

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

**PRESENT**

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

Approximately 25 members of the public were present.

Item No.	Detail
39	<p><b><u>Public Participation</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Leach welcomed everyone and advised that the Parish Council Agenda had been on display on the notice board approximately 10 days beforehand and that this was a normal Council meeting.</p>
39a.	<p><b>Proposed planning application for travellers' pitches</b> - A resident stated that he was there to discuss the proposed travellers' site and the fact that no-one had known about it. Concerns were expressed about the proposed site including number of vehicles, size of day rooms, potential for more travellers to use the site, location of existing sites, justification for 12 pitches and lack of notification.</p> <p>Cllr Leach advised that the Borough Council had assured the Parish Council that notification had been posted on the brick pillar outside the site.</p> <p>He read out the Parish Council's response to the Borough Council dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July, giving the reasons for the recommendation for refusal. He advised that this is available to the public on the Borough Council website. Residents were informed that the Parish Council can only make recommendations on planning applications and do not make the decisions.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that his understanding was that there were only 5 pitches needed in the whole of West Norfolk.</p> <p>The applicant was present and stated that the site was for one family who had been in the area for 20 years and now wanted to settle.</p> <p>After a discussion it was decided that the Clerk will write to the Borough Council to advise them of the residents' concerns expressed at this meeting and residents were advised to contact the Borough Council individually with their concerns.</p>
39b.	<p><b>Speeding traffic through the village</b> – residents expressed concerns about traffic speeding along Burrett Road especially between 7-9am and 4-6pm putting pedestrians, particularly the elderly and children, at risk. Also large lorries were travelling through the village getting lost. They requested speed bumps to slow traffic and weight limits to stop HGVs.</p> <p>They were advised that Norfolk County Highways are in charge of the roads. The Parish Council was aware of the problem and had requested volunteers for a Speedwatch campaign but no-one had come forward. It was stated that a weight limit wouldn't work because existing businesses and public vehicles such as dust carts would still have right of way. Speed limit reductions had been requested in the past but weren't agreed by Highways.</p> <p>Cllr Leach advised that the Parish Council had been working with Elizabeth Truss, the local MP, and Highways England to get improvements on the A47 at the junction with Broadend Road. However, Highways England hadn't approved a sign giving clear indication for lorries to continue straight ahead at the junction rather than turn in to the village, as they considered that too many signs at the junction would be confusing.</p> <p>A member of the public offered to speak to Harringtons to ask them to divert their lorries via an alternative route.</p> <p>A discussion took place about SAM2 speed awareness signs and it was decided the Clerk will investigate the cost and details of the SAM2, plus ask for improved signage on the A47.</p> <p>Updates will be available on the Parish Council website, notice board and by contacting the Clerk.</p>
39c.	<p><b>Potholes in Burrett Road</b> – a resident pointed out that there are potholes in Burrett Road. He was advised that, following a meeting with Highways, the road will be resurfaced at some point in the future.</p>

Item No.	Detail
39d. 39e.	<p><b>Damaged tree in the churchyard</b> – a resident asked when the damaged tree will be removed and the wall repaired. He was advised that this is an item on the Agenda and will be discussed later.</p> <p><b>Police presence</b> – a resident asked why there was no Police present. He was advised that they are invited to every meeting but have other priorities.</p> <p>Cllr Leach thanked everyone for coming and advised them that the Parrish Council will work with the concerns raised.</p> <p>The public left the meeting at 7.50pm.</p>
40	<p><b>Apologies</b>  Cllr Wiffen – something came up  Cllr Joanna Woolley – unwell  Borough Cllr Long – Borough Council meeting  Borough Cllr Groom - holiday</p>
41	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Cllr Landall – church matters.</p>
42	<p><b>Urgent Matters</b>  Cllr Houghton had items for discussion.</p>
43	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b>  The Minutes of the A.G.M. held 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016 had been circulated. Cllr Houghton requested that item 27e be amended to read that the make of rifle was a 1907 SMLE Pattern. With the inclusion of this amendment, the Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy, proposed by Cllr Sisson seconded Cllr Houghton.</p>
44a.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>  <b>Council website</b> – Nothing to report.</p>
44b.	<p><b>War Memorial floodlighting</b> – Clerk advised that she had attended a Lottery funding meeting in Wisbech, located there because the Lottery Fund is targeting the Fens.</p> <p>The floodlighting would not be funded on its own but could be considered if it involved the community, particularly children and disadvantaged groups, in projects investigating the history of the Memorial or the soldiers listed. Their findings could then be presented for example as a play or a book. Translations could also be included in the history research.</p> <p>Cllr Landall stated he was aware of the community dimension, having attended meetings in the past, and was waiting for feedback on the project.</p> <p>Cllr Houghton was provisionally looking into an evacuation project with school children.</p>
44c.	<p><b>War Memorial repairs</b> – Clerk had contacted the War Memorial Trust who had confirmed that the bayonet and leather strap would be considered for a grant but all repairs must be a faithful reproduction of the original design and there must be historic evidence to support the work. Cllr Landall reported that photographs and history of the Memorial were available. It was thought that the original bayonet wasn't removable.</p> <p>Cllr Landall will research quotes.</p>
44d.	<p><b>Grass cutting</b> – Clerk reported that the Borough Council had stated that the basketball area will now be cut every 3 weeks.</p> <p>It was noted that the grass cutting in the village is generally not to a good standard, although the Borough Council had been back to cut part of Burrett Road when requested.</p>

