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**The Minutes of the Meeting of Walsoken Parish Council held in
Walsoken Village Hall, Walsoken on Tuesday 7th July 2015 at 7pm**

PRESENT

Councillors Fred Leach (Chair), John Woolley (Vice Chair), Andy Houghton, Jenny Snow, Allan Landall, Clive Bettinson, Jo Woolley and Lisa Wiffen.
Borough Cllr Brian Long.

67. PRESENTATION BY ROY PAYNE FROM WESTCOTEC LTD

Cllr Leach introduced Roy Payne, Electrical Engineer from Westcotec Ltd (the firm which carries out maintenance work for the Parish Council).

Roy set up an example of the recommended 16 LED light, which uses 19 watts of energy, existing lights run at approximately 65 watts. He explained the lights are made by a well established company in the industry and have a 10 year manufacturer's guarantee. The photo cell is the only item not covered in the guarantee and this costs only pence. Other points explained were -

- Maintenance savings if all lights converted would be approximately £520 per annum.
- An alternative would have a 6 year guarantee but use 24 watts.
- A smart photo cell can be fitted for part night lighting at an extra £15 per light.
- The light shines straight down so there is no light spill into the sky, but there are different optics available to spread the light.
- Dim down lights are available.
- A warm light is available which isn't as bright, also a cold light which is a bluish colour.
- The angle can be adjusted between level and 15 degrees.
- Slightly brighter lights can be installed on junctions but these use more LEDs so will be more expensive.
- The colour rendition is much better with LED lights e.g. red shows up as red, which is much better for reporting crimes.
- The average life span is 100,000 hours.
- All Parish Council lights can be converted apart from the 4 lights on a concrete column which would need to have the old bracket removed and a metal sleeve added.
- The electricity supplier will send a code so that the lights can be converted.
- Terrington St John have just had their lights converted if you want to view them.
- Feedback overall from Councils has been good.

Cllr Leach thanked Roy for his demonstration. Roy left at 7.20pm.

68. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present.

69. APOLOGIES AND REASONS

Borough Cllr Roy Groom – holidays and County Cllr. Harry Humphrey – governors' meeting.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

71. NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS TO BE PUT ON THE AGENDA UNDER 'AOB'

Clerk had items under Finance and Correspondence and Cllr Houghton had an item under Street lighting.

72. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26th May 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2015 had been circulated. Cllr Jo Woolley proposed they be accepted as a true copy, seconded Cllr Snow, unanimously agreed.

73. MATTERS ARISING

a) Broadend Road junction – the letter from Catherine Brookes of Highways England was read out confirming that the Road Safety Audit had been completed. Three recommendations had been

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suggested including extending the double white lining, a risk assessment of the placement control cabinets in the verge and the vehicle activated signs (VAS) to be located further away from the junction. The Designer had responded disagreeing with the VAS location and Highways stated they did not intend moving them as they were within DFT Traffic Advisory guidelines.

After discussion the Clerk was instructed to reply to Highways and copy Elizabeth Truss into the email, stating that the Parish Council isn't happy with this decision re the VAS location, explaining that public opinion was that they were ineffective in their present location, distracting and too close to the junction. They would be better flashing "No Overtaking". Money has been spent on the work at the junction so it needs to be right. The environment hadn't changed since the signs were installed. The Safety Audit recommendation was to move the VAS so why was this being over-ruled?

b) Parish Council website – there were no suggestions.

c) Fly tipping – it was noted that the site at Eastfields had now been cleared and looks a lot tidier, although the entrance to the garden hadn't been completely blocked off.

Brian had seen the proofs of the new fly tipping signs and thought these should be circulated at the next SNAP meeting.

d) Highway items – Clerk reported that there had still been no response from Highways dept. to items reported.

Clerk to add both 30mph signs as being obscured in Burrett Road, also the footpath between Stow Lane and Green Lane is overgrown.

e) Co-option - Cllr John Woolley had spoken to Barry Sissons, a neighbour of Cllr Joanna Woolley's, a dog handler at March prison on the point of retiring, and he had been interested in joining the Council. Another neighbour, David Goate had also expressed an interest. Clerk to write to invite them to the next meeting.

Cllr Houghton was also aware of a resident living in Sparrowgate Road but didn't know his name.

f) Church insurance - Cllr Landall reported that the Church had confirmed it would pay for the survey of the trees to be undertaken as it was their Insurance Company which had requested it. He did feel, however, that Landscape's quote of £545 + VAT was expensive and he will speak to Andy Griffiths about this. He will also speak to the Church's Insurance company to inquire whether they can recommend anyone and also ask what level of survey/assessment is acceptable. Cllr Leach thanked Cllr Landall for this and Cllr Landall replied that the Church wanted to pass on its appreciation to the Parish Council for the work done.

