

# WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Walsoken Annual Parish Council Meeting** held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 from 7.45pm

Present :

Councillors – Fred Leach, John Woolley, Andy Houghton, Joanna Taylor, Clive Bettinson, Yvonne Cocks, and Lynn Clark. Caroline Boyden, Parish Clerk.  
County & Borough - Cllr Julian Kirk, Borough - Cllr R Blunt  
1 member of the Public

1. Cllr Kirk called for the election of the Chairman. Cllr Woolley proposed Cllr Leach with Cllr Houghton seconding, all in favour.
2. The election of the Vice Chairman took place with Cllr Leach proposing Cllr Wooley and seconded by Cllr Taylor, all in favour.
3. Welcome from Chairman to everyone.  
Public Participation – to allow public participation (3 minutes per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total). – Pleased with the new bus shelters.
4. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence:  
Cllrs Harwin & Snow (illness), Luff (Holiday), Chris Dawson (work commitments)
5. Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations. None
6. Approval of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 were proposed by Cllr Cocks, seconded by Cllr Clarke, and approved by all present at that meeting.
7. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
  - 7.1 Meerdyke Solar Farm update – no update
  - 7.2 Incinerator Response update – statement thought to be made on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May
  - 7.3 Broad Ed Junction – has been resurfaced but the warning lights are still not working and Cllr Leach to follow up. ACTION FL  
Cllr Dawson has advised that there is no funding for a roundabout.
  - 7.4 Allotment land update – still awaiting for NCC to make a site visit to plot the exact boundary.
8. To receive reports:
  - 8.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.

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- a. Cllr Houghton reported that the collapsed drain on All Saints Avenue now has no safety barriers and Cllr Kirk to discuss with Jason at Highways. ACTION JK
- b. Cllr Houghton raised the issue of flooding outside the pumping station and Cllr Kirk will also follow this up with Jason at Highways. ACTION JK
- c. Cllr Clark has an issue outside her home as to ownership of the verge which requires attention. Advised to contact Highways and clerk to forward contact. ACTION CB Page 1 of 3

8.2 County and Borough Councillors reports: As per the Annual Parish meeting reports.

8.3 Clerk Report – April was busy with financial work including information for the internal auditor, year end and AGAR.

Website accessibility annual check to take place within next couple of months.

A update has been received regarding the basketball area and Borough will be issuing a letter confirming removal of the stand, levelling and grassing the area. A minimum of 2 quotes are required and Cllrs Leach and Woolley are working on this. ACTION: FL/JW

A new contact has now been made at Borough for the Royal Mail address update and all past information has been sent to them.

8.4 Churchyard matters – New contractor is doing a good job. Cllr Kirk mentioned that some of the graves are overgrown with brambles and need cutting back. This ground is thought to be under Fenland and Cllrs Leach and Kirk to check the location. ACTION: JK/FL

8.5 Village Hall – Cllr Wooley reported that a Committee Meeting had been held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April with The Chairman, Peter Goodale introducing the new Secretary and Treasurer Kathlien Dack who is replacing Christine Surry.

A Sunday Soul event held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March was attended by around 80 people and raised £200 for the Village Hall.

A Friday evening Bingo for the Macmillan Cancer Support is being held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

Annual General Meeting – Peter Goodale was re-elected as Chairman. Tony Peppercorn was standing down as Vice Chairman and David Patrick was appointed to fill this position. The Committee was voted in en bloc.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.

8.6 Communications and Correspondence:

- a. .gov.uk email addresses, this was discussed and to be carried forward to the next meeting.
- b. Gypsy & Traveller policy update – as discussed under Annual Parish Meeting.

9. Planning:

9.1 Applications: (including those received after the agenda was produced)

**24/00760/F** – variation of condition 1 of planning consent 23/01839/F: variation of conditions 1 and 4 of permission 19/00812/RMM: Reserved Matters Application, Industrial Units, Fountain Business Park, Grassgate Lane, Walsoken. NO OBSERVATIONS

**23/01920/F** – proposed 3 dwellings and associated garages and re positioning of parking at Wisbech Town Football Club, Lynn Road. SUPPORT AS PER ORIGINAL SUPPORT 21.11.23

**24/00814/F** – build a rear extension, remove roof structure, and provide a new roof with rooms over at first floor level. Provide a new brick skin around the existing bungalow,

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construct a porch and a balcony. Fairview, Wilkins Road, Walsoken. SUPPORT – no impact on the street scene and 2 other 2 storey homes on the same road.

All three application decisions were agreed by all present.

9.2 Decisions: (For information):

**24/00432/AG** – agricultural prior notification: potato handling/grading building at Floral Farm, Osborne Road, Walsoken. Prior Notification Not required.

9.4 Enforcements:

23/00589/UNOPDE – alleged unauthorised operation development at Sibly House, Station Road, Walsoken – PENDING CONSIDERATION.

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10. Finance:

- 10.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for March & April Proposed Cllr Taylor, seconded Cllr Cocks, and all in favour.
- 10.2 Approval of payments for May (to date)– due to the meeting being so early in the month, the clerk will issue a further payment listing later in the month if required. Proposed Cllr Cocks, seconded Cllr Leach, and all in favour. Agreed to pay the IDB invoice.
- 10.3 To approve the 23/24 Financial Review – proposed Cllr Taylor, seconded Cllr Leach.
- 10.4 To approve and sign the completed AGAR 23/24 section 1 & 2, internal auditor, and variance report. Proposed Cllr Leach, seconded Cllr Taylor and signed by Cllr Leach.
- 10.5 To approve and sign the CIL return for 23/24 – signed by Cllr Leach.
- 10.6 To approve the annual insurance renewal – proposed Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Clark and all in favour.

11. To receive items for the next agenda:

Any items to be sent to the clerk 8 days before the next meeting date.

14. The next meeting will be the Parish Council Meeting from 7.00pm on the 9th of July 2023 at the Church Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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Meeting ended at 20.49

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PAYMENTS MAY 24 (to date)

Salary	£ 297.60	HMRC	£ 74.20
Clerk Expenses April 24			£ 26.00
Internal Drainage Board			£ 65.64 K
Brooks internal auditor		£ 65.00	
Tawny Owl 2 cuts churchyard			£ 150.00
Clear Councils Insurance			£ 562.60

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