

Walsoken Parish Council Minutes
of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2018
held in Walsoken Village Hall at 7pm

PRESENT

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

Borough Councillors Roy Groom and Brian Long. County Councillor Sandra Squire.

Item No.	Details
1	<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>Cllr Leach wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed them to the meeting.</p> <p>Mr North introduced himself. He had moved to Walsoken 3 years ago and expressed his concerns about HGVs travelling along Walton Road. He believed they were exceeding the 7.5 tonne weight restriction limit and had spoken to the Police and Highways at Cambridgeshire and Norfolk and both County Councils. He had been advised that Swaffham Police would be monitoring the situation if they have time.</p> <p>He continued that the HGVs are having an impact on the road and properties and were dangerous for pedestrians in particular Marshland High School pupils.</p> <p>He acknowledged that the HGVs can legally access the road if they are on business deliveries and it was pointed out to him that refuse collections and gas/diesel/oil deliveries have a right of passage. Cllr Long explained that there are 2 types of weight restrictions – one is a strict limit for example on bridges and the other is to stop HGVs using roads as thoroughfares except for existing business operations and visiting premises or land. He advised that HGVs exceeding the weight limit with no reason are a Police matter, however, as there insufficient resources the Police have to prioritise. He suggested that Mr North records registration numbers and descriptions of lorries for the Police. Mr North replied he will continue to gather evidence.</p> <p>Cllr Long considered that 30/40 vehicles a day wasn't abnormal for this road.</p> <p>Mr North advised he had a written request for information on any action the Parish Council had taken in the last 3 years.</p> <p>It was pointed out that Walton Road had been designated as a safer route for Marshland students but this had now been withdrawn due to the amount of traffic.</p> <p>Cllr Leach reported that as a holder of an Operator's Licence, using Fenland Haulage maintenance contractors, he used School Road not Walton Road. Notwithstanding this, he confirmed that the Parish Council would treat Mr North's concern fairly and he thanked him for bringing this to the Council's attention.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Cllr Bettison – ill, Cllr Joanna Woolley – baby care, Cllr Wiffen - holiday.</p>
3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None reported.</p>
4	<p><u>Urgent Matters</u></p> <p>Clerk had correspondence.</p>
5	<p><u>Approval of the Minutes</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held 5th December 2017 had been circulated and were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr Houghton seconded Cllr Harwin, signed by Cllr Leach.</p>
6	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>a) Council website Counter statistics – Clerk reported the user statistics as at 14th January 2018 as 34 visitors that day, 59 the previous day, 438 in the last 7 days, 1,650 in the last 30 days and 29,153 in the last year.</p> <p>b) Highway items</p> <p>Pumping station – Clerk had received a report that this had been cleared. It was considered that it</p>

