

Walsoken Parish Council Minutes
of A.G.M. on Tuesday 24th May 2016
held in Walsoken Village Hall at 7.10pm

PRESENT

Councillors Fred Leach (Chair), John Woolley (Vice Chair), Barry Sisson, Allan Landall, John Harwin and Andy Houghton (arrived 7.10pm).

Borough Cllr. Roy Groom.

Item No.	Detail
18	Election of Chair Bor. Cllr. Groom took the Chair and asked for nominations for Chair. Cllr Leach was proposed by Cllr Landall. No further nominations were made so Cllr Groom declared Cllr. Leach as Chair. Cllr Leach thanked everyone for their support over the last 12 months and signed a Declaration of Office.
19	Election of Vice Chair Cllr John Woolley was proposed by Cllr Sissons and as there were no other nominations, Cllr Woolley was declared Vice Chair.
20	Nomination of Planning Committee After discussion it was decided that the Planning Committee from last year would continue, subject to Cllrs Bettinson and Houghton being willing to stand in their absence. Clerk to contact them. Cllr Sisson offered to add comments to applications pending gaining more experience in planning. It was agreed that Clerk will continue to forward all new applications to the whole Council.
21	Village Hall Representative Cllr John Woolley offered to continue in this role.
22	Public Participation No-one present.
23	Apologies Cllr Snow – holiday Cllr Wiffen – in Northampton Cllr Joanna Woolley – family matter County Cllr Humphrey – holiday Borough Cllr Long – Borough Council meeting
24	Declarations of Interest None declared.
25	Urgent Matters None reported.
26	Approve the Minutes The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held 12 th April 2016 had been circulated and were approved and signed as a true copy, proposed by Cllr Houghton, seconded Cllr Sisson. The Minutes of the meeting held 12 th April 2016 had been circulated and were approved and signed as a true copy, proposed by Cllr Sisson, seconded Cllr Houghton.
27a.	Matters Arising Council website – Clerk reported that a new section for Elections had been added.
27b.	Tree work in the churchyard – Cllr Landall confirmed that the tree work had been completed.
27c.	War Memorial history – Clerk read the email dated September 2013 from Peter Wadlow advising that the Walsoken War Memorial Committee was set up after World War 1 ended and the War Memorial in the churchyard was completed and dedicated in 1921. This Committee existed until about 1993 when responsibility for the Memorial passed to Walsoken Parish Council. All Saints Walsoken organised its own Memorial which is inside the church building.

