

WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Walsoken Parish Council Meeting held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 7th of March 2023 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Fred Leach - Chair, John Woolley, Andy Houghton, Chris Luff, Allan Landall, Jenny Snow, John Harwin, Joanna Taylor, Caroline Boyden, Parish Clerk.
Cllr Julian Kirk
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: Cllrs Bettinson & Dawson (illness)
3. Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations. Cllr Landall regarding the churchyard.
4. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th of January 2023 were proposed by Cllr Luff seconded by Cllr Woolley 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 - letter from Malcolm Meed residents’ spokesman against solar farm. To be discussed at the next meeting.
 - 5.2 Incinerator Response update – Cllrs Leach and Woolley attended the recent public enquiry and all speakers were against with the exception of 1. Decision date due by the end of 2023. Concerns raised regarding the emissions, lack of infrastructure plus the 100’s of additional HGVs per day.
 - 5.3 Bus Shelter slope – The clerk to chase Andy Wallace with help from Cllr Kirk.
ACTION Clerk/ Cllr Kirk
 - 5.4 Sleights Drive basketball area – no update from Cllr Dawson
 - 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, bus services. Dial a Bus and the West Norfolk Community bus could also be interested.
6. To receive reports:
 - 6.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
 - a. Cllr Woolley advised that potholes had been reported.
 - b. Cllr Leach raised the problem on Green Lane with delivery vehicles using residents driveways to turn round. The suggestion of a “turning bay” sign was agreed and Cllr Leach will order the signage.

6.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-

Cllr Dawson reports are all up to date.

Cllr Kirk advised that the budgets for both County and Borough were now agreed. Electric buses are now working in Norwich. Following last month's point on a Mayor for Norfolk, it has been decided to have an "elected leader" instead. The £20m "deal" would include the costs for this person and supporting administration.

Very quiet at BCKLWN at the moment.

6.3 Clerk Report –

The 2 new bank accounts are now open with Unity Trust Bank, a current account for payments with a savings account. The 2 Barclays accounts will be closed.

Working on updating all the policies and procedures for the year end and the cut off for March payments will be the 28th to ensure year end is met.

Scribe Accounting package and Norfolk Parish Training & Support proposed under 6.6

The current website needs a revamp and to include historical details of the village.

6.4 Churchyard matters – Cllr Landall advised that the first grass cut is due on or before the 14th of March.

6.5 Village Hall – Cllr Woolley attended the Village Hall Committee Meeting on the 24th of January 2023 and advised that the hall has been decorated with new electrics installed following a grant to cover these costs. New window blinds have now been fitted along with the rebuilding of the bar. Hall charges are £19 per hour and a £100 deposit will be charged for party bookings and wedding receptions. It was decided that no outside bars will use the hall in future as it will provide its own bar.

The committee have been invited to visit the Wisbech Community Farm and Cllr Woolley hopes to join this visit when a date has been arranged.

The next meeting will be the AGM on the 28th of March.

6.6 Communications and Correspondence:

a. May 2023 elections. The clerk had the nomination forms and guidance documents printed for any Parish Councillors to assist with their applications. Cllr Leach advised that the North Ward had 2 councillors – Cllrs Woolley and Taylor. Our other 6 councillors would come from the Main Ward.

b. Churchyard Trees, following the email from Cllr Landall regarding the removal of a holly tree causing root damage to the tarmac and a sycamore tree next to the boiler house which is causing root damage to the boiler house, causing subsidence.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would cover the costs of the report and removal of the trees amounting to £1,339.95 as per current quotes. Proposed by Cllr Houghton, seconded by Cllr Snow and all in favour.

c. Norfolk Parish Council Training and Support subscription and Scribe accounting package discussed, and both proposed by Cllr Leach, seconded by Cllr Snow and all in favour.

d. Royal Mail recognition of Walsoken, Norfolk. The clerk had been contacted by BCKLWN on this issue and it was agreed that the clerk, Cllrs Houghton and Kirk would form a working group to take this further. Clerk to write a formal letter. ACTION Clerk

7. Planning:

7.1 Applications:

None

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 January 23. Proposed Cllr Leach, seconded Cllr Woolley and all in favour.

8.2 Approval of payments for February & March 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 Joanna Taylor, seconded Cllr Snow, and all in favour.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

Bus Shelter on Burrett Road

Additional Dog Bins

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

12. Next Parish Council Meeting will be from 7.00pm on the 11th of April 2023 at the Church Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.28