

# WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Walsoken Parish Council Meeting held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Fred Leach - Chair, John Woolley, Andy Houghton, Chris Luff, John Harwin, Jo Taylor, Yvonne Cocks, and Lynn Clarke.  
Cllr Julian Kirk / Cllr Dawson from 7.38pm  
One members of the Public

1. Welcome from Chairman to everyone and to the new Parish Councillors.  
Public Participation – to allow public participation (3 minutes per speaker, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total). – Information required on the bus shelters at on Black Bear Lane and S bend – Cllr Woolley advised that new bus shelters have been approved for both locations and awaiting installation.
2. Apologies Cllrs Snow, Bettinson, Dawson and Blunt.
3. Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations. None
4. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023 were proposed by Cllr Woolley, Seconded by Cllr Cocks 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 – appeal hearing set for 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in King’s Lynn.
  - 5.2 Incinerator Response – update due in November.
  - 5.3/4 Black Bear Lane & Lynn Road Bus Stops – The new bus shelters have been ordered and awaiting installation dates.
  - 5.5 Sleights Drive basketball area – difficulty in getting through to the right contact at BCKLWN.
  - 5.6 Broad End Junction – Cllr Leach has again reported that the signs are still not working.
  - 5.7 Streetlight replacement – this has been ordered and awaiting parts prior to installation.
  - 5.8 Passing places signage – Andy Wallace now advises that the order has been sent to Norse who will erect when in stock. Hopefully around Christmas.
  - 5.9 Meeting dates for 2024 – these were agreed by all present and will be placed on the noticeboard and website.
6. To receive reports:
  - 6.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.  
None
  - 6.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-  
Cllr Kirk advised that the BCKLWN appears to be imploding with employee changes not being advised. Full council meetings are still in place and well supported with members of the public welcome to attend.  
At County level, the public are allowed in the gallery with a barrier entry. The County Deal is due on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December.

A new anti-terrorist risk assessment policy for village halls has been discussed along with the Biodiversity Policy for all Parish Councils.

No report from Cllr Blunt. Advised the clerk by phone that he has called in a planning application.

6.3 Clerk Report –

- a. Working on the draft budget has taken up most of the time.
- b. Attended recent GDPR training and clerks networking.
- c. Suggested that councillors look at the available online training, especially regarding planning and will send out the current programme. ACTION clerk

6.4 Churchyard matters – Clerk advised that Idverde and a local contractor have been asked to quote for the grounds maintenance in 2024. It is hoped to have both quotes for the next meeting.

6.5 Village Hall – Cllr Woolley reported that the last meeting was held on the 10th of October 2023 and the Treasurers report stated that the current account has £585.91, with the reserve account at £29,071.94

Approval was given for the hall floor to be refurbished at a cost of £1275 plus VAT. Some grant funding is to be sought for this, but this work will not take place until next year, possibly in March when the Hall is not in use for a couple of days.

The work on the outside rendering has been completed.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 30<sup>th</sup> September raised £1300.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October it will be two years since the Tuesday Coffee Morning was introduced. A coffee Morning is being held on Boxing Day, 26<sup>th</sup> of December with a reduced number of volunteers.

Fundraising events: A Motown evening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, an ABBA tribute act is to be booked for the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 and the possibility of holding a summer fete is to be discussed at the next meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2023.

6.6 Communications and Correspondence:

- a. Royal Mail recognition – no update received, clerk has chased but it appears that the contact at Borough has left, however emails are still going through.
- d. Land review – Cllr Leach advised that our tenant agreed the increase in rent and has paid this in October. NCC have received our notice and their solicitors, NP Law, requested a copy of our agreement which was sent. Cllr Kirk advised that County Farms are spending a lot of money on updating properties with only small parcels of land.

7 . Planning:

7.1 Applications:

**23/00618/FM** - Proposed Commercial Units - Class E at Pondworld Retail Park Lynn Road Walsoken Norfolk – concerns regarding drainage were raised as previously advised. The dyke/soak away is already full. No observations with the drainage comments.

**23/01821/F** - Proposed replacement dwelling. at Station Farm Station Road Walsoken Wisbech Norfolk PE14 8DJ – agreed to support this as it will enhance the area.

**23/01860/O** - OUTLINE APPLICATION WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED; for Up to 2 dwellings at Little Eastfield Barn Lynn Road Walsoken WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7AL – agreed no observations and will go along with the planning officer’s decision.

**23/01849/F** - VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF PLANNING PERMISSION 22/01567/F: Replacement barn style dwelling. The proposal is to demolish the existing barn, which sits with permission to convert into a dwelling under ref 21/01889/PACU3.

The existing barn has been deemed not suitable for conversion due to its poor quality and operational inefficiencies. It is proposed that a new residential development will be constructed in its place at 1 Popenhoe Cottages Station Road Walsoken Wisbech Norfolk PE14 8DJ – agreed no observations and will support the planning officer’s decision.

7.2 Decisions:

23/01442/CU | CHANGE OF USE FROM CLASS B2 TO E(d) indoor sport, for use as a gymnastics club. | Eastern Frames Unit 3 Grassgate Lane Walsoken WISBECH Norfolk PE14 7AN – APPLICATION PERMITTED

23/01373/F | VARIATION OF CONDITION 5 FROM PLANNING APPLICATION 21/00883/F - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 20/00885/F to amend drawings | Green Gates Walton Road Walsoken Norfolk PE14 7AG – APPLICATION PERMITTED

7.3 Enforcements: (new)

23/00589/UNOPDE | Alleged Unauthorised Operational Development | Sibly House Station Road Walsoken Wisbech Norfolk PE14 8DL – PENDING CONSIDERATION

23/00577/UADV | Alleged unauthorised Advert | 4 Sparrowgate Road Walsoken Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7AY – PENDING CONSIDERATION

Cllr Leach raised the issue with responses to applications from councillors. Regular responses are only received by Cllrs Woolley, Snow and Leach and a “planning working party” to be set up with Cllr Cocks agreeing to join.

8. Finance

8.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for October 23. Proposed by Cllr Woolley, seconded Cllr Harwin, and all in favour with £39,406.12 in the bank to the 31.10.23

8.2 Approval of payments for November(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 Taylor, seconded Cllr Cocks, and all in favour.

8.3 To discuss the draft budget for 24/25. The clerk was thanked by Cllr Leach for the work involved in this document and the councillors to review and make comments before the January meeting. The clerk asked for help with any items to be put in reserves. The precept has to be decided by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2024.

9. To receive items for the next agenda by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2024:

- a. Budget – First draft review including precept
- b. Bus Shelters
- c. Sleight’s Drive

The next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 9th of January 2024 at the Church Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 20.36

PAYMENTS OCTOBER 23

Salary	£ 280.13	Standing Order
HMRC	£ 70.00	Standing Order
Cozens – streetlights	£ 30.00	Standing Order
N power	£ 251.62	Direct Debit
Clerks expenses	£ 31.60	
Cozens light replacement	£ 2154.00	

Signed .....

Date .....