

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 7 PM ON TUESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2022 AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
WALSOKEN

In Attendance: Councillors John Woolley (Vice Chairman chairing the meeting); C Bettinson; A Houghton; A Landall; B Sisson; County & Borough Cllr J Kirk (left at 8.15pm); Clerk to the Council C Lilley; Cllr Leach from 7.45pm

1. **Public Participation:** James Ingham of Upp gave a presentation about full fibre broadband being installed by them in Walsoken. The full fibre cable will utilise Openreach's infrastructure and is already live in some villages in Norfolk and Wisbech and Walsoken will be added to this. Upp uses all their own cables and will provide 200, 500 & 900 mb packages for residential properties starting from £26 pcm for 2 years. Additionally there will be two business packages, 500 mb £90 plus vat 1000gb at £120 plus VAT pcm. The company employees and aims to keep money within community and to be seen as a local brand. They currently have 150 staff and want to be at 400 by 2024 and a lot are former service men and women. Upp will hope to cover as much as the village as possible and if there is a telegraph pole they would hope to get the full fibre there. No percentage threshold before they build and there will be no adjustment to the price based on numbers of take up. Fixed pricing for 2 years. Hoping to have updates within the next 6 months depending on access to the ducts and chambers.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Luff and Cllr Harwin (Holiday); Cllr Jo Woolley (Work); Cllr J Snow (illness); County Cllr C Dawson (Conference)
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared
4. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting held 16th August 2022:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr B Sisson, seconded by Cllr C Bettinson and unanimously approved.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) Incinerator Response Update: Cllr Dawson has been keeping the Council up to date and the Clerk has been sending all emails to the Councillors. Email received last week which was forwarded to Councillors. We need to register as an interested party between 4th October and 15th November 2022. The Clerk will register and then we can put views across. Cllr Kirk reported that the Borough and County Council will lodge objections as soon as they are able to do so. **Action Point: The clerk register and check when the Council representations need to be made.**
 - b) From 5(b) - CIL Funding has been approved for £2189 with the balance, a further £2189, having been agreed to be paid from Cllr Kirk's member's fund. The Clerk applied for the street furniture licence which was approved. Westcotec have scheduled the installation for 17th October subject to the Works Notice . Once the shelter is up the County Council will be contacted about the pavement condition.
 - c) From 14 b) – Sleights Drive Basketball area: Cllr Dawson is still waiting to hear back from Gary Chilvers. He will chase on behalf of the Parish Council to try and progress things.
 - d) From 5(d) As per last meeting, currently it is a case of waiting to hear back from Norfolk County Council. Norfolk has been awarded money for transport as part of the leveling up fund but Cllr Kirk reported that it is not very likely to make it to the villages. This is an ongoing matter and will remain on the agenda.
 - e) From 10(b) – The clerk emailed Idverde and raised concerns over the epicormic growth and bin bags as requested and received a response that the matter would be pursued and was advised that the work would be carried out asap. This work has now been done and been done well but moving forwards it should not be a matter that it has to be chased every time and this is something Cllr Landall feels should perhaps be built into the next contract.
 - f) From 12(b) - The Clerk has purchased replacement defibrillator pads as agreed and these are now with the defibrillator with the old ones having been removed. The new pads expire on 28.11.24. The Clerk looked into what could be done with the old unused one and they cannot be recycled and are disposed of within general rubbish which she has done. The clerk has updated the website that shows the status of the defibrillator and makes it available to the ambulance service. Cllr Woolley met with Jonathon Peeling of CEVA and explained that the Parish Council felt that the best location for the donated defibrillator would be on the Village Hall and Mr Peeling is now dealing directly with the Village Hall Committee so the Parish Council is no longer involved. The donated defibrillator has new pads but does not have a cabinet. The Village Hall are going to purchase a cabinet and place it on an outside wall. This item is now closed for the Parish Council.

9. **Street Lighting & Allotments:** Nothing to report. Invoice sent to tenant for the year. No invoice received from Norfolk County Council for the Michaelmas period as yet.

10. **Churchyard Matters:**

a) Plant a Tree for the Jubilee - The Clerk has reserved and paid for the larger Holly Oak tree as agreed at the last meeting. This is being held ready for collection at the appropriate time. Plant the tree in November. The clerk asked if a plaque as intended and if so where this can be purchased from and it was agreed to discuss this at the next Council meeting.

Cllr Landall reported that some branches need trimming at west end of the church. He has contacted Idverde for a quote and Neil McCourt is going to call in. They need removing professionally as they are large branches. They are spoiling another tree as a result and it is a weeping oak which is quite rare. **Action Point:** The clerk was asked to mention on website that grounds maintained by Idverde as they do a very good job but this will not be in the form of an advertisement.

11. **Meerdyke Solar Farm** The Clerk has written to West Walton Parish Council at the request of Cllr Bettinson to advise that a number of Parishioners in Biggs Road and Station Road have raised concerns and to ask West Walton to keep Walsoken PC informed on the proposals. A meeting was due in early September but was postponed due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II. It has now taken place and additionally Cllr Bettinson met with West Walton Parish Council on site on 3rd October. The solar farm will block views from houses and there are 3 phases. So far phase 1 which is W Walton and the other two phases are in Walsoken. There will be a hedge around it but it will still obscure views. It is on good agricultural land. Approx 200 acre. The Councillors feel it should be on land which isn't suitable for agriculture rather than taking good land as if it is a choice between supplying energy or food, food should be the priority. Cllr Bettinson is not clear who is developing the project but it appears to be a company called Downing. There is not yet a planning application in but there hasn't been a public consultation with Walsoken who arguably have more of an interest than West Walton as it will have more effect on Walsoken. **Action Point:** Clerk to email and find out who the developer is. Cllr Bettinson will ask the West Walton organisers to email Clerk.

12. **Correspondence:** The clerk read an email & Share Certificate from NALC and advised that an email has been received from CIL regarding CIL Funding for 2023. The notification states the application periods as 1st Jan to 1st Feb 2023 and 1st July to 1st August 2023.

13. **Any Other Matters including urgent matters arising:**

a) Village Hall update – Cllr John Woolley attended a meeting last week. They were pleased to accept defib and met with CEVA to arrange handover as mentioned under item 5(f) of these minutes. The village hall seems to be going from strength to strength including a community coffee morning on a Tuesday. They have a good team of volunteers and get a lot of funding from the Robert Hall fund which helps. The Hall is all refurbished and this is good to see.

b) The Clerk asked for agreement to order the two wreaths for Remembrance Sunday as normal. All agreed. **Action Point:** Clerk will contact and order.

14. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting:** None

Cllr John Woolley thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.40pm .

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7pm at All Saints' Church, Walsoken.

Signed.....(Chairman) Dated.....2022