

Walsoken Parish Council Minutes
of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 2017
held in Walsoken Village Hall at 7pm

PRESENT

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

County Cllr. Harry Humphrey and Borough Cllr Roy Groom

Item No.	Details
97	<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>People & Animals UK - Katie Bristow and a Cambs. County officer were present from People & Animals to introduce their organisation, leaflets were circulated.</p> <p>The organisation promotes animal-assisted therapies and projects for the mutual well-being of children, young people and adults within the community in and around Wisbech. They presently have 4 therapy dogs and 5 guinea pigs plus sheep and ponies.</p> <p>The team of 4 have had an offer from Wisbech Town Council to lease 7 acres of land (presently a wheat field) in Lynn Road opposite Bambers Nurseries. They would use this as a base for Outreach work and private allocated slots, it would not be open to the general public. They hope to replicate a community farm in Hereford, installing a lodge, potting sheds, greenhouses and poly tunnels. No-one will be living permanently on the site and the area would be fenced off.</p> <p>They have had a favourable initial response from Planning at Kings Lynn Borough Council who like that there will be benefits to local residents and there is a proven track record.</p> <p>They are looking to develop relationships and networks within the Parish and are currently working with some schools and mental health organisations.</p> <p>They usually work from the Queen Mary Centre and use Fenland Association for Community Transport.</p> <p>There is a public presentation at the Oasis Community Centre on 7th December with lunch at 1.30pm followed by the presentation. Councillors were asked to email Katie on info@peopleandanimals.org.uk or ring 07841 517543 if they wished to attend.</p> <p>Katie offered to return to a Parish Council meeting if required in the future to give any further information.</p> <p>Cll Leach thanked them for coming and giving a very helpful insight into their organisation and wished them well.</p> <p>Both left at 7.25pm</p> <p>Japanese knotweed – Cllr Groom brought a Fenland Citizen article to the attention of the Council stating that the knotweed is growing near Windmill Gardens on Lynn Road. It was established that this is not within the Walsoken boundary but will be discussed later in the meeting in view of the close proximity.</p>
98	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Cllr Harwin – family commitment, Cllr Joanna Woolley – baby care and Cllr Wiffen.</p>
99	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Cllr Houghton declared an interest in a planning item which he will put forward under Urgent business.</p>
100	<p><u>Urgent Matters</u></p> <p>Cllr Houghton had 2 items – planning and the Boundary Commission.</p>
101	<p><u>Approval of the Minutes</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held 5th September 2017 had been circulated and Cllr Houghton pointed out that under item 91 a) he had meant that the Clerk should write to Cordon Care and Princes to thank them for their support and apologise they had not been included in the Fenland</p>

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	<p>Citizen article. With the inclusion of the above, the Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr Houghton, seconded Cllr Sisson, signed by Cllr Leach.</p>
<p>102</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Council website Counter statistics – Clerk reported the user statistics as at today's date as 10 visitors today, 26 yesterday, 397 in the last 7 days, 3,136 in the last 30 days and 21,914 in the last year.</p> <p>Highway items – Clerk reported the following items -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Rangers – following the visit they had trimmed hedging in Burrett Road and cleaned signed in various locations • pothole in Burrett Road near the junction of Chapnall Road - resolved • fingerpost at Burrettgate/Burrett/Sparrowgate - approximately 6 weeks • fingerpost at the junction of Blackbear Lane and Burrett Road – approximately 6 weeks • overgrown footpath at Green Lane – approximately 6 weeks. It was noted that this footpath is now in regular use by workers but farm vehicles are crossing the path between the adjacent fields causing quite a mess. Clerk to write to Nigel Harrison regarding the Right of Way. • fingerpost missing in Burrettgate Road opposite Sandy Lane – no action, will monitor. After discussion it was decided to write to Andy Wallace and tell him that the Council would like this sign replacing. • 40mph speed sign in Burrettgate Road between Sandy Lane and Sparrowgate – no action, will monitor. Clerk to advise Andy Wallace the sign needs replacing and copy Cllr Humphrey into the emails. • Sign on the east side of the A47 - Kier Services had retrieved the damaged sign which cannot be repaired. A replacement sign will be installed as soon as possible • Village boundary gates – Andy Wallace had advised that the gates need to be set back 450mm from the road edge, generally sited at the speed limit but this is not a fixed rule • Andy Wallace was unaware of the camera and suggested it could have been installed by a developer or Cambs County Council <p>Grasscutting – Clerk had circulated the Highway Boundary data forwarded by Robert Wiseman, Green Space Officer at Kings Lynn Borough Council, but not everyone had seen it so this will be carried forwarded to the next meeting for discussion.</p>
<p>103</p> <p>a)</p>	<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>The Planning Report – The Planning Report had been circulated to councillors, and was noted.</p>
<p>104</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>Dog waste bins – clerk advised that the cost of a 25 litre bin from Glasdon was £126.69 + VAT, which included delivery and an extended base post. Wayne Cowling had charged £120 + VAT to install the last bin in 2014. A discussion followed about the 2 existing bins and their usage, which leads to the bin opposite All Saints Avenue to overflow. It was decided to fix a laminated sign on this bin advising residents if the bin is full to use the other bin or take waste home. Cllr Snow will monitor the situation. Clerk to also post this on the website.</p> <p>Payments – the schedule below had been circulated. Clerk explained that Haven Power had produced invoices but had not issued Direct Debits so consequently there was an amount of just over £87 owing. The Clerk is liaising with them to</p>

