

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WALSOKEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 7 PM ON TUESDAY 5th JULY 2022 AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WALSOKEN

In Attendance: Councillors F Leach (Chairman); Jo Woolley; Chris Luff; C Bettinson; A Houghton; J Snow; County Cllr C Dawson; County & Borough Cllr J Kirk; Cllr R Blunt; Clerk to the Council C Lilley (via Zoom).

1. **Public Participation:** None present
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs John Woolley (Holiday); Barry Sisson (Holiday); J Harwin (Away); A Landall (Meeting)
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared
4. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting held 24th May 2022:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr C Luff, seconded by Cllr Jo Woolley 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. Nothing has been reported since the meeting in May. Cllr Blunt reported that the application for approval for the consultation process will be made this week. There will be 14 days to respond as to whether the consultation process has been adequate. This is not the application itself and the planning application will follow. **Action Point: The Chairman asked the Councillors to contact clerk and advise if they are happy with the consultations so that she can forward the response.**
 - b) From 5(b) - As requested the Clerk emailed the Council about the pavement and mentioned the concrete block. She raised concerns regarding the safety and that it is a tripping hazard. The response was that they did not consider that the condition of the pavement met the criteria for repair at the moment and suggested putting up the shelter and then they would re-assess. The clerk spoke with Cllrs Leach & John Woolley and Westcotec have been asked to inspect the site and provide a further quote based on the varied location and there is a meeting planned for 8th July. CIL Funding application could be made after that and the application window is 1 July to 1 August. Also eligible for Parish Partnership funding. Cllr Leach read a letter from 2010 regarding the pavement outside number 32 and by the bus stop which stated they were looking into the matter and would respond. Nothing further was heard. Once the new quote is received from Westcotec will review CIL application.
 - c) From 14 b) – Sleights Drive Basketball area: BCKLWN are not interested in doing any work to the land and suggested seeking funding from other avenues and the Parish Council carrying out the work. The Clerk read his email out but generally the suggestions he made would not be appropriate. Quotes are being obtained to tarmac 8 x 10m but also considering just landscaping. The first quote for tarmac from Harris Road Contractors is £13,198.00. Cllr Dawson has contacted Gary Chilvers who will provide a second quote and he has also spoken to a potential sponsor who is still interested in providing some funding for this work. Once quotes have been obtained Cllr Dawson will go back to them and pursue matters. In respect of landscaping, there have been no formal quotes as yet but one landscaper has given a very general figure based on size of £700-£1000 for levelling and seeding, £1500 for levelling and turfing. Both will require regular watering. A visit and proper quote would be required. Concerns re ongoing responsibility as is BC land not PC land so who would be responsible if there was a problem? Also probably eligible for CIL funding but window is now and bus shelter was the first suggestion and therefore priority. Most other options of funding considered are not appropriate although Parish Partnership letter has been received. PC understanding was that BC took responsibility when the post was put in but BC say the area is acceptable and that it is not their responsibility. **Action Point: Clerk to forward all emails regarding the matter to Cllr Blunt for his input.**
 - d) From 5(d) Clerk contacted the Council and bus company but did not receive a response from either initially. Bus company have now responded and said it would need to be something the Local Authority dealt with. Council were chased and have opened a query. They have said they have forwarded it to the relevant highway depot. Also received an email from Mr & Mrs Dix in response to the minutes which the clerk read. Need to wait to hear back from Highways. This is an ongoing matter and the Council needs to wait to hear back and put it on agenda next time.
6. **Planning:** The clerk reported on the planning information which has been circulated and was noted. The Clerk reported that she has received a number of calls regarding Topeka since the last meeting and on each

occasion the caller was advised that the application is not on the agenda for discussion as the Parish Council recommendation has already been made but that the callers were advised they could attend the public participation part of today's meeting to bring any points to the attention of the Council. No one attended for this purpose. This planning application needs to be monitored.

