting 24th January 2014 re A47/Broadend Road junction** - Clerk read out latest letter from Highways Agency stating that due to resourcing constraints they anticipated completing the design of a safety scheme this financial year in preparation for the works to go ahead early next year (2014/15).

A lengthy discussion followed including the following points -

- a) lack of response from some invitees, including MPs.
- b) Cllr Leach does not wish to be part of the new Action Group.
- c) confirmation of Parish Council's decision for a roundabout.
- d) clarification of Public Meeting's Agenda.
- e) Action Group's formation.
- f) content of Press release.
- g) confusion re pre-meeting.
- h) whether all councillors are receiving relevant e-mails.
- i) Councillors who are interested in joining Action Group.
- j) collection of names from interested parties on the night.
- k) who will speak on the night and time allowance.
- l) Question and answer session.
- m) confidence was expressed in Cllr leach's ability to Chair the Public meeting.
- n) layout of the room.
- o) use of an overhead projector.

The following decisions were made -

1. If an Action Group is formed it will be completely independent from the Parish Council and form its own committee and constitution.
2. Councillors can join the Group as individuals.
3. Clerk to ask Elizabeth Truss if she will speak at the Public meeting.

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4. Clerk to ask Bridget Wall if she will act as co-ordinator.
5. Clerk to chase Stephen Barclay to invite him again and mention the proposed new buildings in Cambridgeshire which will effect his constituency.
6. Chair to meet as soon as possible with Cllrs John Woolley , Andy Houghton, Clerk and any other interested councillors to put together an Agenda which will be circulated for approval.
7. The purpose of the Public Meeting was agreed to be “to form an Action Group to discuss safety improvements at the A47/Broadend Road junction”.
8. Room layout to be in a horseshoe formation with seats reserved for councillors and invitees in the audience.
9. Cllr Houghton and Cllr Landall will organise Overhead Projection.
10. Cllr Houghton drew up a Press Release which was approved. Clerk to forward to local papers, radio stations and TV stations.

b) Partnership Funding – Clerk confirmed the bid had to be submitted by 31st January 2014. Chair confirmed that one project had been submitted which was the bus stop in Burrett Road. He had been to view this site and spoken to nearby residents who had concerns about vandalism. He considered there would also be a problem with fitting a shelter on the existing site as there was already a problem with subsidence, evidenced by a large puddle in a resident's driveway. It was decided that the bid could be applied for in the future rather than rush into it this year.

c) i) Feedback from Borough Council Precept meeting – Cllrs Leach and John Woolley had attended and considered it to be well presented but a complicated subject.

c) ii) Precept for year ending March 2015 – The Budget had been circulated with examples of an increase of 1%, 2% and 3% in the Precept. It was noted that the Borough Council will be looking into the amounts Parish Councils are requesting for their Precepts and there is a possibility they may be capped in the future. Cllr John Woolley proposed an increase of 2% in the Precept, seconded by Cllr Landall, unanimously agreed.

d) Budget for year ending March 2015 – the Budget had been circulated.

Cllr Jo Woolley proposed the Budget be accepted, seconded Cllr Wiffen, unanimously agreed.

e) Removal of street lights – Cllr Leach proposed this item is deferred to the next meeting in view of the time.

06. PLANNING

a) Planning Applications – The Planning Report had been circulated and was read out and noted.

b) Training sessions – two sessions were offered by the Borough Council on 10th and 11th February. Cllr Leach would attend the 10th February session, Cllr Snow will let Clerk know.

07. HIGHWAYS

a) Hedge in Burrett Road – Cllr Houghton asked up-to-date position and it was confirmed that this is being dealt with by the Highways Department.

b) Argyll Gardens – Cllr Houghton reported that both the top of the road joining Burrett Road and the main road are deteriorating to the point of being dangerous. Clerk to report to Highways and chase for clarification of whether residents are responsible.

08. STREET LIGHTING

Nothing to report.

09. ALLOTMENTS

Clerk advised of a meeting held by County Farms Estates on 10th February.

10. CHURCHYARD AND WAR MEMORIAL

a) War Memorial – Cllr Landall advised that this year is the 100 year commemoration of the outbreak of World War 1. He reported that he was not happy with the Remembrance Service in November and there was a high number of young children present.

Cllr Groom advised that there is a £200 Borough Council Grant available from Sarah Dennis.

b) Poppy Wreaths – it was reported that historically the Parish Council purchased two wreaths, one for the Council and one on behalf of the War Memorial Committee, which no longer exists.

It was decided to continue with two wreaths but the wording on the War Memorial Committee to be amended to “On behalf of the people of the Parish of Walsoken”.

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11.FINANCE

a) Payments for approval – the payments on the attached schedule had been circulated. Cllr Wiffen proposed they be accepted Cllr Jo Woolley seconded, all in favour.

b) Landscape Group grasscutting contract - Clerk read out the details of the new contract for 2014 which is the same as last year, i.e. 16 cuts a year and herbicide application to the French drain at base of church walls. Total cost has increased by £6.72 to £678.72 + VAT. Cllr Landall confirmed that he had been very happy with the cutting last year. Cllr Leach proposed the new contract be accepted, all in agreement.

12. SNAP MEETING FEEDBACK

a) Cllr Long had attended and stated that priority had been given to oil thefts and parking and speeding near schools. The Police have also received notification of thefts of garden ornaments recently. The next meeting is Wednesday 15th January at Marshland High School.

b) Calling 101 number – A query was raised about feedback from reporting crimes on the 101 telephone number. It was suggested that if a crime number is given then you should be able to follow it up.

13. JOINT PARISH COUNCIL FEEDBACK

Cllr Humphrey attended and reported that the meeting was very poorly attended. Common issues appear to be clearance of public rights of way and the work of Highway Rangers. The next meeting is the second Monday in March but location not confirmed.

14.CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was available for viewing prior to the meeting.

A query was raised about a recent request from Mr Doubleday asking for councillor's names and addresses. Clerk confirmed that, after consultation with NALC, the details had been forwarded to Mr Doubleday.

15.URGENT BUSINESS

a) Development Plan - A47 junction - Cllr Humphrey was asked if he had any more information regarding the Highways Agency statement about the A47 junction which was in contrast to that stated in the Development Plan. He was unable to clarify this.

b) New trod in Burrett Road and Blackbear Lane – it was noted the trod is progressing nicely but there was a problem with an overgrown hedge in Blackbear Lane which the workmen had said is being dealt with.

16.AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (25th February)

Removal of street lights.

Public Open meeting is Friday 24th January 2014 at 7pm at Walsoken Village Hall.

Next meeting is Tuesday 25th February 2014 at 7pm at Walsoken Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Annette Williams, Clerk

Chair..... Date.....2014