MINUTES OF MEETING OF WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON TUESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2022 AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WALSOKEN

In Attendance: Councillors F Leach (Chairman); John Woolley; C Bettinson; A Houghton; B Sisson; J Snow; C Luff; J Harwin; County & Borough Cllr J Kirk (left at 8.15pm); County Councillor C Dawson; Clerk to the Council C Lilley;

1. Public Participation:

- 2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Landall (Bible Meeting); Cllr Jo Woolley (Work);
- 3. Declarations of Interest: None declared
- **4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held 4**th **October 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 pressing NCC to add a report on the Highways aspect but was unhappy with the response. The constituancy office at Thetford have been compiling their own response and he is hopeful that they will make a more helpful comments. The clerk confirmed that the Council has registered as an interested party and received a confirmation email
- b) From 5(b) The shelter was installed on 17th October 2022 as anticipated and pictures provided by Westcotec and sent on to the Councillors and NCC. Andy Wallace has responded and said that he will ask his colleague to programme removal of the overgrowth on the footway which will tidy it up nicely. The Clerk submitted the invoice for payment by CIL and Cllr Kirk's members fund and payments have been received. Cllr Woolley said he has had a comment from a resident stating his mother still has difficulty getting up the slope to the bus. The slope is where the old bus stop is but that is still where the bus stops which was agreed and there is an awkward slope up to it which needs looking at. Action Point: Clerk will report that it is a trip hazard to Andy Wallace & Jason Moorse and ask them to carry out some work there.
- c) From 14 b) Sleights Drive Basketball area: Ongoing matter. Cllr Dawson has chased Gary Chilvers up. Gary was told it was not urgent, which it isn't, but Cllr Dawson would like an idea of the cost albeit that work is not being considered until 2023.
- d) From 5(d) As per last meeting, currently it is a case of waiting to hear back from Norfolk County Council. This is an ongoing matter and will remain on the agenda. No further updates.
- e) From 13 The wreaths were ordered and Cllr Woolley collected them. There has been a slight increase in the suggested donation from £17 per wreath to £20 per wreath. This is still within the budget of £50 agreed at the beginning of this financial year.
- **6. Planning:** The clerk reported on the planning information which has been circulated and was noted. The outstanding matters were discussed and the Council's recommendations will be forwarded. Councillors will look at some outstanding which have only been received this week.

7. Finance:

a) The schedule of payments as shown has been circulated. The clerk asked the Councillors to note that in order to pay outstanding bills in October she moved £2000 from the savings account. Clerk reported that the new pay scales have been implemented from 1st April 2022 so she has calculated the back pay for hours worked since then, including holiday pay for the period since 1st April to 31st December which is also being claimed on this salary sheet. The hourly rate has increased from £13.21 to £14.21. All payments were unanimously approved as proposed by Cllr C Luff and seconded by Cllr Harwin.

WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS FOR APPROVAL

Meeting date 22nd November 2022

lease note there may be additional routine or budgeted payments added to this list prior to the meeting.

PAYMENTS TO BE MADE ONLINE or by CHEQUE	DETAILS	NET AMOUNT	VAT	TOTAL
Mrs C Lilley	Net Salary 01.10.22 – 18.11.22	£958.91	£0.00	£958.91
Mrs C Lilley	Expenses	£83.85	£0.00	£83.85
Mrs C Lilley	Reimbursements	£25.97	£5.20	£31.17
HMRC	PAYE C Lilley	£112.61	£0.00	£112.61
Npower	Electricity Supply 01.07.22 - 30.09.22	£209.36	£10.47	£219.83
Westcotec	Street Light Maintenance October 2022	£15.48	£3.10	£18.58
NCC	Allotment Rent 06.04.22 to 10.10.22	£780.00	£0.00	£780.00
Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Wreaths x 2	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
Westcotec	Bus Shelter	£4,378.00	£875.60	£5,253.60
Westcotec	Street Light Maintenance November 2022	£15.48	£3.10	£18.58
		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
			£0.00	£0.00
	TOTAL OF PAYMENTS	£6 619 66	£897.47	£7 517 13

RECEIPTS	DETAILS	AMOUNT
E.On	Refund (T'fer to Npower)	£45.45
NCC	Cllr Dawson Members' Cont Jubilee Tree	£162.00
J Clifton	Allotment Rent 11.10.22 to 10.10.23	£1,836.25
BCKLWN	CIL Funding FY22/2_62	£2,189.00
BCKLWN	Cllr Kirk Funding for Bus Shelter	£2,189.00
	·	£6,421.70

Barclays Interest on Savings Account £2.58

Bank Balances (Incl above)	Amount
Current A/C brought fwd from previous	
meeting	
New current a/c bal after payments to carry	
fwd to next meeting	£929.78
Savings Account	£32,815.07
New current a/c + Savings TOTAL	£33,744.85
Bank Reconciliation	
Balance forward	£34,837.70
Add receipts	£6,424.28
Sub total	<u>£41,261.98</u>
Less payments	£7,517.13
TOTAL	£33,744.85

- b) There were no additional comments regarding a potential application for a Parish Partnership application. Closing date is 9th December 2022. To be considered again next year with more planning.
- c) The clerk presented the first draft of the 2024 year end budget for consideration. Some clarification was given for items on the agenda. It will be updated and discussed further at the next meeting.

