

**Walsoken Parish Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015**  
**held in Walsoken Village Hall at 7pm**

**PRESENT**

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

Borough Cllrs. Brian Long and Roy Groom.

Rosie Woolgar – member of public

Item No.	Detail
116	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> Introductions were made to Rosie Woolgar, who was present to volunteer to fill the vacant seat on the Parish Council. She gave some details of her background having been born in Southend-on-Sea, attended University for 4 months then travelled around the world. She has now lived with her parents in Walsoken for 2 years. Rosie explained she wants to get involved in the community and is interested in representing young people and women locally. She has been involved in various campaigns including climate change at the annual Conference of Youth. Cllr Leach thanked her and invited her to stay for the rest of the meeting.
117	<b>APOLOGIES AND REASONS</b> Cllr Allan Landall – a church commitment and County Cllr. Harry Humphrey – clash of meetings.
118	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> None reported.
119	<b>NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS TO BE PUT ON THE AGENDA UNDER 'AOB'</b> None reported.
120	<b>TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015</b> The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2015 had been circulated. Cllr Sisson proposed they be accepted as a true copy, seconded Cllr Bettinson, unanimously agreed.
121	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
a)	<b>Parish Council website</b> – Clerk reported that “Wisbech Missing Links” had been added – this is an item to be discussed later on the Agenda. It was suggested that the Wheeled Bin timetable is added and Cllr Houghton will forward the timetable to the Clerk.
121	<b>Co-option</b> – Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know their decision by the end of the week.
b)	
121	<b>Conversion of street lights to LED</b> – it was noted that the light conversion has been completed and may take some time for some parishioners to get used to them. Clerk advised that the new certificate of wattage had been issued which shows almost 25% reduction in kWh. Clerk to obtain new quotes.
c)	
121	<b>Electricity supply to street lights</b> – Clerk to obtain new quotes.
d)	
121	<b>Maintenance contract for street lights</b> – Clerk to obtain new quotes.
e)	
121	<b>Overgrown trees</b> – it was noted that Mr Marshall's trees had been cut back without the need for Cllr Landall to visit him. Clerk was asked to write again to Mr & Mrs Cartwright to request that their trees are cut back, and also advise Highways to look at the eroded verge as conifers laying on the grass have killed it off.
f)	
121	<b>Pumping station</b> – Clerk had received a reply from Anglian Water confirming they would arrange for their gardening team to visit the site between 19 <sup>th</sup> November and 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2015. Cllr Houghton will check to see if the work has been completed.
g)	
121	<b>Churchyard tree maintenance</b> – Landscape Group had stated they would commence the work

h)	during the week commencing 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015, and would undertake to start on the beech tree first. Cllr Leach will let the Clerk know if work has started.
121 i)	<b>Grasscutting contract 2016</b> – two quotes had been received based on the specification and circulated – The Landscape Group £880 + VAT and ISS Facility Services £686.75 + VAT. In his absence, Cllr Landall's email was read out confirming that he would be happy with whichever contractor the Council decide to go with. After discussion it was decided Clerk should ask The Landscape Group if they can match ISS's lower quote before accepting the lower one.
122	<b>2016 meeting dates</b> – the dates which had been circulated were agreed subject to the Village Hall's availability.
123 a)	<b>PLANNING</b> <b>The Planning Report</b> having been circulated, was read out by Clerk and noted. Clerk to check on outstanding decisions.
124 a)	<b>HIGHWAYS</b> <b>Highway Rangers</b> – Clerk read the Rangers' email stating that on 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2015 the hedge had been trimmed around the signs on Burrett Road and Burrettgate Road and other reported work will be inspected and programmed as appropriate. Clerk was instructed to ask when the additional work will be completed including the top of Argyl Gardens and the hedge in Burrett Road. Clerk to also report bad potholes in Biggs Road.
125	<b>STREET LIGHTING</b> Nothing further to report.
126	<b>ALLOTMENTS</b> Clerk reported that the annual rent had been received.
127 a)	<b>CHURCHYARD AND WAR MEMORIAL</b> <b>War Memorial floodlighting</b> – to be held over as Cllr Landall was absent. It was noted that the Council had agreed to a second tree to commemorate the end of World War 1.
127 b)	<b>War Memorial repairs</b> – to be held over as Cllr Landall was absent.
127 c)	<b>Tree plaque replacement</b> – Cllr Houghton displayed a new plastic material which would cost £75. After discussion it was decided to get other quotes for a brass engraved plaque which would last without fading.
128 a)	<b>FINANCE</b> <b>Donations</b> – the two donation requests had been received from Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau and The Norfolk Hospice (Tapping House) were both declined as they were not reflective on the local area.
128 b)	<b>Payments for approval</b> – the payments on the attached schedule had been circulated. Cllr Joanna Woolley proposed the payments be accepted Cllr Wiffen seconded, all in favour.
128 c)	<b>Budget and Precept for the year ending March 2017</b> – the Budget figures were discussed and it was thought that the electricity figure of £2,000 will be reduced following LED conversion. Future tree maintenance in the church would need to be considered so a suggestion was made to increase the Precept to 2%. Clerk to provide amended Budget and Precept figures for approval at the January meeting.
129 a)	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b> <b>SNAP meeting</b> - Clerk advised of the SNAP meeting at Downham Market on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December when Inspector Cant would be present. <b>Wisbech Missing Links</b> – Clerk advised of Cambridgeshire Acre's new project which aims to improve access from villages into Wisbech using existing rights of way. Two were identified – 1. between Green Lane and Orchard Drive and 2. the old railway line parallel to Meadowgate Lane. Cllr Leach offered to act as the liaison officer.

130	<p><b>URGENT BUSINESS</b> None.</p>
131	<p><b>AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</b> None reported.</p>
	<p><b>Next meeting is on Tuesday January 12th 2016 (subject to Hall availability) at 7pm at Walsoken Village Hall.</b></p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 8pm</p> <p>Annette Williams, Clerk to Walsoken Parish Council</p> <p>Chair..... Date.....2016</p>