

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT 7 PM ON TUESDAY 17TH AUGUST 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; County and Borough Councillor J Kirk; County Councillor C Dawson; Clerk to  
the Council C Lilley

1. **Public Participation:** No-one in attendance
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr C Luff (Prior engagement); Cllr B Sissons (Working); Cllr Joanna Woolley (Holiday);  
Borough Cllr R Blunt
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared
4. **Urgent Matters:** None
5. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Harwin, Seconded by Cllr Snow 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 confirmation that CIL funding has been granted for £3750.00 and we are just waiting for the paperwork to arrive for completion before we can go ahead with the project. Norfolk County Council has already granted funding for £3750.00 which did cover the full amount of the original quote, however, because of the delay in the funding application being dealt with by CIL and due to the increased cost of materials a new quote has been provided by Westcotec increasing by £900 exc VAT to £8400.00 exc VAT. The difference in cost would need to be covered by WPC. Cllr Dawson advised that he may be able to help with a donation from his Members Fund and cover 50% of the increase as did Cllr Kirk and the Clerk will contact them regarding this.
  - b) Sleights Drive Basketball Post Area - Cllr Houghton reported that he has not been able to make any significant progress regarding this. The company were unwilling to attend to give a quote as the area was considered too small and it had proved difficult to find companies willing to quote. Cllr Kirk suggested an email to him asking for other Clerks to advise or give information on other similar projects as he is aware that there may be some. **Action Point: Cllr Houghton will continue to try and find information as well as the Clerk contacting Cllr Kirk.**
  - c) Incinerator Response (including A47 Roundabout update) – The Parish Council's response has been submitted and they are not in favour predominantly due to the increased traffic this will cause in the area which is already heavily congested. The Clerk confirmed that she had received a response from Steve Bown advising that the A47 roundabout will not be going ahead due to lack of funding and it has been placed in a “pipeline should funding become available” which further supports the opposition to the incinerator. Cllr Houghton had circulated a letter from Steve Barclay MP which does not support the proposal and Kings Lynn Borough Council have also put in a very strong objection on behalf of Wisbech.
  - d) Storage of Historic Minute Books – There was the option to store these in Norwich but this would require delivery of the items and additional make it quite difficult for anyone to look at them. Cllr John Woolley offered to store them at his Caravan Storage facility for a nominal charge of £10 per and this was accepted and they have been placed there.
7. **Planning:** The planning report has been circulated and was noted. Cllr Houghton queried why we don't always get consulted and thought that a letter had been previously sent in this regard.
  - a)Cllr Landall reported that the two lime trees on the planning applications list had been previously trimmed without permission and that arguably they lie within Church land and are on consecrated ground but that the boundaries have become blurred by the chain link fencing having been repositioned when the properties were built in Woodlands Court. The trees now lie between two fences although some residents have removed their fences and begun using the land. Cllr Dawson advised that it is a requirement that notice has to be served on the owner of the land 28 days before the application is made and that if this has not been done the application may need to be withdrawn as invalid. The Land Registry should be able to confirm ownership. The Parish Council believes this is something which the Diocese will need to be contacted about and it may be

that they are already aware. **Action Point: Cllr Landall will contact the Diocese.**

b) Cllr Leach cut back trees and hedges in Green Lane but received further complaints regarding the debris which he subsequently cleared. He reported that there is some disagreement regarding planning permission for 5 houses in the area which may become an issue at a later date.

**8. Finance:** The schedule of payments as attached to the original minutes has been circulated. Cllr Snow proposed the payments be accepted and Cllr Harwin seconded. All in agreement.

**9. Highway Matters:**

a) Item 55 - The 30mph sign on Black Bear Lane is still down having been reported 26/05/21. The status is that it has been scheduled for repair and that repairs are taking in the region of 6 weeks. The Clerk will try and get an update.

b) Item 54 – The tree on the corner of Chapnall Rd/Chapnall Close has not been trimmed at all and the position remains the same with people not being able to pass it easily. The response was that the landowner has been contacted but it is unclear who this may be and no action has been taken. Clerk was asked to email Cllrs Dawson and Kirk regarding this matter.

