

**Walsoken Parish Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**held in Walsoken Village Hall at 7pm**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Fred Leach (Chair), John Woolley (Vice Chair), Barry Sisson, Andy Houghton, Jenny Snow, Clive Bettinson, Allan Landall and Joanna Woolley.

Item No.	Detail
1	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> None present
2	<b>APOLOGIES</b> County Cllr Harry Humphrey – attending Emneth Parish Council meeting; Borough Cllr. Roy Groom – sharing attendance between 3 Parish Council meetings; Cllr Lisa Wiffen – prior engagement
3	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> None
4	<b>URGENT MATTERS</b> None
5	<b>MINUTES OF 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015</b> The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2015 had been circulated. Cllr Joanna Woolley proposed they are accepted as a true copy, seconded Cllr Snow, unanimously agreed.
6a)	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> <b>Parish Council website</b> – it was decided that an item on the street light conversion is added, confirming the savings and the improved lighting.
6b)	<b>Street light electricity supply</b> – the quotes had been circulated (all figures are per annum + VAT)– Npower £1,186; Green £708; Southern £467; Eon £363 and EDF were unable to provide a quote. After discussion Cllr Landall proposed the Council stays with Eon, its present supplier, seconded by Cllr Snow, all in favour.
6c)	<b>Street light maintenance contract</b> – it was confirmed that the new LED lights have a 10 year manufacturer's guarantee. K&M Lighting had been contacted by the Clerk but had not provided a quote. Westcotec had quoted an annual maintenance charge of £176.76 + VAT for a minimum 3 year contract. After discussion Cllr Sisson proposed continuing the contract with Westcotec, seconded Cllr Houghton, all in favour.
6d)	<b>Overgrown trees</b> – Clerk confirmed she had written to Mr & Mrs Cartwright on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2015 but had received no response. It was decided to refer this matter to Highways, also mentioning the verge. <b>Car parking</b> – Clerk to also report to Highways cars parked outside 99 Broadend Road which are jutting out onto the road causing other vehicles to swerve into the middle of the road.
6e)	<b>Pumping station</b> – Cllr Houghton reported that it still looked a mess. Clerk to write to Anglian Water to ask if they have visited.
6f)	<b>Trees in closed churchyard</b> – Cllr Landall reported that work began during the week commencing November 30 <sup>th</sup> 2015 beginning with the tree adjacent Mrs South's property. On the second visit 5 of the lime trees were finished and Landscape said they would return in the New Year. Clerk to write to Andy Griffith to say the Council is pleased with the work and ask when he expects it to be completed as this is insurance work so needs to be finished as soon as possible.
6g)	<b>Tree plaque</b> – Fen Regis had quoted £100 + VAT for a brass plaque including engraving with black infill paint, screw holes and screws. Cllr Joanna Woolley had been unable to obtain a quote. It was decided after a discussion to accept the Fen Regis quote, Clerk to organise completion.

6h)	<b>Grass cutting contract</b> – Clerk has confirmed to Landscape that the Council accepted the lower quote of £685 + VAT for the maintenance of the churchyard for 2016 as per the agreed specification. Cllr Landall will discuss his requirements for the builders' bags with Andy Griffiths.
6l)	<b>Missing Links pathways</b> – Cllr Leach confirmed he had spoken to a representative and had suggested that a footpath is needed to serve the Broadend Industrial estate as workers often walk to/from here. The Missing Links survey was completed noting that poor maintained paths and overgrown vegetation stop people using them. Also the main lengths of pathways are in Cambridgeshire. The track between Green Lane and Orchard Drive is sometimes cultivated along with the land either side.
7	<b>CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR</b> Rosie Woolgar's email had been circulated thanking councillors but declining the position as she had commitments on Tuesday evenings. One vacancy still remains.
8	<b>PLANNING</b> The planning Report had been circulated and was noted. <b>15/02037/F</b> – Clerk to chase clarification of the two addresses quoted for the site and on the application. Local knowledge is that Biggs Road starts on the south end at the junction of Green Lane and Wilkins Road. <b>15/02109/O</b> – it was decided to recommend approval subject to a footpath, improved road surfacing and street lighting.
9	<b>HIGHWAYS</b> Clerk reported that the Highways Rangers would be working in the village this week.
10	<b>STREET LIGHTING</b> Nothing to report
11	<b>ALLOTMENTS</b> Nothing to report
12a)	<b>CHURCHYARD AND WAR MEMORIAL</b> <b>War Memorial floodlighting</b> – Cllr Landall had been asked to bring the proposal forward to the Parish Council to commemorate the end of World War One. The proposal was that the Parish Council installs four permanent floodlights sunk into the tarmac square around the Memorial. It was thought that grants such as WREN were available. A discussion followed about power supply, installation costs, ongoing annual costs, funding and responsibility for the land. Cllr Landall will enquire whether the proposal is feasible and what church permission would be required also what the likely costs would be. Clerk to write to Bob Ollier to ask if Fenland District Council would be prepared to take on the project as they are responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard. It was agreed that the planting of the second tree to commemorate the end of WW1 would still go ahead.
12b)	<b>War Memorial repairs</b> – Cllr Landall raised the repairing of the bayonet and strap on the War Memorial. Clerk informed the Council that the War Memorial Trust had advised that any repairs would have to be a faithful reproduction of the original design and there must be historic evidence to support the work. Cllr Landall will make enquiries into the history of this.
13a)	<b>FINANCE</b> <b>Payments and receipts</b> – the attached list had been circulated. Clerk advised that the invoice for the LED street light conversion had been received in the sum of £12,038.78 and as this had been agreed and expected, cheque number 101700 was written out for this amount payable to Westcotec and included in payments agreed. Proposed by Cllr Landall, seconded by Cllr Joanna Woolley, all in favour.

13b)	<b>Budget for the year ending March 2017</b> – Clerk had circulated the figures and answered queries. The Budget was approved and signed as proposed by Cllr Sisson, seconded Cllr Landall, all agreed.
13c)	<b>Precept for the year ending March 2017</b> – Clerk had illustrated a 1% and 2% increase and after discussion Cllr Landall proposed a 1% increase to £8,752, seconded by Cllr Houghton, all in favour.
14	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b> Clerk advised that the Clerk & Councils newsletter for January 2016 was available.
15	<b>URGENT BUSINESS</b> Nothing to report
16	<b>AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016</b> Village Hall report from Cllr Woolley
	<p>The meeting was closed at 8.40pm Annette Williams, Clerk</p> <p>..... (Chair) .....2016</p>