8. Highway Matters:

The clerk reported on current outstanding highways matters as contained in the report as circulated and this was noted. Cllr Woolley referred to a trod where there are problems in between Church Road and Chapnall Road. Although no actual complaint is being made as yet, it is difficult to walk on properly because of the condition. Action Point: Clerk to ask the ranger to look at it.

- a) The clerk reported that as requested she emailed Jason Moorse regarding the possibility of extending the 30mph speed limit further as the envelope of the town has extended. A general enquiry was made about procedure for this and cost based on Cllr Kirk's previous advice that this is expensive in his experience. Jason Moorse has not replied.
- b) Road Signage Nothing further has been heard regarding this. The passing space signs are not yet in place.
- 9. Street Lighting & Allotments: Payment has been received from the tenant and rent is up to date. The invoice from NCC was received late after the Clerk chased it. The Parish Council has received Notice from NCC about a rent review which will be taking place. Mr Clifton was already advised a rent review was due in 2020 so he is already aware. No further notice to be sent to him.

The Clerk reported a lamp out on behalf of a resident but Cllr Leach believes this was the wrong lamp and/or it was repaired quickly but there is another lamp out on Burrett Road with the reference 24. The Clerk had looked but could not find a matching number. It was clarified that it is a Bracket lamp o/s The Limes. Action Point — Clerk to report fault.

10. Churchyard Matters:

- a) Plant a Tree for the Jubilee Funding has been received from Cllr Dawson's Members fund. Tree has been planted and is in and happy. Agreed a plaque is a good idea. Suggested working is "this tree was planted to commemorate the platinum jubillee of QEII" including the date and year. Cllr Houghton is aware of someone who will be able to make the plaque. Action Point: Cllr Houghton to contact the company he is aware of regarding the plaque.
- b) Cllr Landall reported at the last meeting that some branches need trimming at west end of the church. Quote has now been received from Idverde and it is £235.00 plus VAT (Total £282). The Council accepts the quote and would like the work to be booked. Proposed by Cllr John Woolley and seconded by Cllr Houghton. Action Point: Clerk to arrange for the work to be done.

- 11. Meerdyke Solar Farm The Clerk contacted Downing as agreed and they confirmed this is their project but stated that they will not be consulting Walsoken PC as the project is not in the Parish although it is right on the border. The clerk forwarded all this correspondence to the Councillors at the time who expressed dismay at the attitude. If there are cables in the highway that might be a County Council planning matter. Cllr Bettinson reported that there is a residents meeting tomorrow to put together a letter to respond to the application. Cllr Bettinson will report back. PC could put in a response that the residents aren't happy and the Parish Council agreed to support the residents involved.
- **12. Correspondence:** a) The Clerk has received an email from Bullguard stating that they are now jointly owned by Norton and virus protection will therefore be transferring. No impact on the current contract. This is likely to come up for renewal soon as it will be a year since the laptop was purchased.
 - b) Notice of rent review as referred to in item 9.
 - c) An email has been received from Liz Truss offering to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss any current concerns which was forwarded to the Councillors. Clerk to respond thanking her for her offer and say that currently we do not feel a meeting is necessary and advise that the Council are concerned about incinerator but know she is aware of the situation and it is something already actively being followed. If we have anything else to mention we will ask her to come.

13. Any Other Matters including urgent matters arising:

- a) Village Hall update On 1st November Cllr John Woolley was asked to receive defib from Ceva as the Parish Council representative. Ceva donated it to the Parish Council who in turn donated it to the Village Hall. It has already been used which is good to know. It was briefly unavailable after use as it was unknown where it was but it has now been recovered and new pads have been ordered. The hall continues to be run successfully by the new Committee with most planned events sold out and the Tuesday Coffee Mornings run by volunteers is attracting 80 plus people. The Village Hall Community Action Group Coffee Morning has won the Community Group Volunteers Award at this years Pride of Fenland Awards Ceremony.
- b) Community Forum. The Council discussed whether it would be appropriate to have a Facebook page or similar. Cllrs didn't have a comment to make but Cllr Kirk thinks it would be a good idea. The clerk asked what the purpose would be and it was suggested that this could be just an information/noticeboard page where comments could not be made but the Parish would be kept up to date or it could also allow comments. The big advantage would be interaction with parishioners and the Parish Council would see what they were talking about. It would involve additional time for the Clerk which would need to be taken into consideration. This item is to be added to the January agenda.
- c) Cllr leach sought approval to purchase a small gift for the litterpickers again this year. It is all the same people as last year. Proposed by Cllr Houghton and seconded by Cllr Sisson. Action Point Cllr Leach will purchase and distribute the vouchers.
- d) The Clerk read out the dates proposed for next year's meeting and these were agreed.
- e) Cllr Houghton as where the Parish would we stand for remembrance services if the churches merge when Rev Landall retires. The Parish Council hopes that this is something Cllr Landall will be able to keep them updated on nearer the time but that it is something that the Parish may need to be aware of.

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None

Cllr Leach thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.40p	Cllr Leach	ch thanked eve	rvone for attendi	ng and the meeting	g closed at 8.40p
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The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7pm at All Saints' Church, Walsoken.

Signed	(Chairman) Da	ited2023