

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 7 PM ON TUESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2021 AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
WALSOKEN

In Attendance: Councillors F Leach (Chairman); John Woolley (Vice Chairman); A Houghton;
C Bettinson; A Landall; J Snow; J Harwin; B Sisson; Jo Woolley; C Luff; County Councillor C Dawson; Clerk to the Council
C Lilley; Mrs Annette Williams

Prior to the meeting proper commencing, Cllr Leach thanked Annette Williams for her long service as Clerk to the Council and presented her with a leaving gift on behalf of the Council. Mrs Williams then left the meeting.

1. **Public Participation:** County Councillor Dawson gave a short verbal report on the position with the proposed incinerator at this point in the meeting. Although the Parish Council is a consultee on the matter it is a decision for the Secretary of State because any application over 50 megawatts is referred and the decision is removed from local councils so realistically Walsoken PC has very little input. As yet there is no application for planning. Cllr Dawson confirmed that the main areas for concern are highways and the infrastructure and this is where the weakness is because the roads will not be able to cope with the increase in traffic. Cllr Dawson was not able to accurately estimate the increase in traffic but thought potentially 160 vehicle movements per day to the incinerator. If and when an application is made then representations should be made to Cllr Wilby for highways giving particular regard to the dualling of the A47. No suggestion has been given as to when an application might be made. Both S Barclay MP and E Truss MP are against the incinerator and Mr Barclay has sought an independent review. Following his report Cllr Dawson left the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Borough and County Councillor J Kirk (Hospital); Borough Cllr R Blunt
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared
4. **Urgent Matters:** None
5. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting held 17th August 2021:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Houghton, Seconded by Cllr Harwin and unanimously approved. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
6. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) Chapnall Road Bus Shelter – The Clerk confirmed that we have received additional funding by way of grants from Members Funds from Cllr Dawson and Cllr Kirk respectively of £450.00 each. CIL funding has been granted for £3750.00 and the paperwork has been signed and returned. Norfolk County Council has already granted funding and it was confirmed that this is not for a specific amount (£3750.00) as originally but for 50% of the cost which has increased to £8,400 Norfolk County Council will contribute £4,200. The Bus Shelter has been ordered from Westcotec and this is in hand to proceed with a lead time of 6-8 weeks.
 - b) Sleights Drive Basketball Post Area - Cllr Houghton reported that he has not been able to make any significant progress regarding this and is unlikely to be able to progress it any further for at least 3 months.
 - c) Incinerator Response – Please see Item 1.
7. **Planning:** The clerk reported on the planning information which has been circulated and was noted. Cllr Landall reported that the trees in between the Churchyard and Woodlands Court are covered by TPO and the correct application has therefore been made and the proper process has been followed. Planning for that work has been approved since the last meeting. There was a discussion regarding the application for holiday let at Salmar, Wilkins Road, Walsoken and it was agreed to defer this decision to the Borough Council as proposed by Cllr Snow and seconded by Cllr Houghton.
8. **Finance:**
 - a. The schedule of payments as attached to the original minutes has been circulated. Cllr Snow proposed the payments be accepted and Cllr Sisson seconded. All in agreement.
 - b. The Clerk reported on the requirement for an Asset Register to be available on the website in line with information already contained in the accounts but within a separate document which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Asset Register was accepted as drafted as proposed by Cllr Sisson and seconded by Cllr Snow. All in agreement.

9. Highway Matters:

The clerk reported on current outstanding highways matters as contained in the report as circulated and this was noted.

a. Cllr Houghton suggested that the Council considers extending the speed limit further towards Sandy Lane so that the 30mph limit extends further as the envelope of the village has extended beyond the current speed limit. The clerk advised that this would not be covered under the Parish Partnership Bid. Changes to road layouts (such as traffic calming) are covered and the Kirkgate Street crossing was suggested as a suitable location to implement this or consider a one way system. This is in Cambridgeshire and is not within Walsoken PC's jurisdiction. **The Clerk was asked to write to Wisbech Town Council and raise concerns regarding this.** There were no proposals for a Parish Partnership bid. Closing date is 10th December.

10. Street Lighting: Nothing to report.

11. Allotments and Rent Review: The Clerk reported that the tenant has been sent a rent demand. As yet, nothing has been received from Norfolk County Council.

12. Churchyard Matters:

a) Cllr Landall has not yet contacted Idverde regarding the holly tree but will do so and still suggests that it should be removed as it is causing the path to lift and is inconveniently located. He will need to apply to the Diocese and has a form to complete which has a requirement for the opinion of a tree surgeon which may incur a fee. The Parish Council will need to know how much this will cost before agreeing. **Action Point: Cllr Landall will contact Andy Griffiths of idverde**

b) The commemorative rowan tree planted in 2014 has died. On inspection it appears that a strimmer has got too close and has ring-barked the trunk causing it to die. This was done by FDC. For protection, Cllr Wooley has put tubing around two other saplings one of which has also been damaged but by Idverde although it is not dead. Cllrs Leach and John Woolley are planning to inspect all of the trees over the winter. **Action Point -The Clerk was asked to write to Simon Bell at FDC regarding the rowan tree and Cllr Leach will arrange for a photo to be sent showing the damage.**

b) One quote has been obtained so far for the wall repairs from Mr M P Neal of £5880.00 The wall is not unstable but is unsightly. Cllr Bettinson suggested Steve Medlock for a further quote if he is still working and Cllr Woolley suggested Robert South. **Action Point: Cllrs Bettinson and Woolley to contact S Medlock and R South respectively.**

13. Correspondence:

None

14. Any Other Matters:

a) The clerk advised that Councillors contact details should be displayed on the website as they are publicly elected and should be contactable independently. It was suggested that email addresses would be sufficient as only one method of contact is required. Designated gmail addresses could be set up for this specific purpose. Cllr Houghton will investigate the possibility of setting up a group email with individual councillors' email addresses within a Walsoken group. **Action point – Cllr Houghton to investigate.**

b) Walsoken Parish Council will lay Remembrance Wreaths on 14.11.21 which have been ordered by the Clerk. A representative will also lay a wreath on behalf of Cllr Kirk and he will deliver this to Cllr Leach's home in advance.

c) The Council does not feel that there is an appropriate location for a Jubilee Beacon so it is not proposed that we participate on this occasion.

d) A discussion took place as to where to locate the Commemorative Plaque and it was suggested by Cllr Landall that the church already has a number of plaques so it could be placed in the church. However, these are all brass and this plaque will be blue which may not be in keeping. It could be placed in the Meeting Room. A decision will be taken once it has been received.

15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

None received. Cllr John Wooley proposed that future meetings should take place in the church due to the difficulties in contacting the Village Hall, with the usual donation for use plus an additional donation when heating is required. This was agreed.

Cllr Leach thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8,55pm.
The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7pm at All Saints' Church, Walsoken

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....2021