Clerk to forward a copy of Andy Griffiths' quote to Cllr Landall.

g) 81 Broadend Road – Clerk reported that the Borough Council had logged the complaint. Cllr Long also had logged a complaint himself.

74. PLANNING

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

15/00976/CU Conversion of existing residential dwelling to part HMO at The Grange, Biggs Road– after discussion it was decided to defer the decision to the Borough Council for their recommendation.

75. HIGHWAYS

a) Highways Improvement Grant – Clerk read out the criteria for the partnership scheme, which did not cover street light conversion to LED lighting. Closing date is 15th December 2015.

Councillors to consider for the next meeting.

76. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Clerk reported that this had been advertised on the noticeboard and on the web site. It was suggested that an article be placed in the Fenland Citizen plus more detailed information on the web site for anyone interested in joining the scheme.

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77. STREET LIGHTING

a) LED conversion – a discussion took place about Roy Payne's presentation and costs and the following points were raised -

- The total to convert 16 LED lights, including 4 brackets, was £10,032.32 + VAT.
- There would be approximately a reduction of £720 in supply costs and £570 in maintenance costs for 16 LED lights, which would take about 10 years to recoup the money.
- The LED lights are environmentally friendly.
- A query was raised about the cost after the 10 year guarantee expires.
- Two ineffective lights had been removed recently with no complaints.
- Mazars has recently queried the high level of Reserves with Cllr Leach. He had explained that conversion of the lights was being considered and also there may be a large expense forthcoming with the tree maintenance. This was accepted by Mazars.
- A suggestion was made that the cost be spread over two years.
- Cllr Houghton offered to produce a map of the lights so that councillors could consider whether any could be removed prior to the next meeting.

It was decided that the Clerk should ask Westcotec for the cost of conversion spread over 2 years, plus cost of disconnection and removal of lights.

b) Supply to street lights – quotes for lights were circulated as below -

Supplier	Total per annum	Expiry
Southern	£955	31/03/16
Opus	£998	19/05/16
Npower	£1,044	30/04/16
EoN	£1,158	UFN
Green	£1,531	UFN
EDF	Couldn't quote	N/A

It was decided to wait until the LED lights are installed and review the cost at that time, but in the meantime Clerk to ask if the expiry dates for the quotes is annual or linked to our request date.

c) Renewal of Westcotec maintenance contract – the existing contract expired at the end of June 2015 but a decision will be held over pending the LED decision.

d) Light on during the day – Clerk to report the light at the junction of Sparrowgate and Burrett Road as being on all day and also the lamp is broken.

78. ALLOTMENTS

a) Rent increase - Clerk had received notice from Bruton Knowles, Agents for Norfolk County Council, that the rent would be increased from £1280 per annum to £1417 per annum with effect from April 2016. A discussion took place about market rental costs per acre and it was decided to increase the rent to the Parish Council's tenant, Mr Clifton, to £125 per acre.

b) Agents' request for information - Clerk reported that the Agents had noted the allotments had an arable crop on them and they had asked who was farming the land and on what basis – this information had been given to them.

c) Portacabin – Cllr Bettinson reported that this had now been removed.

d) Fly tipping – Cllr Bettinson had viewed the fly tipping in the bottom corner of the allotment land which included carpets and glass. Cllr Leach will go to have a look at it. It was decided that nothing can be done until after the harvest.

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79. CHURCHYARD AND WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Landall reported that there was some rubble and weeds left by Landscape in the south west corner of the cemetery which had killed off approximately 2 metres of hedge. Dead branches had also been left under trees and ivy needed removing from some trees.

Clerk to report this to Andy Griffiths and explain that this is out of character as most of the time the work is completed to a very good standard.

80. FINANCE

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

b) Magpas acknowledgement – Clerk had received an acknowledgement and thanks from Magpas for the £100 donation.

c) External Auditor's comment – Mazars had phoned the Clerk to ask that in future the Internal Audit should be completed before the Parish Council signs off the Accounts.

81. CORRESPONDENCE

There had been no correspondence to circulate.

Clerk had received notification of a Joint Parish Council meeting on 14th July in Marshland St James.

82. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

83. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None except for items carried forward from this meeting.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 1st September 2015 at 7pm at Walsoken Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.18pm

Annette Williams, Clerk

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