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45a.	<p><b><u>Churchyard</u></b></p> <p><b>Fallen tree</b> – Clerk advised that 3 reports had been received in respect of the damage caused by the branch falling from the Wellingtonia, numbered 27, to the east of the churchyard. The first was from Arborcraft Tree Care in Old Hunstanton recommending that the Wellingtonia is taken down in height to the tear, the sycamore numbered 26, which was damaged by the fallen branch, is felled, and the lime numbered 23 undergoes a Picus test (this will identify the area of rot). Richard Fisher, the Arboricultural Officer at the Borough Council, recommended removing the top of the Wellingtonia, remove the sycamore and suggested 3 options for the lime – i) remove and re-plant ii) pollarding iii) Picus Tomograph – stating he would personally go for pollarding. The Landscape Group recommended reducing the height of the Wellingtonia, felling the sycamore, felling the lime and an ariel inspection on Wellingtonia numbered 16. Two quotes had been received. Arborcraft's quote for removing upper section of the Wellingtonia, felling the sycamore and removing debris was £580 +VAT Chris Hotson's quote for reducing the height of the damaged Wellingtonia, felling the sycamore, felling the lime and aerial inspection of the other Wellingtonia was £1,400 + VAT. However, he recommended that the felling of the lime isn't necessary and pollarding would leave the tree in a safe condition and reduce his quote. Cll Landall reported that the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) had to approve any proposed work before any work could commence, and, having seen the 3 reports, they weren't happy with the felling of the lime tree, preferring to have the Picus test carried out on the lime. He thought the test cost about £500. A discussion followed about the responsibility and control of the trees in the closed churchyard. Cllr Landall read from the National Association of Local Council's Legal Topic notes 64 and 65 stating that although the Parish Council has responsibility to maintain the closed churchyard, the church authority retains rights. Cllr Landall advised that the Church of England is the only institution in the land exempt from planning permission and instead have a faculty process in place, which is legal, the DAC cannot issue a faculty but can recommend it. This means everything in the church grounds needs permission before any work can be commenced. Concern was expressed about Health and Safety whilst waiting for a faculty to be issued so Cllr Landall will ask if it can be issued through the Archdeacon which would be quicker. He will also obtain a list of jobs from the DAC, which can be carried out immediately if Health and Safety is an issue. After further discussion Cllr Leach proposed that Cllr Landall applies to the DAC for a faculty for work on the Wellingtonia, felling the sycamore and pollarding the lime tree, giving them the contractors details, copying the Clerk into the email. So she has the DAC contact details. All in agreement. It was also agreed that once the permission is received that Cllr Leach, Cllr Woolley and the Clerk will arrange for the work to be completed before the next meeting.</p>
45b.	<p><b>Damage to church wall</b> – Cllr Landall advised that he had already applied for and received a faculty for repairs to the damaged wall and will email this to the Clerk. Clerk to advise eventual contractor that the original material is to be used where possible and any new material is to match. Two quotes had been received for the damaged section only, plus the damage caused to the wall between the expansion joints, as the impact from the branch had shifted the wall. S J Medlock (Builders) Ltd quoted £1,060 + VAT to renew existing section of damaged wall, replace copings and clear debris, Wayne Cowling Ltd had quoted £1,564 + VAT for the same work. Medlock's quote for renewing the complete section between expansion joints, replacing copings and clearing debris was £1,950 + VAT and Cowling's quote for the same work was £4,048 + VAT. Clerk advised the insurance excess is £125.</p>

