

**Walsoken Parish Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016**  
**held in Walsoken Village Hall at 7pm**

**PRESENT**

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

Borough Cllrs. Brian Long and Roy Groom.

Item No.	Detail
132	<b>Public Participation</b> Mr John Harwin and his wife were present. Mr Harwin was considering whether to put himself forward for co-option on the council.
133	<b>Apologies</b> Cllr Lisa Wiffen – hockey training County Cllr Harry Humphrey – Borough Council meetings
134	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Cllr Landall declared an interest in the church as Rector.
135	<b>Urgent Matters</b> Cllr Houghton had an item under Highways. Clerk had items of Correspondence.
136	<b>Approve the Minutes</b> The Minutes of the meeting held 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 had been circulated and were approved and signed as a true copy, proposed by Cllr Sisson, seconded Cllr Snow.
137a.	<b>Matters Arising</b> <b>Council website</b> – Clerk advised that an article on the LED street light conversion had been added. Cllr Houghton had updated the banner image showing a shot of the orchards. He asked if anyone had any photos they wanted to include to send them to him.
137b.	<b>Overgrown trees</b> – Clerk had been advised that the trees had now been cut back in Broadend Road East.
137c.	<b>Car parking on the highway</b> – it was noted that the car had been removed which had been parked on the verge in Burrett Road opposite the junction with Chapnall Road. There was still a green car in position. The parking previously reported outside a house in Biggs Road had slightly improved.
137d.	<b>Pumping station in Burrett Road</b> – Anglia Water had completed the work and it was noted that the site was now looking tidy.
137e.	<b>Tree work in the closed churchyard</b> – Cllr Landall advised that about 80% of the work had been completed and Landscape had done a good job. There were still several more trees to do.
137f.	<b>Tree plaque</b> – Clerk advised that the engraved brass plaque had now been positioned by Cllr Leach.
137g.	<b>War Memorial floodlighting</b> – Cllr Landall advised he will approach Harnwells for a quote and to ask if the proposed lighting is feasible. Clerk read out the reply from Bob Ollier at Fenland District Council stating that the Council was unable to assist with any funding.
137h.	<b>War Memorial history and repairs</b> – Cllr Landall advised that members of the church have photographs of the original Memorial and rifle.
138	<b>Co-option of a councillor</b> Mr and Mrs Harwin were present to decide if one of them wanted to put their name forward for co-option. Mr Harwin had been a local postman for many years.

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139	<p><b>Planning applications and decisions</b></p> <p>The Planning report had been circulated and was noted.</p> <p>A discussion followed and decisions were made as follows -</p> <p>15/01912/O – approved subject to the Environmental Quality conditions being met satisfactorily.</p> <p>16/00162/O – approved subject to the Environmental Quality conditions being met satisfactorily.</p> <p>16/00180/FM – approved.</p> <p>16/00212/F – approved.</p> <p>16/00197/F – no decision made.</p> <p>16/00227/F – deferred to Kings Lynn Borough Council as there are concerns about what seasonal work is required for the business.</p>
140a.	<p><b>Highway matters</b></p> <p><b>HighwaysRangers</b> - Clerk advised that the Rangers would be visiting Walsoken during the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> March. A pothole on Church Road opposite the beech tree to be reported plus items previously reported.</p> <p>Clerk stated that there had been no reply to emails sent to Highways regarding work reported to them. As previous emails had been ignored, it was suggested that Karl Rands at Norfolk County Council is emailed to ask why there is no feedback being given, copying in Cllr Humphrey and Cllr Agnew.</p>
140b.	<p><b>Footpath between Church Road and Sylvden Drive</b> – it was noted that this becomes overgrown later in the year.</p>
140c.	<p><b>Junction on A47/Broadend Road</b> – A letter from Catherine Brookes replying to Elizabeth Truss MP had been circulated. There were no further developments to report.</p>
140d.	<p><b>BT manhole cover on corner of Burrett and Sparrowgate Road</b> – Clerk had reported this to Open Reach as tarmac had been built up around it resulting in the manhole being sunken into the path. Open Reach had advised her that they would be lifting the manhole in the next few weeks. Cllr Houghton had intended to report this item.</p>
140e.	<p><b>Traffic Order</b> – road closure on Wisbech Road had been circulated.</p>
141	<p><b>Street lighting</b></p> <p>A new list of lights had been produced as a light on the corner of Sparrowgate and Burrett Road hadn't been listed, along with a light on the corner of Burrett Road at the junction with Blackbear Lane.</p> <p>Clerk reported that the light outside 80 Blackbear Lane hadn't been converted so it was agreed that this would need to be done as part of the Council's original decision, at Wescotec's cost of £297.26 + VAT.</p> <p>Clerk to advise E.On that the Council now owns 34 lights – 33 are LED plus 1 in the churchyard.</p>
142	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p>It was noted that the fly tipping rubbish was still in place.</p>
143	<p><b>Village Hall</b></p> <p>Cllr John Woolley had attended the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January and reported that no response had been received from the Robert Hall Foundation regarding funding towards central heating. Following recent problems, the dance floor had been treated and was now considered suitable. A discussion took place about commissioning an 8 x 4 painting in the Village Hall. The committee asked the Parish Council to consider the possibility of a village sign. The AGM is 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016.</p>
144	<p><b>SNAP feedback</b></p> <p>Cllr Leach apologised that he had not been able to attend.</p> <p>Cllr Long reported that the meeting had been fairly well attended and there were no adopted</p>

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	priorities. A question had been asked about Police Constables attending parish council meetings but the Police were adamant that SNAP meetings are the way engagement should take place.
145	<p><b>Churchyard</b>  Cllr Landall had spoken to Andy Griffiths at The Landscape Group and asked that builders' bags are available all year round.  It was agreed that future contracts for the maintenance of the closed churchyard should have a start date of January each year and run for 12 months.</p>
146	<p><b>Village sign</b>  After discussion it was decided that this wouldn't be a viable proposal due to the difficulty of finding a central position and the cost couldn't be justified. Cllr John Woolley will advise the Village Hall Committee.</p>
147a.	<p><b>Finance</b>  <b>Payments</b> – the attached schedule had been circulated and was read out. Cllr Joanna Woolley proposed they be accepted, seconded by Cllr Landall.</p>
147b.	<p><b>Audit</b> – Clerk advised that next financial year the arrangements would be changing for small Parish Councils with a turnover of less than £25,000. After discussion it was decided to continue with a full audit with Mazars as the fee had been £100 last year.</p>
148	<p><b>Correspondence</b>  The Clerk had 2 items -  Information about free NHS Health checks.  An email from Anglian Water giving information about their new campaign called "Pollution Watch". A Pollution Hotline is available on 03457 145145 to report pollution incidents.</p>
149	<p><b>Urgent Business</b>  Cllr Houghton reported that a sign had been knocked over on the small roundabout on Lynn Road, close to Wheatley Bank junction. Cllr John Woolley thought work was being carried out here.</p>
150	<p><b>Agenda items for the Annual Assembly on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>  None reported.</p>
	The meeting closed at 8.25pm

.....Chair

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