

WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Walsoken Parish Council Meeting held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 3rd of October 2023 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Fred Leach - Chair, John Woolley, Andy Houghton, Chris Luff, Clive Bettinson, Jennifer Snow, Yvonne Cocks, and Lynn Clarke.

Cllr Julian Kirk / Cllr Dawson from 7.38pm

No 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). – None present
2. Apologies – to accept apologies and reasons for absence: Cllrs Taylor (illness) & Blunt (work commitments)
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 12th of September 2023 were proposed by Cllr Woolley seconded by Cllr Luff 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 accepted by the Secretary of State and will now go to a public inquiry.
 - 5.2 Incinerator Response update – no update
 - 5.3 Black Bear Lane & Lynn Road Bus Stops – Cllr Woolley met with Westcotec to discuss both sites. Cllr Kirk agreed to provide £8534 towards these which was very much appreciated. Total costs £11,523
 - 5.4 Sleights Drive basketball area – Site visit to be arranged with BCKLWN to get approval for removal of the posts, level and reseed with a new dog bin supplied by the Parish Council. to speak to Open Spaces at BCKLWN to ask them for a site visit and approval to go ahead.
ACTION Clerk
 - 5.5 Reinstatement of the bus stops at S bend on the B198, Lynn Road – installation continues.
 - 5.6 Broad End Junction – no update but it is noted that cones are on one side of the verge.
6. To receive reports:
 - 6.1 Councillors' reports of villagers' concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
Clerk to chase Cozens regarding street light replacement. ACTION Clerk
Passing places are being parked on regularly – the signs are still at the depot – Clerk to contact Andy Wallace and Jason Moorse. Cc. Julian. ACTION Clerk
 - 6.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-
Cllr Kirk advised that the bridge on Station Road has collapsed and could be closed for many weeks. Report from Cllr Kirk has been sent to all councillors and he has attended a Drainage Board meeting recently .

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Signed

Date

The County Deal elections take place in May 24 and the Local Government Association has had to step in and assist the BCKLWN.

The Small Grants Scheme has just been launched with details sent out to all councillors, for grants up to £10,000

Cllr Dawson advised that he has spoken with the National Highways Department regarding the Broad End Junction roundabout along with the BCKLWN Local Plan. Reports received that the developers of the housing development will include the roundabout, but this is unconfirmed and doubtful. When asked if he could contribute towards the bus shelters, £300 was offered.

No report from Cllr Blunt

6.3 Clerk Report –

- a. External auditors PKF Littlejohn has confirmed that our AGAR submission has been accepted in line with the statutory requirements.
- b. Attended the Scribe annual conference last week and some new updates should be of help with budget setting.
- d. Budget work to start next week with a first draft available for the November meeting.
- e. Meeting dates for 2024 – Cllr Leach raised the point that we should consider dropping the April and October meetings. The clerk advised that this would be lawful as the minimum meetings per year is 4 and not meeting in April would give more time to produce the AGAR for the May meeting. Councillors to give their opinions. ACTION: ALL
- f. A move to .gov.uk email addresses has been circulated but this is not a requirement by law yet. Current costs around £120 domain and set up, then £10 per month hosting for unlimited email addresses.

6.4 Churchyard matters – Cllr Leach advised that the agreed tree work would take place this week. The Idverde contract runs out at the end of October 2023 and the clerk to contact regarding a new quotation and also ask Icenii to quote.

6.5 Village Hall – Cllr Woolley reported that the last meeting was held on the 11th of September 2023 and the Treasurers report stated that the current account has £583.70, with the reserve account at £30,337.44

The Hall floor is badly stained and quotations to clean and seal it are to be obtained. Work on the outside rendering of the hall is due to start on the 22nd of September at a total cost of £820.00

Approval for the exterior repainting was given at a cost of £1,200 with a £200 contingency using Weathershield paint.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning was held on the 30th September. On the 31st of October it will be one year since the Tuesday Coffee Morning were introduced and it has been a huge success with regular attendances of 90 plus people. To help celebrate this Richard Barnwell, The High Sherriff of Cambridgeshire, will be visiting the Hall.

The next meeting is on the 10th of October 2023.

6.6 Communications and Correspondence:

- a. Proposed trod path at the Community Farm – nothing as yet. Awaiting meeting with Anglian Water.
- c. Royal Mail recognition – no update received, clerk has chased and will continue.
- d. Land review – Cllr Leach has spent a lot of time on this. NCC want to increase the rent from £1560 to £2283. It was proposed that we end the agreement and give 12 months' notice and the current tenant has agreed to a lower rent of £2000 plus £150 drainage rates.

Clerk to invoice the tenant accordingly and putting in writing 12 months' notice and then complete the information from NCC, along with a letter officially giving 12 months' notice. Cllr Dawson advised that status changes were to be introduced on some of the smaller NCC land.

- e. Request for support from a local student – The clerk advised that this is not normal practice and would set a precedent. It was agreed to decline the request. ACTION Clerk
 - f. Remembrance Day plans – Cllr Houghton raised concern that no information was available. Cllr Leach will ask Allan for details, and it was thought that the Arch Deacon may lead the service. Clerk to check with Mr. Peppercorn. ACTION Clerk
- Clerk to procure 2 wreaths.

7. Planning:

7.1 Applications:

23/01593/F – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 23/00588/F – proposed rear and side extension including demolition of neighbouring canopy etc., 19 Burrett Gardens, Walsoken. NO OBSERVATIONS AGREED BY ALL

23/01255/F – Retrospective retention of two portacabins for use at Heathfield Nursery, Wilkins Road, Walsoken. DECIDED TO GO WITH THE PLANNING DEPARTMENTS DECISION.

All in favour of above actions.

7.2 Decisions: None

7.3 Enforcements:

23/00494/BOC | Alleged Breach of Condition 21/01853/F | Salmar Wilkins Road Walsoken Wisbech Norfolk PE14 8DQ – Pending Consideration- breach of planning

7.4 Planning update – general session on the 10th of October by the Planning Department as per email sent out 4.9.23. Please let the clerk know if any councillors wish to attend either session.

ACTION: ALL

8. Finance

- 8.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for September 23. Proposed Cllr Woolley, seconded Cllr Clarke, and all in favour. £38, 877.57 to the 30.9.23
- 8.2 Approval of payments for October(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 Luff, seconded Cllr Woolley, and all in favour.
- 8.3 To approve the half year financial review which shows we are under budget by £4290.15 but this does not include the payment for the tree removal and the insurance claim for the streetlight. Approved Cllr Woolley, seconded Cllr Luff.

9. To receive items for the next agenda by the 31st of October:

- a. Budget – First draft
- b. Bus Shelters
- c. Sleight's Drive

The next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 7th of November 2023 at the Church Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 20.27

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
Clerk Expenses September 23	£ 10.00	
Poppy Wreaths x 2	£ 45.70	paid by clerk
Norfolk Farms Estate	£ 780.00	