7. Finance:

a) The schedule of payments as shown has been circulated. All payments were unanimously approved as proposed by Cllr Jo Woolley and seconded by Cllr Jenny Snow

b) All AGAR forms were submitted as required. As yet nothing has been heard back. The notice of public rights has been issued and the period to view is 1st July to 11th August 2022.

c) Letter regarding Parish Partnership application has been received. Closing date is 9th December 2022. Put on agenda on an ongoing basis until December. Could use for bus shelter or basketball area and also SAM2.

8. Highway Matters:

The clerk reported on current outstanding highways matters as contained in the report as circulated and this was noted. Cllr Jo Woolley mentioned that the A47 flashing signs at Broadend Road are either not working or no longer there. **Action Point: Councillors to check and report back to the Clerk if it needs reporting.** Councillors are also concerned about the level of growth around the bus stop and the pavement is unsafe and lots of growth on the curbs around the whole area.

a) Residents of Green Lane want a sign saying there is a turning space at the end so that people don't turn around in drives. They spoke to BCKLWN who said speak to the Parish Council. They could gate their access. Cllr Dawson said he could pursue this if PC wants him to. **Action point: Cllr Leach will talk to residents and discuss. Clerk to email Chris regarding possible sign notifying of turning space.**

9. Street Lighting & Allotments: Nothing to report

10. Website The Clerk has tidied up the website and removed a lot of old or unnecessary information and has also combined some of the pages. All the accounts are back on there. There are fewer tabs and she feels it is easier to navigate with fewer places to look. Cllrs were asked to look at the website when she had completed and hasn't had any feedback. The Councillors agreed they are happy with the update.

11. Churchyard Matters:

a) Gate & Post – Cllr Leach carried out some remedial work and resolved the problem but the gate was then hit again by a vehicle from the other side. Cllr Leach has returned and resolved this. There are underground problems with the gate post be it is best left as it is for now and see if any more problems occur. This item can be removed from the agenda moving forwards as it is resolved.

b) Plant a Tree for the Jubilee - The clerk obtained a quote for £95 plus VAT for a 2m Holly Oak which will likely be pot grown whenever it is purchased. Cllr Dawson has confirmed that his contribution will be made whenever the purchase takes place on provision of a receipted invoice. It was agreed that a tree will be purchased in the Autumn. **Action Point: Clerk to email details to Cllr Dawson to ensure he reserves the funds until the tree is purchased.**

c) Church Wall – The clerk wrote a letter to the resident of 3 Church Road as agreed and has not had any response. This item can be removed from the next agenda.

12. Correspondence: The clerk reported that she has received a letter from Barclays Bank advising of the closure of the Wisbech branch. This was noted.

13. Any Other Matters including urgent matters arising:

a) Village Hall update – Cllr John Woolley asked for it to be reported that there have been more problems regarding the hall and a party attended recently by drinking teens. The Village Hall committee had an extraordinary meeting which he did not attend and they have set up an app so all of the committee can see who is making the bookings. Cllr John Woolley queried whether or not it is essential to have a PC representative at the meetings. He is not on the Village Hall committee and plays no part and is just there as an observer. He is happy to continue this but wanted clarification on the purpose as the Village Hall is not in PC jurisdiction. The Council agreed that it is not essential and that we do not need to nominate someone to represent us in the future. Cllr Woolley may continue to attend if he wishes.

b) There has been trouble with a caravan on Sparrowgate Rd passing space which has now been resolved. Cllr Dawson advised that there is a need for protocol of who to turn to and when at which stage in matters

- like this. He has asked for a process to be in place. This would avoid a similar situation arising in the future.
- c) Cllr Kirk recommended making a request Jason Moorse for signage for the passing spaces to prevent people from using them for parking. The Council should do this. **Action Point: Clerk to email Jason Moorse and copy Cllrs Dawson & Kirk in so that they can then follow the matter up.**

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Cllr Leach thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at **8.25pm**.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th August 2022 at 7pm at All Saints' Church, Walsoken.

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