

Walsoken Parish Council Minutes
of meeting held on Tuesday 18th October 2016
held in Walsoken Village Hall at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors Fred Leach (Chair), John Woolley (Vice Chair), Clive Bettinson, Allan Landall and Andy Houghton.
 County Cllr Harry Humphrey.

One member of the public was present .

Item No.	Detail
74	<p><u>Apologies</u> Cllr Sisson – holiday Cllr John Harwin – holiday Cllr Lisa Wiffen – hockey club Cllr Jenny Snow – Court session Cllr Joanna Woolley – late stages of pregnancy Borough Cllr Groom – attending Parish Council meeting</p>
75	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u> Cllr Landall – church matters.</p>
76	<p><u>Urgent Matters</u> Cllr Bettinson had an item on wind turbines. Clerk had two items – advice of interest rate change and an update on Strattons.</p>
77	<p><u>Approval of the Minutes</u> The Minutes of the meeting held 6th September 2016 had been circulated. The Minutes were approved and signed as a true copy, proposed by Cllr Bettinson seconded Cllr John Houghton.</p>
78a.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> Speeding/quad bike – It was noted that PCSO Chris Lorraine had advised that members of the public should call the Police on 101 if the quad bike is seen in the village. He also advised of the Community Speed Watch scheme and Speed Awareness signs.</p>
78b.	<p>Proposed travellers' site – Clerk read out email response from Elizabeth Truss' Chief of Staff stating that they have received no updates but will forward any information to the Parish Council as soon as they receive anything.</p>
78c.	<p>Council website – Clerk reported this is still work in progress. Cllr Houghton will look into the tracking of the number of people looking at the website.</p>
78d.	<p>Signage outside Claybrook Park – Andy Wallace from Highways had reported that the Road Safety Team had suggested that before any signage is considered that the concerns are expressed directly to the company as they are not breaking any laws. After discussion it was decided that the Clerk should contact Princes to advise them that there are a number of their vehicles turning off the A47 at Broadend Road junction and, on realising that the roads through the village are too narrow, making dangerous turning manouevres in the middle of the village. A request to be made that they please notify their drivers to continue straight on to the roundabout on the A47.</p>
78e.	<p>Highways Rangers – Cllr John Woolley and the Clerk had met the Rangers in the week, and they had already completed some of the work requested. They were going to cut back the overgrowth on the bend of Broadend Road and were also asked to look at the obstructed footpath entrance off Green Lane. Clerk advised that Andy Wallace had agreed to attend the next Council meeting and it was suggested that a list of items should be drawn up to refer to him, to include - - Speed limit sign on Sparrowgate Road which is obscured from a distance. - Green Lane footpath if not already cleared as above. - Gates to the entrance of the village (installed by Salters Lode and Crimplasham parish councils</p>

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78f.	<p>with a grant from the Parish Partnership). - installation of chicanes.</p> <p>Churchyard tree work – Clerk advised that 3 quotes had now been received for work on the three identified trees i.e. felling the sycamore, pollarding the lime tree and reducing the upper section of the storm damaged Wellingtonia - Chris Hotson £925; Ravencroft Tree services Ltd £1,755; Arborcraft Tree Care (James Joyce) £1,840 Prices do not include VAT, Chris Hotson is not registered for VAT. A councillor queried the procedure for payment of invoices. It was clarified that once work is approved by the Council, the invoice payment has to be approved by the Council at Council meetings. If an invoice is not received in time to be listed, it will be minuted separately. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Landall will forward the quotes, considered to be valid, to the DAC for permission to carry out the work, highlighting that the Parish Council wants the best value for money for the parishioners of Walsoken. Clerk to be copied in to emails. The Council was reminded that in Minute 45a. (July 12th 2016) it was agreed that once permission is received, Cllr Leach, Cllr Woolley and the Clerk will arrange for the work to be completed. Beech tree – Treecare Consultants Ltd had carried out an assessment on the beech tree and the report was awaited.</p>
79	<p><u>Planning process</u> To be deferred indefinitely.</p>
80a. 80b.	<p><u>Planning</u> Appeals on 81 Broadend Road – Clerk to check website to ascertain date of decision and also ask the Borough Council if the applicant was advised of the delay. Clerk to enquire if the Borough Council advised delay in the decision to the applicant of the proposed travellers' site.</p> <p>80b. The Planning report had been circulated and was noted.</p>
81a. 81b.	<p><u>Finance</u> Scout donation request – Clerk advised that the Scout Leader had advised that the money for the Remembrance wooden crosses had now been secured this year from a private source.</p> <p>81b. Payments – the attached schedule had been circulated. Cllr Bettinson proposed the payments be accepted, seconded by Cllr Woolley.</p>
82	<p><u>Church and War Memorial</u> Cllr Landall reported that Hogg's of Bury St Edmunds, restoration contractors, had been to look at the War Memorial and advised that the bayonet and strap would have originally been made of brass. The contractor also commented that the dagger and scabbard were damaged and the plinth needed repointing as it was breaking up due to the rusting of the metal rods inside. He will forward 2 quotes, one to include part and the other to include all of this work. He suggested that grants would be available to cover all or most of the costs. Cllr Landall will obtain 1 or 2 further quotes as Bakers of Danbury had declined to take on the work.</p>
83	<p><u>Village Hall Report</u> Cllr Woolley had attended the meeting on 4th October and reported that £8,800 of the £10,000 received from the Robert Hall Foundation had been used to improve the central heating. The remaining £1,200 will be used toward new lighting. Concerts had been arranged for 2017, which are the Hall's main source of income. Over 100 tickets have already been sold for the Christmas Organ Concert on 3rd December. The original drawings for the Hall, dated 1961, were displayed.</p>

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84	<u>Highways</u> Nothing to report.
85	<u>Street lighting</u> Nothing to report.
86	<u>Allotments</u> Clerk reported that she had written to Mr Clifton for the annual rent of £1,686.25 now due.
87a.	<u>Correspondence</u> Interest rate - Clerk reported that notification had been received that the interest rate on the Active Saver will be reduced from 0.38% to 0.19% on 5 th December 2016.
87b.	Strattons – Clerk read the response from the Ely Environment Agency stating that Strattons Liquid Waste Disposal Ltd did not submit an application for a new bespoke permit but have reduced the amount of waste on the site. They are preparing a community update in conjunction with the Borough Council and will send this out again once this is finalised.
88	<u>Urgent Business</u> It was reported that complaints had been received from Walsoken residents about the noise coming from the turbines in Harps Hall Road. Clerk to report to the Borough Council and copy West Walton Parish Council into the email for their information.
89	<u>Agenda items for the next meeting</u> None reported. Please note this meeting has subsequently been rescheduled to 13 th December 2016.
	The meeting closed at 8.40pm

.....Chair

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