

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 4th 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 constituency 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 Moore 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.

- 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 8.40pm .

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7pm at All Saints' Church, Walsoken.

Signed.....(Chairman) Dated.....2023