

WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Walsoken Parish Council Meeting held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 12th of March 2024 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Fred Leach - Chair, John Woolley, Andy Houghton, John Harwin, and Lynn Clarke. Parish Clerk
Cllrs Julian Kirk, Chris Dawson (part time)
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
2. Apologies Cllrs Snow, Taylor, Cocks, Luff, Bettinson 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 9th of January 2024 were proposed by Cllr Woolley, seconded by Cllr Clarke 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 – going ahead.
 - 5.2 Incinerator Response – going ahead.
 - 5.3 Sleights Drive basketball area – no update from Borough and Clerk has asked for help from Cllr Bal Anota.
 - 5.4 Broad End Junction – work in progress and it is hoped it includes the warning lights.
6. To receive reports:
 - 6.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
Safety barriers around the collapsed drain on All Saints Avenue.
 - 6.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-
Cllr Dawson reported that he was on the advisory group reviewing the current Tarmac and Norse contracts for the next tender. Highways consultation on improving planning responses and local signage improvements to include business signs. He is also involved in the community forum regarding poor broadband signals and looking at the possibility of funding being available next year via the County Deal and the directly elected leader of Norfolk County Council.
Andy Houghton was thanked for his work regarding development training for students re work experience. Cllr Dawson left at 7.23pm
Cllr Kirk advised that the NCC had reviewed the Grimsby to Walpole National Grid proposal and requested that the work is via underground cabling rather than overhead power lines/pylons.
Police and Crime Commissioner elections are due this coming May.

6.3 Clerk Report –

Attended Scribe training session on reserves and year end with a follow up planned for next week. Starting preparations for year end and then the AGAR reports.

Taken a call from Cllr Blunt regarding inviting James Wild MP to one of our meetings and it was agreed that the Parish Council is non political, and it would set a precedent which would mean that all candidates could attend a meeting. Some concern on exactly where the new parliamentary border is and confirmation required.

6.4 Churchyard matters – Clerk to find out when the first grass cut is anticipated due to the weather delays. ACTION: clerk

6.5 Village Hall – Cllr Woolley reported on the last three meetings:

22nd January: Linda Goodale is resigning from the Committee from the 23rd of February meaning that the positions of Treasurer, Booking Clerk and Secretary will be vacant.

The ABBA concert was a great success ring in a profit of £929.00 which included a kind donation from the bar by David Patrick. A letter has been received from the Wisbech Lions thanking the Hall for the donation of £250 raised from the Unique Sounds Disco . A meeting with the Robert Hall Foundation is to be arranged to discuss the funding of Solar Panels, batter storage and possibly air conditioning. The oil tank is to be replaced and John Woolley to contact the plumber for a quote. All future bookings must include a set up time in the booking fee.

12th February: Linda Goodale attended her last meeting and the vacant roles have been filled with a new booking clerk and Secretary/Treasurer. The recent afternoon of Motown music held on the 11th of February was a great success with over 80 attendees and another one is planned for Easter Sunday. David Ball from the Robert Hall Foundation is meeting committee members on the 19th of February to discuss solar panel and batteries for the hall. The Hall is closed from 5-10th of March for the floor to be cleaned and sealed. It is hoped that the replacement oil tanks will take place.

4th March: The new booking clerk is Brooke Aston, and the new treasurer/secretary is Christine Surry. The chairman thanked Linda Goodale, who retired from these roles, for all her hard work. It was reported that the Wisbech Rotary Club will be donating £600 to the hall for the Christmas draw. Various fund raising events have been organised and a free bus trip to Hunstanton will take place later in the year.

It has been suggested that grant money could be obtained from various organisations and businesses to help fund future projects and this will be looked into.

6.6 Communications and Correspondence:

a. Royal Mail recognition – no update received, clerk still chasing for a contact.

b. Land review – Cllr Dawson gave an update on the boundary dispute the NCC and the Garage owner and NCC were looking for the Parish Council to pay a third towards the costs of checking the boundary. This was refused as not a good use of tax payers money and not the responsibility of the Parish Council. Cllr Dawson was thanked for helping on this matter.

c. Parish Magazine. Cllrs Snow and Cocks raised this regarding inclusion of the contact details for the Parish Council. Clerk to follow up. ACTION: clerk

d. NCC proposal to turn off the lights between Old Lynn Road junction and the Lynn Road roundabout were discussed and all in favour.

e. Wheatley Bank flooding – Cllr Kirk gave an update on this as the site has flooded again and diggers cannot start work until the conditions improve.

f. Gypsy and Traveller policy – Cllr Leach had asked 2 questions, with 1 that they had got the wrong site as it should have been next door, which was acknowledged and the

other question was unanswered – with 9 more caravans scheduled, how many is considered safe and the fact that the police will not enter sites. Cllr Kirk has not heard back either.

g. Lynn Road bus stops – Cllr Woolley reported that the X1 was not stopping, however Cllr Kirk had seen buses stopping. Clerk to write to Jason Moorse at Highways for confirmation. ACTION: Clerk
Cllr Kirk was thanked by all for his donations towards these 2 new bus shelters.

7. Planning:

7.1 Applications: None

7.2 Decisions: None

7.3 Enforcements:

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

24/00057/UADV | Unauthorised advertisement at Rosedale House, Station Road, Walsoken –
PENDING CONSIDERATION

Cllr Kirk raised the concerns regarding the dog kennels as the constant barking continues and is now affecting neighbours plus the condition of the animals. Cllr Houghton to contact Dog Trust.

8. Finance

8.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for January and February 24 . Proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded Cllr Woolley, and all in favour with £19,208.44 in the bank to the 29.02.24

8.2 Approval of payments for March (to date)– due to the meeting being so early in the month, the clerk will issue a further payment listing, if required, later in the month. Proposed Cllr Leach, seconded Cllr Harwin, and all in favour.

8.3 Mr. K Brooks appointed as Internal Auditor.

9. To receive items for the next agenda by the 1st of May 2024:

The next Meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting from 7.00pm on the 7th of May 2024 at the Church Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 20.15

PAYMENTS FEBRUARY 24

Salary	£ 280.13	Standing Order
HMRC	£ 70.00	Standing Order
Cozens – light maintenance	£ 30.00	Standing Order
Clerk Expenses January 24	£ 47.60	
Tawny Owl Garden Services	£ 75.00	
Westcotec bus shelter opp 7 Lynn Road	£ 5420.40	
Westcotec bus shelter Blackbear Lane	£ 4186.80	
Westcotec bus shelter 10 Lynn Road	£ 4820.40	

PAYMENTS MARCH 24

Salary	£ 280.13	
plus, back pay from 1.4.23		
HMRC	£ 70.00	
plus, back pay from 1.4.23		
Cozens – light maintenance	£ 30.00	Standing Order
Clerk Expenses January 24	£ 26.00	
NPTS subscription	£ 130.56	
Westcotec – bus shelter repairs	£ 264.00	

Signed

Date