

WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Walsoken Parish Council Meeting held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 11th of April 2023 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Fred Leach - Chair, John Woolley, Andy Houghton, Chris Luff, Allan Landall, Jenny Snow, Clive Bettinson, John Harwin, Joanna Taylor, Caroline Boyden, Parish Clerk.
Cllr Julian Kirk and Cllr Richard Blunt (7.20pm)
No members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chairman to everyone and to the new clerk.
Public Participation – to allow public participation (3 minutes per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total). – None present
2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: None
3. Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations. Cllr Bettinson re 5.1 Solar Farm
4. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th of March 2023 were proposed by Cllr Woolley, seconded by Cllr Taylor and approved by all present at that meeting.
5. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
 - 5.1 Meerdyke Solar Farm update – not responding to emails and forward email from the Planning Residents Association to Cllr Blunt. ACTION: Cllr Bettinson
 - 5.2 Incinerator Response update – Cllrs Leach and Woolley advised that the open floor hearings will continue to the end of this month. The “Statement of Common Ground” held an online meeting including the environmental concerns. It is thought that a reduced version would go ahead as the estimated build cost has doubled to £500m+.
 - 5.3 Bus Shelter slope – The clerk & Cllr Kirk to chase Andy Wallace. ACTION: Clerk/ Cllr Kirk
 - 5.4 Sleights Drive basketball area – Cllr Dawson sent out a quote for the work required amounting to £12,750+ VAT. The Fountain fund has offered £2000 towards this but it is considered a large amount of public money to spend with not much use. Cllr Leach to obtain another quote for levelling and reseeding. ACTION: Cllr Leach
 - 5.5 Reinstatement of the bus stop at S bend on the B198, Lynn Road. – this is going ahead and just awaiting dates from highways and Cllr Kirk offered to follow this up. ACTION: Cllr Kirk
 - 5.6 Broad End Junction – Liz Truss MP attended the location recently and will continue to support the required changes with a roundabout mentioned.
Road works have started on Broad End Road but no advice received.
6. To receive reports:
 - 6.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
 - a. On Sandy Lane into the village, a fencing panel is sticking out and considered dangerous.
 - b. The signs on the A47 are not always working.
 - 6.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-
Cllr Dawson reports are all up to date.

Cllr Blunt advised that the Local Plan has been suspended with more evidence required but should be completed by the end of April, when it will go to the inspectors. Changes could include village classification changes.

Cllr Leach asked if the village should consider a Neighbourhood Development Plan and Cllr Blunt advised that there would be a 10% increase in any CIL monies from new developments unless self builds and it would give some development control. It was decided to invite a Borough Council official to give a presentation within the next 6 months.

Cllr Kirk advised that he had received an email from a resident on Burrett Road requesting a site visit to check dykes. The County leader has stood down due to ill health and Tamar are offering free trees to commemorate the forthcoming Coronation.

6.3 Clerk Report – The year end reporting has been completed and commencing on the AGAR for the internal auditor and approval at the May meeting before filing to the external auditors.

Letter to be sent to Barclays Bank requesting closure of the two accounts.

Standing orders to be set up for regular payments i.e., Westcotec, PAYE & Salary.

6.4 Churchyard matters – Clerk advised that the invoice from Mr.Hazell for his tree survey had been received and on the payment listing. Cllr Landall advised that he will be completing the online application to obtain permission and hoped to be completed by the autumn.

6.5 Village Hall – Cllr Woolley attended the Village Hall Committee AGM on the 28th of March of 2023 and advised that the hall recorded a loss of £2,278 for the year ending the 31st December 2022. This is mainly due to the repairs and renewals totalling £20,074. Income came to £30,154 for the year compared to £12,094 for 2021. It is hoped that this year will be profitable as much of last years expenditure was a one off.

Wi-fi and CCTV cameras are being installed within the next few weeks with much of this expenditure coming from grants and donations. The possibility of a further grant for the installation of solar panels and air conditioning is being looked into.

A Summer Fete is being planned from for the 15th of July and a Quiz Night – date to be advised. The next meeting is on the 25th of April 2023.

6.6 Communications and Correspondence:

a. May 2023 elections. The clerk confirmed that we have an uncontested election with Cllrs Bettinson, Harwin, Houghton, Leach, Luff, Snow and Woolley elected for the Main Ward and Cllr Taylor elected for the North Ward. This leaves 2 vacancies.

The election of Borough Councillors will go ahead on the 4th of May with 4 nominations.

b. Royal Mail recognition of Walsoken, Norfolk. The clerk advised that Cllr Houghton had sent a detailed report to Liz Truss and Cllr Kirk offered to chase up on their official letter to Borough. ACTION: Cllr Kirk & Clerk

c. Website – issue with security raised and proposal for new site to be reviewed.

7. Planning:

7.1 Applications: (received after the agenda was produced)

Ref: 23/00588/F – Proposed rear and side extension, garage conversion to annexe at 19 Burrett Gardens. Concerns regarding No 17 as it would not have any access to the road.

Clerk to request information from planning. ACTION: Clerk

7.2 Decisions: (For information): **None**

7.3 Enforcement Officer at BCKLWN to look into issues raised at land adjacent to Topeka.

8. Finance:

8.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for March 23. Proposed Cllr Taylor, seconded Cllr Snow and all in favour.

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Signed

Date

8.2 Approval of payments for April 23 (to date)– due to the meeting being so early in the month, the clerk will issue a further payment listing later in the month. Proposed Cllr Landall, seconded Cllr Taylor, and all in favour.

8.3 Year-end Review – this was discussed and proposal to accept by Cllr Woolley, seconded by Cllr Taylor with all in favour. The clerk was thanked.

Cllr Leach advised that the clerk had now completed the 3 month probationary period and it was agreed to make the position permanent which was accepted by all including the clerk.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:
New Council forms for completion
Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
Royal Mail recognition update
Website review

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

12. Next Meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting from 7.00pm on the 9th of May 2023 at the Church Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.42

WALSOKEN PAYMENTS APPROVED

PAYMENTS APRIL 23

Salary April	£ 280.13
HMRC April 23	£ 70.00
Clerk Expenses March 23	£ 36.60
Hire of Church meeting room April	£ 50.00
Westcotec March 23	£ 18.58
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IDB	£ 61.98
NCC Estate	£ 780.00
J Hazell – tree survey churchyard	£ 350.00
Npower	£ 182.87