

WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Walsoken Parish Council Meeting held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 12th of September 2023 from 7.00pm

4Present :

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

Cllr Julian Kirk

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 Snow, Taylor & Dawson. Parish Clerk – Caroline Boyden. NOTE Minutes taken by Cllr Leach.
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 4th of July 2023 were proposed by Cllr Luff 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 in progress – no update
 - 5.2 Incinerator Response update – no update.
 - 5.3 Black Bear Lane Bus Stop – Clerk to set up a site meeting with Andy Wallace and Westcotec. It was also agreed to go ahead with 2 new bus shelters on Lynn Road to support the reinstatement of the two bus stops. Cllr Kirk has some funding available. ACTION Clerk
 - 5.4 Sleights Drive basketball area – Cllr Houghton discussed the survey results, and it was decided to remove the post, level and reseed with the addition of a new dog bin. Clerk 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 stop at S bend on the B198, Lynn Road – going ahead.
 - 5.6 Broad End Junction – The signs are still not working on both sides and Cllr Kirk advised that Liz Truss is still working on this and information from the developers had been requested. Due to limited resources, it is thought that neither County Council would fund a new roundabout.
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 Dawson reports are all up to date.
No report from Cllr Blunt

Cllr Kirk reported –

I have a very close working relationship with all seven parish councils and parish councillors I have within my Borough Ward and County Division, it's rather like an extended family who I see monthly, all parish councillors work extremely hard for their community.

To recap on what I have been up too, during August I have attended all Parish Council meetings (If held during the summer recess) within my Borough Ward and County Division. I have signed up for Community Speedwatch Training with the Tilney All Saints Parish Council, I am looking forward to joining this new Speed watch team and hopefully make the roads safer.

I have shared on my social media all notification of road closures I have received from Norfolk County Council Highways. I have been out with my Brush Cutter and Hedge Trimmer continuing to cut back dangerous verges and overhanging hedges and brambles on junctions and clearing road signs. I have helped with the West Walton Monthly Litter Pick.

My offer of help collecting shopping or prescriptions for constituents who are house bound continues, please get in touch if I can help.

I continue to report Highway faults, including potholes, hedges, mud on roads and fly tipping.

I have received phone calls and emails from constituents with concerns on many subjects, which I have dealt with in a timely manner and the outcome shared with the constituent concerned.

Regarding the Borough Council, it is still quite and our councillor grants are now available at the https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20228/community_grants/913/councillor_community_grant_scheme

6.3 Clerk Report –

- a. Andy Wallace is looking to programme the replacement chevrons on the corner of Broadend Road and Green Lane.
- b. Black Bear Lane Bus Stop – as reported under 5.3
- c. Churchyard – working with Cllrs Kirk and Anota re Borough Council assistance.
- d. Norfolk Net Zero Communities Survey – JW to discuss with Village Hall.
- e. Cozens have been given three year agreement for our street lighting at £25.00 per month and they have also been approved by our insurance company to replace the damaged streetlight. We have to pay the first £250 and claim back the VAT.
- f. Support for the “Cash for Norfolk” campaign – huge impact on small businesses.
- g. Local Plan update as emailed to all councillors.

6.4 Churchyard matters – It was decided that we will pay the registry fee of £316.00, and the approved work can then go ahead. After this work, further investigation is required for the future. Clerk to add to next meeting.

6.5 Village Hall – Cllr Woolley reported that the last meeting was held on the 1st of August 2023 The Treasurers report stated that the current account has £1966.92, with the reserve account at £29272.33. Quotes for the air conditioning and solar panels were presented. A water heater for the kitchen was approved.

The Clairvoyant Night tickets are selling well. In future people hiring the Hall will only be given the key code to enter the Hall 2 hours before the booking.

Andy Houghton was introduced to the Committee.

Andy suggested that he worked with the adult community from 19+ and felt that, through him and the Collage, courses on various themes could be brought into the Hall free of charge and

would enrich our community. It was suggested that, to start with, a pilot scheme should be run during a Tuesday Coffee morning. A survey could then be run to check what type of classes were most needed. These could include flower arranging, assistance with using technology such as mobile phones, laptops, etc., the college could even lend equipment to help. A side room was suggested for this as the hall gets very noisy on coffee mornings. The next meeting is on 12th September.

6.6 Communications and Correspondence:

- a. Post Office/Shop concerns – it was decided that the Parish Council should have no involvement in this matter but safety in the village to be on the next agenda.
- b. Proposed Trod from the new bus stop to the community farm – Cllr Woolley to check with the Community Farm regarding an update. ACTION: JW
- c. Royal Mail recognition – no update received.
- d. Website review – the new site is live, and the former site has been cleared.
- e. Land review – it was decided to give up our tenancy agreement and Cllr Leach to contact Jenna Goodall Browne. ACTION: FL

7 . Planning:

7.1 Applications:

23/01460/RMM - Approval of the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of the 6 industrial units at Land N of 4 To 6 Lynn Road Walsoken Norfolk - SUPPORTED

23/01442/CU - CHANGE OF USE FROM CLASS B2 TO E(d) indoor sport, for use as a gymnastics club. at Eastern Frames Unit 3 Grassgate Lane Walsoken WISBECH Norfolk – SUPPORTED

All in favour of supporting both applications

7.2 Decisions:

23/01025/F | Erection of triple garage with link | Wellington House 17 S-Bend Lynn Road Walsoken Norfolk PE14 7AP – Application permitted

23/01003/F | Erection of single-storey rear extension. | Jan Maria 59 Burrettgate Road Walsoken Wisbech Norfolk PE14 7BL – Application permitted

7.4 Enforcements:

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

7.5 Planning update – general session from 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 July and August 23. Proposed Cllr Luff, seconded Cllr Clarke and all in favour. £37,722.58 to the 31.8.23

8.2 Approval of payments for September(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 Bettinson, seconded Cllr Luff, and all in favour.

8.3 To approve and sign the updated AGAR – proposed Cllr Leach, seconded Cllr Woolley, and all in favour.

8.4 Cllr Houghton has not received any communication from Unity Trust Bank and clerk to chase. ACTION Clerk

9. To receive items for the next agenda by the 25th of September.

- a. Village Safety
- b. New Bus Shelters
- c. Churchyard future works
- d. Sleight's Drive

10. Next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 3rd of October 2023 at the Church Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

PAYMENTS AUGUST 23

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|------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Salary | £ 280.13 | Standing Order |
| HMRC | £ 70.00 | Standing Order |
| Westcotec | £ 18.58 | Final Payment |
| Clerk Expenses July 23 | £ 36.60 | |

PAYMENTS SEPTEMBER 23

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|------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Salary | £ 280.13 | Standing Order |
| HMRC | £ 70.00 | Standing Order |
| Cozens – streetlights | £ 25.00 | Standing Order |
| Clerk Expenses August 23 | £ 10.00 | |
| The Bishop of Ely's Registry | £ 317.00 | |