

24.

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Walsoken Parish Council held in  
Walsoken Village Hall, Walsoken on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.45pm**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Fred Leach (Chair), John Woolley (Vice Chair), Andy Houghton, Jenny Snow, Allan Landall, Clive Bettinson, Lisa Wiffen.

Borough Cllr Brian Long.

**32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None present.

**33. APOLOGIES AND REASONS**

Cllr Joanna Woolley – working; Cllr Chris Harvey – unwell; Borough Cllr. Roy Groom – alternative Parish Council meeting; County Cllr. Harry Humphrey – no reason given.

**34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Landall declared an interest in the Churchyard items as Rector.

**35. NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS TO BE PUT ON THE AGENDA UNDER ‘AOB’**

Cllr Woolley had an item under Highways, Clerk had one item of correspondence and Cllr Long asked for an item under Highways.

**36. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 had been circulated.

Cllr Houghton proposed they be accepted as a true copy, seconded Cllr Snow, unanimously agreed.

**37. MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Broadend Road junction** – the Highways Agency reply to Elizabeth Truss MP had been circulated to councillors. It was confirmed that the road markings had now been completed. A discussion took place about the proximity of the Vehicle Activated Signs being too close to the junctions and in some circumstances were making the situation worse.

It was noted that the first audit will be undertaken by Highways Agency within the next few weeks and Clerk instructed to write to Catherine Brookes to ask for a copy of the audit when it is completed.

**b) Parish Council website** – Clerk confirmed the Agendas had been posted on the website.

A discussion took place about posting photos of fly tipping sites on the website and Cllr Long offered to enquire with the Borough Council Legal Department about the legality of this.

**38. PLANNING**

The Planning Report having been circulated, was read out by Clerk and noted.

Cllr Woolley passed on the thanks of Mr Wood to the Parish Council for their support in respect of application 15/00106/F.

**39. HIGHWAYS**

**a) Marker posts – Burrettgate Road** - Cllr Woolley had been asked to report the marker posts outside The Chestnuts, Burrettgate Road, which were considered to be too close to the edge of the verge. Clerk to ask Andy Wallace from Highways to have a look at them.

**b) Chapnall Road trees** – Cllr Long had received a report that the trees near the bus stop in Chapnall Road were growing into the British Telecom cables. Clerk to report to BT to get trees cut back.

**c) 78 Chapnall Road** – this property has been boarded up and rubbish is being tipped onto the site. Cllr Long will inquire from Freebridge Housing what's being done with the property.

**d) Various** – Cllr Houghton asked for responses from Highways to past reports made by the Parish Council. Clerk to chase.

**40. STREET LIGHTING**

Clerk reported that E.On had advised that their prices would be increased from 9.20p per kWh to 12.40p per kWh with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015, an increase of 34.7%. E.On had stated that this was because prices hadn't been increased for 9 years. Clerk had contacted alternative suppliers for quotes but hadn't had replies to all of them yet. It was decided to wait until all quotes were received for full comparison and discuss further at the next meeting.

Cllr Leach clarified the calculation of the consumption as the lights were mainly 35watt but we were being charged for 65 watts. This is due to the switching mechanism on each light which takes a further 30 watts. LED lights were discussed and Westcotec had advised that these are 19 watt lights which can be switched off and on again and the Council would only be charged for the hours they are running. Clerk to ask Westcotec for a quote to replace all the existing lights with LED lights.

**41. ALLOTMENTS**

It was noted a shed had been put up close to the allotments and Cllr Leach will view it. *Cont.....*

**42. CLOSED CHURCHYARD RESEARCH**

Clerk had compiled research notes from the first Walsoken Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1934 to 16<sup>th</sup> December 1997 which detailed Minutes concerning the closed churchyard including the wall, fencing and trees. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1935 it had been minuted that the District Auditor had expressed an opinion that the Parish Council was liable to maintain the closed churchyard.

Cllr Landall had been advised by Peter Wadlow that the churchyard had not been officially closed until 1970 by an Order in Council and responsibility had been passed to the Parish Council in 1971. Clerk asked for a copy of this Order for the Council records and Cllr Landall will ask for a copy.

Mr Wadlow had sent an email stating that their insurer Ecclesiastical Insurance Group had confirmed that the church is insured for injury caused by trees and gravestones provided that the trees are maintained and that risk assessments are carried out on both trees and gravestones annually. Cllr Landall will inquire whether the church owns the row of lime trees.

Clerk to contact the Tree Officer at the Borough Council to ask him to come and look at all the trees in the closed churchyard and give his opinion. It was noted there are Tree Preservation Orders on some of the trees.

**43. CHURCHYARD AND WAR MEMORIAL**

Nothing to report.

**44. FINANCE**

**a) Payments for approval** – the payments on the attached schedule had been circulated. Cllr Snow proposed the payments be accepted Cllr Wiffen seconded, all in favour.

**b) Donations** – after discussion Cllr Landall proposed £100 donation to Magpas, seconded Cllr Wiffen, all in agreement. The other requests from Norfolk CAB, Fenland Assoc. for Community Transport Ltd, Age UK Norfolk and Norfolk Accident Rescue Service were declined.

**c) Approval of Accounts** – the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 were approved as proposed by Cllr Wiffen, seconded Cllr Snow, all in agreement. It was also agreed to appoint Keven Brooks as Internal Auditor. A discussion followed about the value of assets and it was decided to leave the values as they were for last year but noting there are now 2 dog bins.

**d) Annual Return** - Section 2 of the Annual Return was completed and approved.

**45. SNAP FEEDBACK**

Cllr Long confirmed there were no specific priorities agreed but VOSA inspections will be carried out in particular to catch vehicles carrying illegal waste.

Future meeting date had not been arranged due to elections.

**46. CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence was available prior to the meeting, the list having been circulated.

**a) Cllr Smith's resignation** – Clerk read out the letter of resignation from Cllr Smith with effect from the end of March, which was due to personal circumstances. Clerk to write and thank him for his contribution as a councillor and Village Hall representative.

**b) Council vacancies** – Clerk reported that Cllr Harvey would not be standing again as councillor and this left 2 vacant seats which will need to be filled by co-option after May elections. Clerk to write to Cllr Harvey to thank him for his contribution toward the Council.

**c) Mink trapping** - Clerk read out letter from Kings Lynn Drainage Board requesting volunteers to monitor and trap mink.

**47. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

**48. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

None other than reported in this meeting.

Next meeting is the AGM Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7pm at Walsoken Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Annette Williams, Clerk

Chair..... Date.....2015