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	<p>Clerk advised that she had contacted Fenland District Council to enquire if they owned the Memorial. Cllr Landall was unsure who owned the land but will investigate and advise the Council.</p>
27d.	<p>War Memorial floodlighting– it was agreed that it will be necessary to establish ownership of land so that permission can be obtained before any installation of floodlights takes place. Cllr Leach reminded the Council that Cllr Landall's proposal put forward at January's meeting was for the installation of 4 permanent floodlights sunk into the tarmac square around the Memorial, to commemorate the end of World War One. A vote on this proposal would be taken in the future, pending consideration of quotes, funding, land ownership, permissions, responsibilities , power supply, lighting times. Cllr Landall clarified that the proposal was put forward by him on behalf of parishioners, it was not a Church or personal project. Cllr Landall thought that the Heritage Lottery Fund would be a likely source of funding and suggested stating that the project is to commemorate the end of WW1 and include some aspect of a community dimension, possibly including that this would give younger people a better appreciation of WW1. Clerk to investigate. Cllr Landall had received a quote from Gerald Harnwell for the installation of 4 flush floodlights and connection for £6,496 + VAT. The power supply could be taken from the light in the churchyard and the predicted running cost would be 9p-11p for 2 hours. A suggestion was made that 2 lights might suffice to give impact from the road. The need for comparative quotes was discussed and Cllr Houghton offered to obtain a comparison. It was noted that a second tree had already been agreed to commemorate the end of WW1, and the site had been earmarked</p>
27e.	<p>War Memorial repairs – Cllr Landall had been advised that the make of the rifle was a 1907 Patent 1 Mark 1 and he will ask Mr. Woodhouse for more information. Clerk to enquire if the War Memorial Trust can fund the repair of the bayonet and strap.</p>
27f.	<p>Highway Ranger feedback – Clerk reported that Andy Wallace from Highways had met with councillors in the village, following which a dangerous pothole had been filled in that evening. He had noted various items, including the overgrown hedge in Burrett Road. He advised that a new direct reporting system was in place on the website where a location can be pinpointed on a map. Andy Wallace advised that when the Rangers visit to do work it would be better if someone could arrange to meet them. The next visit is during the week commencing 11th July and if the Clerk isn't available she will email to ask if a councillor can meet them.</p>
27g.	<p>Open Space in Sleights Drive – Clerk had received a reply from Cleanup at the Borough Council advising that the grass in Sleights Drive is cut about every 6 weeks , weather and machinery dependent. It was noted that the grass has now been cut. A discussion took place about the poor quality of grass cutting on some verges in Burrett Road.</p>
28	<p>Smells in the village Emails had been received since the last meeting reporting the bad smells in the village. A joint letter from Environment Agency and Borough Council dated 11 May 2016 giving an update on Strattons Liquid Waste Disposal Ltd had been received by the Clerk and was read out. The main points were that Strattons had not submitted an application for a new bespoke permit of reduced the waste stored on the site, the deadline being the end of September 2016. The Borough Council and the EA will continue to work closely to address the odour issues with the site and land spreading activities and will write again when they have any further information or update. They advised that all odour issues must be reported to the EA's 24 hour incident hotline on 0800 807060 as soon as possible.</p>

Item No.	Detail
29	<p>Village Hall Report</p> <p>Cllr John Woolley had attended the Village Hall AGM on 26th April 2016 and reported that they had received a grant of £10,000 from the Robert Hall Foundation to cover the cost of upgrading the central heating, the actual cost being £8,750 and the balance will be used for further improvements to the Hall.</p> <p>An estimate to upgrade the Hall lighting of £4,395 had been received.</p> <p>The Hall has been running at a loss for the last 2 years but it was hoped this financial year would show a small profit.</p> <p>The mural is in hand for the wall above the stage, it's thought the Church will be central to this</p>
30	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>The Planning report had been circulated and was noted.</p> <p>A discussion followed about the Heacham public enquiry, the 5 year supply of housing and the need for housing in the area.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the lack of infrastructure for the number of infills and the Borough Council's seeming reluctance to take notice of Parish Council comments. It was established that the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee but it is normal practice to notify the Parish Council.</p>
31	<p>Highways</p> <p>Nothing further to report.</p>
32	<p>Street lighting</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
33	<p>Allotments</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
34	<p>Churchyard</p> <p>Nothing further to report.</p>
35a.	<p>Finance</p> <p>Payments – the attached schedule had been circulated and was read out.</p> <p>Cllr Sisson proposed the payments be accepted, seconded by Cllr John Woolley.</p>
35b.	<p>Donations -</p> <p>It was agreed that the the request from Cambs. Lowland Rescue is declined as it is in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Cllr Landall proposed a donation of £50 each is made to Norfolk Age UK and Magpas, seconded Cllr Sisson, all in favour.</p>
35c.	<p>Accounts for year ended 31st March 2016 – the Internal Audit had been completed and the Annual Governance Statement and Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting . Asset values had been confirmed by NALC and the Internal Auditor. Cllr Houghton proposed they are approved by the Council, seconded Cllr Landall, all in favour.</p>
36	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Clerk advised the Clerks & Councils May newsletter was the only item of correspondence.</p>
37	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
38	<p>Agenda items for the meeting on 12th July 2016</p> <p>None reported.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.55pm</p>