

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Walsoken Parish Council
Held in Walsoken, Village Hall, Kirkgate Street
At 7pm on Tuesday 14th April 2015**

PRESENT

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

Borough Cllr Brian Long

Mr Lee Brown-Ahern – resident.

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS

Cllr Jo Woolley – working, Cllr Chris Harvey – not well, Borough Cllr Roy Groom – attending another Parish Council meeting, Cllr Harry Humphrey – no reason given.

2. CHAIRS REPORT

The enclosed Chair's Report had been circulated. The Chair pointed out that it showed the income and expenditure plus the planning decisions through the year.

A query was raised about the Hall hire cost being nil and the Clerk explained this was because an invoice hadn't been presented for the year.

3. FLYTIPPING ISSUES

Mr Brown-Ahern complained about flytipping in Wheatley Bank, in particular at the derelict property at 60 Sparrowgate Lane. The Clerk was instructed to contact the selling agents of the property, Brown & Co., to request that the legal owners make the land and property secure.

Mr Brown-Ahern had tried to clear the rubbish up himself and explained that he had contacted Kings Lynn Borough Council for support but been told that they can only clear verges as the ditches are the landowners' responsibility and they were reluctant to provide deterrent signs.

A discussion took place about the Council tip which doesn't allow trade waste so encourages some traders to illegally dump their waste.

A suggestion was made about youth offenders clearing the dykes but this was thought not to be possible due to insurance liabilities.

Cllr Long confirmed that the Borough Council is responsible for public accessible land, and will generally clean up within one day of receiving reports, but drains and ditches are the landowners' responsibility. He suggested that the Clerk contacts the Planning Enforcement Department to see if the site in Sparrowgate Lane would be suitable for a Section 215 Notice. He advised that private clearance is not a good idea as there could be a problem with trespass and insurance. Cllr Long also suggested that the Clerk writes to Sue Payne, Community Officer at the Borough Council to see if there is a possibility of signage showing the cost of the fine for flytipping. He added that at the recent SNAP meeting, the Police had been asked to increase their patrols to include checking vehicle licences for waste material.

House clearances are still the responsibility of the person who owns the rubbish – they have a duty of care even though the items have been sold on.

Mr Brown-Ahern was recommended to take any photographic evidence to the Police.

It was decided that the Clerk should write to the Planning Enforcement Department; Brown & Co.; Sue Payne, Community Officer; John Elworthy at the Wisbech Standard and copy Liz Truss MP into all correspondence. A further discussion to take place at the May meeting.

Cllr Long advised that Liz Truss will be in Walsoken on 25th April or 2nd May and he will show her the site where flytipping has taken place and introduce her to Mr Brown-Ahern.

4. HISTORIC MINUTES

The Clerk read out the Minutes from the meeting on 5th March 1934 which was the first Annual Assembly of the newly formed Walsoken Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Annette Williams, Clerk

Chair.....

Date.....2015