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	<p>resolve the problem. Cllr Snow proposed the payments be accepted, seconded by Cllr Houghton, all in agreement.</p>				
	PAYMENTS TO BE MADE	DETAILS	NET AMOUNT	VAT	TOTAL
	101804 Mrs A Williams	Net salary 28 th August to 8 th October 2017	£184.27	£0.00	£184.27
	101805 Mrs A Williams	Expenses to 8 th October 2017	£33.00	£0.00	£33.00
	101806 Inland Revenue	Income tax 28 th August to 8 th October 2017	£46.00	£0.00	£46.00
	101807 Westcotec	Maintenance September and October	£26.92	£5.38	£32.30
	Direct Debit Haven Power	Supply	£9.90	£1.98	£11.88
		TOTAL OF CHEQUES	£300.09	£7.36	£307.45
	Adjustment	Haven Power Direct Debits not claimed	£29.43	£5.89	£35.32
		TOTAL INCLUDING ADJUSTMENT	£270.66	£1.47	£272.13
c)	<p>Clerk's salary and contract – Clerk advised that these had been reviewed in April but, in line with the new Financial Regulations, they will now be reviewed annually in October. Clerk confirmed she is on SCP 21 and is happy with the present pay and contract. Cllr Leach thanked her for her work.</p>				
105	<p>Church and War Memorial</p>				
a)	<p>War Memorial – following from the previous meeting the Clerk reported the following -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norfolk Association of Local Councils had advised that they couldn't see any problems with asking the public for "simple donations or similar." NALC had also sent Legal notes covering memorials which advised that apart from the need to obtain consent from a church for work on Church of England consecrated ground, listed memorials would need planning consent (except in cases of danger). The Clerk had contacted Fenland District Council and the Conservation Officer had offered to meet at the memorial to discuss the works and establish if consent is required. Clerk had investigated WREN landfill sites and confirmed there are no landfill sites within range. Various Parish Clerks had offered names of contractors recently used but most of them were quite a distance e.g. Cambridge, Northampton. Marshland St James Parish Council had used Richard King Memorials Ltd of Spalding in 2014 to clean and repaint the lettering of their memorial. After discussion it was agreed Clerk should ask if they do repairs and provide a quote. 				
b)	<p>Lime trees – Cllr Landall reported that the work on removing epicormic growth had commenced 8th September (not to be completed by this date as reported in September Minutes). Ten trees had been completed to a good standard, the remaining 5 to be finished this week.</p>				
106	<p>Highways</p>				
a)	<p>Pot holes in Biggs Road – Clerk to report these haven't been repaired, they are half way down near Green Lane.</p>				
b)	<p>A47/Broadend Road junction – following 2 serious accidents at the junction resulting in 1 fatality, Clerk instructed to write to Elizabeth Truss to advise her of this.</p>				
c)	<p>Wisbech Access Strategy – Cllr Humphrey advised that the aim of this is to improve transport network in Wisbech and will also include the A47 in Walsoken. Public consultation meetings are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 1st November 2017 The Boathouse 2:30pm to 7pm Monday 6 November 2017 Walsoken Village Hall 10:30am to 1pm and 3pm to 7pm Friday 17 November 2017 Wisbech Market 9am to 12pm Friday 17 November 2017 Tesco Extra, Cromwell Road 3pm to 7pm 				

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107	<p><u>Street lighting</u> Nothing to report.</p>
108	<p><u>Allotments</u> Clerk had received notification from Norfolk County Farms that “proposed new terms will be determined to take effect from Michaelmas (11th October) 2018 and will be sent to you as soon as possible. Any new rent agreed will be payable from Lady Day (6th April) 2019.” Clerk confirmed Mr Clifton pays one year in advance and the Parish Council pays 6-monthly in arrears. As the rent is due now, Mr Clifton will be advised of a pending review. The rent will be reviewed by the Parish Council at the December meeting when the new terms are received from Norfolk County Farms.</p>
109	<p><u>Correspondence</u> a) SNAP meeting – nothing to report. b) Defibrillator – it was agreed that there was no suitable site owned by the Parish Council for a community defibrillator. After discussion, it was decided that Cllr Woolley will take this forward to the Village Hall meeting next week for their consideration.</p>
110	<p><u>Urgent Business</u> a) Japanese knotweed – Cllr Leach and Cllr Woolley will look at this as it is close to the Parish border and report at the next meeting. b) Boundary Commission – Cllr Houghton will ask Cllr Long at the next meeting about what the implications are to Walsoken parish. c) Fencing dispute – Cllr Houghton reported a dispute with fencing on some properties to the east of Burrett Road backing on to Sleights Drive. He was advised to contact Stan Balls, the original vendor of the land. d) Remembrance Sunday – Cllr Landall advised the Service is on Sunday 12th November meeting at 10.50am at the War Memorial. Clerk to order wreaths.</p>
111	<p><u>Agenda items for the next meeting</u> As discussed previously plus Church maintenance contract. The next meeting is Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 7pm at Walsoken Village Hall.</p>
	<p>Cllr Leach thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8.45pm</p>

.....Chair

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