**10. Street Lighting:** Nothing to report.

**11. Allotments and Rent Review:** The Clerk reported that the tenant was advised last year that the rent would be increasing in October 2021 following a rent review which had been notified by Norfolk CC, however no details of a review have been received since and it is therefore assumed that no increase is taking place this year. Cllr Dawson advised that there would be a review in October 2021 as all Council owned land rents were being reviewed at this time and that one year's notice of the increase would be given.

**12. Churchyard Matters:**

a) Cllr Landall would like the holly tree at the front removed as it is causing the path to lift and is inconveniently located. This is not a tree of significant interest and is likely self-set. 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) Cllr Landall chased Idverde again and the epicormic growth has now been done on the trees and the churchyard has been sprayed. They also trimmed the hedges back. They did an excellent job and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks.

c) Cllr Landall was stopped by a parishoner over concerns regarding the wall where the beech tree was removed as it was damaged and she is concerned over safety. Cllr Kirk said that he is aware of someone in Walpole who repairs church walls and is relatively inexpensive and to contact the Clerk there (Caroline) for details. **Action Point: Cllrs Leach and John Woolley will look at the wall first and see if there is cause for concern.**

d) The tree planted by the Parish Council in 2014 is dead and in all likelihood needs to be removed. There is no obvious cause and it may have diseased roots. It is not known whether there may be a grave underneath and it is in the cemetery rather than the churchyard so FDC would have the plans to show this. The plaque by the tree is also in a poor state and is the second one in a relatively short period. This may clean up. It was suggested that if the tree is replaced it could be located in a slightly different place but it would need to be checked with FDC if it could be moved slightly. The current tree is a rowan and it was suggested a different variety might be advisable. **Action Points: Cllrs Leach and John Woolley will look at the plaque and see if it can be cleaned up. Cllr Landall will email Simon Bell at FDC regarding relocating and planting a new tree.**

**13. Village Hall:**

Cllr Woolley attend the meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and reported that the Chairman welcomed 2 new members to the Management Committee. The Village Hall has received 2 grants for £10,000 and £8,000 respectively and they have a bank balance of just over £40,000. It had been decided that some of this money should be allocated to updating the kitchen and toilets. The Chairman is taking bookings for the hall and is very pleased with the bookings received. A new notice board has been placed on the hall with the hire charges, email address and telephone numbers. Cllr Woolley suggested that this information could be placed on the Parish Council website and this was agreed. Various fundraising events had been suggested and the next meeting will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> November at 5,30pm.

**14. Correspondence:**

- a) The Clerk has received an email from Christine Miller regarding a vacancy within the Council. It was suggested this may refer to the position of Clerk, which has been filled, but that she would be contacted for confirmation and advised that her details will be held on file for any future positions if she is happy with this.
- b) An email has been received from NALC regarding a commemorative gift for all Parish Councils to be presented in October/November 2021. Cllr Leach is not keen to accept the gift which is in recognition of work undertaken during the pandemic which he does not consider has been exceptional. The Clerk will circulate the email for Councillors to give their views. A response is required by 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in order to receive the gift.

**15. Any Other Business:**

- a) Cllr Houghton asked whether the possibility of “rumble strips” (also known as tubes) to check speeds had been investigated. The Clerk will check with the outgoing clerk. Cllr Leach asked what we would do with this information and it was suggested that the police could use it to patrol the roads at particularly busy times rather than on an ad hoc basis which they are unwilling to do. A query was raised as to whether the potential cost of these strips would make it a feasible expense.
- b) The new Clerk asked the Council to approve her training course in September across 4 weeks on a Clerks induction training which had been provisionally approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman to secure the place although no payment had yet been requested. The course cost is £80.00 to members. This was approved.
- c) Cllr Leach reported that Mr & Mrs Brown were litterpicking regularly and requested the Clerk send a letter of thanks. Cllr Harwin asked that they contact the Clerk if they wish him to help out as he is willing to do so. There was discussion regarding disposal of the rubbish which Cllr Leach is currently collecting and the Clerk will email Cleanup and see if collection can be arranged with them.

**16. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

None received.

Cllr Leach thanked everyone for attending particularly the Borough and County Councillors and the meeting closed at 8,35pm.

The Next Meeting is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Walsoken Village Hall (Location TBC)

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....2021