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	<p>It was decided to accept Medlock's quote for £1,950 + VAT for renewing and repairing the whole section. Clerk to submit the quotes to the Insurance Company.</p> <p>Clerk advised that money for tree work and church wall repairs had not been included in the Budget, but must be considered in the Budget for next year.</p>
46	<p><b><u>Planning applications and decisions</u></b></p> <p>The Planning report had been circulated and was noted.  16/01090/OM – after discussion it was decided to approve this application.  16/01187/RM – after discussion it was decided to approve this application.  16/01195/PACU3 – as this is a permitted application it was unclear what response is expected from the Parish Council so Clerk will seek advice from the Borough Council.</p> <p>A request was made to add the Parish Council's planning decision process to the Agenda at the next meeting.</p>
47	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p><b>Payments</b> – the attached schedule had been circulated.  Cllr Houghton proposed the payments be accepted, seconded by Cllr Snow.</p> <p>A request was made to add Clerk's Appraisal to the Agenda at the next meeting.</p>
48a. 48b. 48c.	<p><b><u>Highways</u></b></p> <p><b>Highways Rangers</b> – it was noted that the Rangers had been seen working in the village this week.</p> <p><b>Bus stop in Chapnall Road</b> – it was noted that the edge of the path had been defined but the standing area was still uneven.</p> <p><b>Parish Partnership bid</b> – Clerk explained that Norfolk County Council was again offering to fund up to 50% of costs of successful bids towards highway improvement schemes, the deadline is 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016. They will consider SAM2 (Speed Awareness Mobile) signs, which can be jointly purchased with neighbouring parishes and would be owned and maintained by the Parish Council. After discussion it was decided Clerk to write to Westcotec to ask for details of cost and operation. Also Clerk to send an invitation to Norfolk County Council Highways to attend a Council meeting to discuss options for speed control in the village.</p>
49a 49b	<p><b><u>Street lighting</u></b></p> <p><b>Conversion of light outside 80 Blackbear Lane</b> - Westcotec advised that they would be converting the light outside 80 Blackbear Lane to LED today.</p> <p><b>Increase in supply charge</b> – Clerk had received notification from E.On that the supply charge would be increased from 12.40p per Kwh to 14.40p per Kwh with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. This was estimated to be an increase of approximately £56 per annum.  After discussion it was decided to remain with E.On for the time being.</p>
50	<p><b><u>Allotments</u></b></p> <p>Clerk had received a request for an allotment. Clerk had advised her there were no vacancies at present but she will be put on a waiting list.</p>

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51	<p><b><u>Village Hall Report</u></b>            Cllr John Woolley advised that the upgrade of the central heating had been completed. A quote of £3,663 had been received for upgrading the hall lights and 2 more quotes will be requested. Cambs. Acre is to be approached for possible grants.</p>
52	<p><b><u>SNAP Feedback</u></b>            Cllr Leach had attended the SNAP meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and reported it was poorly attended with 2 police officers and 3 council representatives. The main issues were speeding and dog fouling. No priorities were set.</p>
53	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b>            Clerk advised the Clerks &amp; Councils July newsletter and The Wizard of Oz posters were the only items.</p>
54a.	<p><b><u>Urgent Business</u></b>  <b>Sandy Lane</b> – Cllr Houghton reported that Sandy Lane is becoming reduced to a single lane in places due to the overgrown verges and is particularly dangerous to pedestrians having to walk along the road to get to the industrial estate, especially as the speed limit is 60mph. Clerk to write to both Norfolk and Cambridgeshire Councils, copying in Wisbech Town Council, to request that the verges are cut back.</p>
54b.	<p><b>Flooding at A47/Broadend Road junction</b> – Cllr Houghton reported that following recent cloudbursts, the junction had become badly flooded. Clerk to write to Highways England requesting they investigate the problem, which may be due to blocked drains.</p>
54c.	<p><b>Signage for HGVs on A47</b> – Following the concern expressed by members of the public earlier in the meeting, it was decided to request signage on the A47 to direct lorries to Princes depot to carry straight on to the roundabout with no access through the village.</p>
54d.	<p><b>Princes depot (formerly Knowles Transport)</b> – Cllr Groom had advised that an application had been received for an increase of 5 additional vehicles on site.</p>
55	<p><b><u>Agenda items for the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016</u></b>            None reported.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.35pm</p>

.....Chair

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