

WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Walsoken Parish Council Meeting held at the All Saints Church Community Room on Tuesday the 10th of January 2023 from 7.00pm

Present :

Councillors – Fred Leach - Chair, John Woolley, Chris Luff, Allan Landall, Joanna Woolley, Clive Bettinson, 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 Harwin, Houghton, and Snow (illness), Cllrs Dawson, Blunt, and Sisson (work commitments)
3. To remind all councillors of their duty to abide by the Code of Conduct. The clerk gave an update on the new Code of Conduct.
4. Declarations of Interest of any items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensations. None
5. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 22nd of November 2022 were proposed by Cllr Leach seconded by Cllr John Woolley, and approved by all present at that meeting.
6. Matters Arising – to record matters arising from the last meeting:
 - 6.1 Meerdyke Solar Farm update Cllr Bettinson advised that letters of objection had been sent. It was decided that the offer to visit by Downing as per letter sent by the clerk, would not be required, and now will be left to the planning submission.
 - 6.2 Incinerator Response update – all information from Cllr Dawson has been received to date and application now with the Secretary of State. Emissions a concern regarding effective people, animals, and crops plus the 80-100 HGVs per day.
 - 6.3 Bus Shelter slope – The clerk has received a response from Andy Wallace advising the issue is in hand, but priorities have been with dealing with potholes.
 - 6.4 Sleights Drive basketball area update – nothing to report.
 - 6.5 Reinstatement of the bus stop at S bend on the B198, Lynn Road. Clerk to ask Highways why the barriers are still in place when the work has been completed. ACTION Clerk
 - 6.6 Facebook page – it was agreed that the clerk sets up a Parish Council Facebook page for information only. ACTION Clerk
7. To receive reports:
 - 7.1 Councillors’ reports of villagers’ concerns, highway issues, allotments, and street lighting.
 - a. Broadend Road junction (both sides) with the A47, the lights are not working.

7.2 County and Borough Councillors reports-

Cllr Dawson reports are all up to date.

Cllr Kirk advised that bonfire smoke has now been reported to the environment agency and police. Plastic and rubbish are being burnt on a daily basis.

Full council approval is required for the proposed Mayor of Norfolk.

Cllr Kirk has asked Highways to relay Station Road as considered dangerous.

7.3 Clerk Report –

Further to information sent out regarding the move to Unity Trust Bank, this was proposed by Cllr Leach, seconded Cllr Bettinson, and all in favour.

The problems with using a private or business email address for parish council business was raised by the clerk and it was decided that councillors should have a separate email address. Clerk to send out details. ACTION Clerk

7.4 Churchyard matters – Idverde contract to be checked as to when it runs out. Cllr Landall has chased them and awaiting a response re dates. Cllr Houghton dealing with the Jubilee Tree plaque and all happy with the wording. It was agreed to go with a stainless steel plaque with a protective cover @ £136.00. Proposed Cllr Joanna Woolley, seconded Cllr John Woolley, and all in favour.

7.5 Village Hall – Cllr John Woolley advised no meeting yet and issues with users not cleaning up after events has led to a £100 deposit. Costs now at £19 per hour. The defibrillator had been taken but not used.

7.9 Communications and Correspondence:

a. Defibrillator – the clerk advised that a new guardian as used in the area can take this on for the Parish Council. They will make regular checks and advise when maintenance or new pads are required. Proposed Cllr John Woolley, seconded by Cllr Bettinson and all in favour.

Clerk to pass on details to Cllr John Woolley.

ACTION Clerk

b. PKF Littlejohn have been re-appointed as our external auditors for the next 5 years.

c. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the former clerk.

8. Planning:

8.1 Applications:

22/02221/0 outline application with all matters reserved for up to two proposed dwellings at Little Eastfield Barn, Lynn Road, and

22/02097/F 2 x proposed storage buildings (retrospective application at the above address

Cllr John Woolley advised that it would be best to let the planning department make the decisions.

22/01756/FM – planning obligation land south of Sandy Lane and North and South of Walsoken footpath – awaiting further comments from Cllr Dawson.

8.2 Decisions: (For information):

22/00751/NMA_1 – non material amendment to planning permission replacement dwelling and new culvert access at The Bungalow, Wilkins Road. Application permitted.

9. Finance:

9.1 Approve payments, receipts, bank reconciliation and statements for December 22. Proposed Cllr Leach, seconded Cllr John Woolley and all in favour.

9.2 Approval of payments for December 22 and January 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 Woolley, seconded Cllr Leach and all in favour.

9.3 Draft budget & precept for 23/24. The budget was approved with a 5% precept increase. Proposed Cllr Joanna Woolley, seconded Cllr Bettinson, and all in favour.

10. To receive items for the next agenda:

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 7th of March 2023 at the Church Community Room.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20.48

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Signed

Date