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<p>c)</p> <p>d)</p> <p>e)</p>	<p>was still somewhat untidy but it was agreed to wait until the Spring. It was reported that one of the doors was broken, Clerk to report.</p> <p>Broadend Road/A47 junction – the statistics provided by Highways England relating to figures for personal injury collisions at the A47/Broad End Road junction, had been circulated. It was noted the figures were from 2000 to 2016.</p> <p>After discussion it was decided the Clerk should reply asking for the date of the next Road Safety Audit, expressing ongoing concern for the clarity of the signs plus report that the main signs are still on scaffolding and a solar panel has been knocked over.</p> <p>It was noted that Wisbech Access Strategy had suggested a roundabout at the junction to assist access/egress for any potential housing development.</p> <p>Grasscutting – nothing to report.</p> <p>Dog waste bin – it was reported that the usage of the bin had been normal lately. Cllr Houghton had contacted Kings Lynn Borough Council who had offered to produce signs for the bins. Clerk to request these along with signs requesting dog walkers to use the bins.</p> <p>Japanese knotweed – Clerk read Bob Ollier 's reply advising he was aware of the knotweed and will get it checked as soon as possible.</p>																																								
<p>7</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>The Planning Report – the Planning Report had been circulated to councillors, and was noted.</p> <p>Appeal of Wheatley Bank land – Clerk advised that the Appeal Hearing was to be held today.</p> <p>Builders' yard, Bucksholt Road – Clerk had reported this as alleged unauthorised use and received acknowledgement from Kings Lynn Borough Council.</p>																																								
<p>8</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Payments – the schedule below had been circulated.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="244 1093 1439 1395"> <tbody> <tr> <td>101817 Mrs A Williams</td> <td>Expenses to 14th Jan 2018</td> <td>£23.00</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>£23.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101818 Inland Revenue</td> <td>Income tax 4th Dec 2017 to 14th Jan 2018</td> <td>£55.40</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>£55.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101819 Westcotec</td> <td>Maintenance December and January</td> <td>£26.92</td> <td>£5.38</td> <td>£32.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101820 Petty Cash</td> <td>Stamps, stationery etc.</td> <td>£40.00</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101821 Idverde Ltd</td> <td>2017 maintenance contract</td> <td>£525.00</td> <td>£105.00</td> <td>£630.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101822 Idverde Ltd</td> <td>Removal of epicormic growth</td> <td>£78.00</td> <td>£15.60</td> <td>£93.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct Debit Haven Power</td> <td>Supply November</td> <td>£30.49</td> <td>£1.53</td> <td>£32.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL OF PAYMENTS</td> <td>£1,000.79</td> <td>£127.51</td> <td>£1,128.30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Cllr Sisson proposed the payments be accepted, seconded by Cllr Snow, all in agreement.</p> <p>Precept for 2018/19 – examples of increases in the Precept had been given for 4%, 4.8% and 5.5%. After discussion it was agreed to increase the Precept for the year ending March 2019 by 5.5%, proposed by Cllr Houghton, seconded by Cllr Harwin, all in favour.</p> <p>Budget for year ending March 2019 - the budget figures had been circulated and were discussed. Clerk explained that the £3,000 would be carried over if not used by the end of March 2018. It was noted that the War Memorial project had not been included. It was agreed to include £1,000 in the Budget, Clerk to amend figures for approval at the next meeting.</p> <p>Defibrillator – Clerk had contacted other Parish Clerks and received details of companies used by them to provide a defibrillator. Quotes had been obtained ranging from £1,000 to over £2,000 + VAT. The Mayor of Wisbech had offered £300 funding. Different packs were available and Clerk read advice from an article in the Society of Local Council Clerks' magazine stating that the purchase should be regarded as a long term investment and cheap is not always the best. After a discussion regarding the issues of training, cabinet safety, maintenance of batteries and complexity of packs, it was decided not to go ahead with the purchase. Clerk to thank the Mayor and ask if Wisbech Town Council would be willing to join in a request to Boots the Chemist for the funding and maintenance of a unit on their shop wall. Cllr Woolley will thank the Over 60s for their offer of funding.</p>	101817 Mrs A Williams	Expenses to 14 th Jan 2018	£23.00	£0.00	£23.00	101818 Inland Revenue	Income tax 4th Dec 2017 to 14 th Jan 2018	£55.40	£0.00	£55.40	101819 Westcotec	Maintenance December and January	£26.92	£5.38	£32.30	101820 Petty Cash	Stamps, stationery etc.	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00	101821 Idverde Ltd	2017 maintenance contract	£525.00	£105.00	£630.00	101822 Idverde Ltd	Removal of epicormic growth	£78.00	£15.60	£93.60	Direct Debit Haven Power	Supply November	£30.49	£1.53	£32.02	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS		£1,000.79	£127.51	£1,128.30
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9	<p><u>Church and War Memorial</u></p> <p>a) War Memorial project – Clerk reported the new application form had been downloaded and will be completed. Cllr Houghton advised he is narrowing down a list of companies in the area with a view to requesting funding towards the project. It was noted that the difference in the quotes for the bayonet and strap between Skillingtons and Richard King was because Skillingtons had quoted for a lead strap. Priority will be given to re-pointing and cleaning the Memorial, depending on funding.</p> <p>b) Ground maintenance – Clerk had circulated quotes from CGM for £914 + VAT plus cost of bag removal and Idverde £675 + VAT. Cllr Landall thanked the Council for including extra items this year and he had been satisfied with Idverde's service. He added that 12 bags on average are collected in a year. After the Council considered both quotes Cllr Harwin proposed the Idverde quote is accepted, seconded by Cllr Sisson, all in favour.</p> <p>c) Trees in churchyard – Cllr Wolley reported that he had looked at the trees with Cllr Leach. They had noted that tree number 41, close to the east wall of the church, will need attention in the next couple of years. Cllr Landall advised that Idverde had cut down the lower branches free of charge and he will get a quote for the larger branches to be felled.</p> <p>d) Beech tree – Cllr Houghton suggested that to celebrate its existence, the remaining stump could be carved as part of a competition by inviting tree sculptors to present their ideas. Cllr Landall will put forward the initial idea to the DAC to ascertain if they would give permission.</p>
10	<p><u>Highways</u> Nothing to report.</p>
11	<p><u>Street lighting</u> Nothing to report.</p>
12	<p><u>Allotments</u> Allotment rent - Clerk stated that the new rent advice hadn't been received yet from Norfolk County Council. It was agreed to hold over this item to the March meeting pending the notice from Norfolk County Council.</p>
13	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>a) Data Protection – Clerk advised that the Council will need to adopt a Data Protection Policy by May 2018 and has asked the National Association for Local Councils for a model. This will be discussed further at the March meeting.</p> <p>b) Planning – Castle Acre Parish Council had brought an alleged change in planning systems to the attention of all Councils. Cllr Long confirmed that the consultation hasn't changed and the Parish Council's opinion will still have the same weight. A Sifting Panel has been put in place if the decisions of a Parish and Borough Council differ.</p>
14	<p><u>Urgent Business</u> Nothing to report.</p>
15	<p><u>Agenda items for the next meeting</u> As discussed previously. The next meeting is Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 7pm at Walsoken Village Hall.</p>
	<p>Cllr Leach thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8.30pm</p>