

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held on Monday 17 May 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall,
Walton

Present - Councillors David Aspland (Chair), Brodie Clark CBE (Vice Chair), Stephen Sharp, Richard Prudhoe,
Edward Simpson, David Taylor, Mark Wake
Also in Attendance 7 Residents
Helena Buck (Clerk)

Apologies from Ward Cllrs Harrington and Lamb.

1. Welcome – Cllr Aspland

Cllr Aspland welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the APM held 20 May 2019

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 May 2019 be accepted and approved as a true record, agreed by all. (The 2020 Annual Parish Meeting had been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.)

3. Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Aspland presented the Annual Report (Appendix 1). The report focussed on another year of progress and achievements despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19.

4. Summary of Finances 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

Cllr Taylor presented a financial overview for the year 2020-21 (Appendix 2) which included a review of receipts and payments, opening & closing cash reserves and outstanding commitments.

5. Open Forum

- a. A member of the Transport Group gave a brief update. Unfortunately progress had been put on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions. Documents relating to the Transport Policy including Leeds' Transport Strategy were available to view on Leeds City Council's website. Consultation on the draft strategy had taken place and LCC would be undertaking analysis of the responses received.
- b. The absence of dropped kerbs within Walton and Thorp Arch was noted. This resulted in greatly limited access for those with disabilities and also those requiring mobility support. There were also a number of blocked gullies which did not take water resulting in periodic road flooding. Cllr Clark offered to progress these concerns and to approach Thorp Arch Parish Council to ask if they would consider raising these issues with LCC.
- c. Planning: Several residents expressed strong concerns regarding Application No 20/08547/FU/NE, change of use of land for the siting of 8 glamping geodomes, land off Hall Park Road, Walton. The Parish Council acknowledged residents' concerns and also the significant number of objections that had been submitted to Leeds City Council. The Chair assured residents that the situation would be closely monitored. The Parish Council had already sent a letter of objection to Leeds Planning.
- d. A resident drew attention to road safety issues due to poor road markings at the junction of Spring Lane and Main Street. This was being progressed by the Clerk.

6. Close

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Contact the Clerk at secretary@walton-pc.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Chairman's Report 2021

My last chairman's report was in May 2019 when we celebrated the success of delivering the playground, the Neighbourhood Plan and continued to strengthen the relationship between the village hall, the church and the cricket club. I also wished everybody a happy and healthy year ahead - who could have predicted a global pandemic and all the disruption that would bring?

Looking back over that time as a Parish Council we have remained active and busy communicating via Zoom with each councillor contributing to the challenges we faced to fully support the village. May I thank all Councillors for all their support and commitment in that regard and confirm that we have continued to move projects forward and implement crucial aspects of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Two aspects really stand out. The first was the Xmas light switch on. From a simple idea, within 2 weeks it was planned, funded and executed. To see so many villagers embrace the idea and join in really did reinforce the fact that Walton is not only a stunning village but also a fantastic community. I am sure the event will grow and become a significant date in the village diary. The second was seeing just how well used the cycle path was by villagers and local people alike. The access to such a path linking up to Wetherby and local areas as well as a safe place for people to exercise during lockdown reinforces the superb delivery of that project a few years ago.

I am also delighted to see that the new village hall committee establishing itself and is proceeding with real ambition to modernise and extend the village hall. I see this as a project that the whole village can get behind and benefit from well into the future.

Due to the implementation of the automated booking system, the support of the parish council and increased publicity via excellent newsletters, I am sure the village hall will become an even more important part of the community, a vital and valuable village asset into the future.

Further good news in that crime in the village remains minimal, the PC accounts remain robust, but we do face continued challenges. I see a number of threats to the village, which the PC are aware of and working to limit. These include an increased level of traffic through the village often speeding, the impact of major developments in the local area and more locally challenges in terms of inappropriate development within the village, conflicting with the excellent and highly regarded Neighbourhood Plan.

I believe the protocols we have in place to react to these ongoing challenges, along with the positive relationship we continue to foster with Leeds City Council and the Ward Councillors, can be seen as a real success and again I thank all parish councillors for their efforts in that regard.

Can I also thank Helena, the Parish Clerk. Her efficiency and diligence in ensuring all matters associated with the Parish Council and its regulation are adhered to is just so important and allows the rest of us to concentrate in our endeavours to make Walton an even better place to live.

As to the year ahead ... let's hope we see the return of normality, the village work days continuing, the pub thriving and the village developing in all the right ways.

As always the Parish Council are open to ideas and requests from the residents on any initiatives that can improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of the community. I would be grateful for any ideas and comments to be directed via the clerk.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2021!!

Councillor David Aspland
Chair, Walton Parish Council
May 2021

Appendix 2

Walton Parish Council - Annual Review of the Financial Year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Receipts

For the year the Council received a total of £9,626 in receipts. Receipts included £6,405 of Precept Income, £1,500 from Leeds City Council as a contribution towards the Christmas Lights and £1,000 from Walton Village Hall also towards the Christmas Lights.

Payments

Expenditure for the year totalled £12,609. Major one-off expenses totalled £ 5,247 including £2,524 in respect of the purchase of Christmas Lights, £750 for the development of a new Website, £240 on anti-infection treatment for the playground equipment, £983 in CIL payments (contribution towards the Village Hall car park) and £750 in Section 137 payments (£250 towards the Fox and Hounds Food Voucher scheme and £500 for the Church Christmas Tree). Ongoing expenses included £2,393 for the Clerk's remuneration, £1,543 loan repayment for the Cycle Path loan, £414 for the annual insurance and £180 for the Church Clock annual service.

Opening and Closing Cash Reserves.

The opening cash reserves on 1st April 2020 were £14,300 and the closing cash reserves were £11,317. The closing cash reserves are supported as follows:

£1,748 remaining of the CIL money received in 2018.

£500 as an outstanding contribution to Walton Cricket Club originally agreed by the Council in Nov 2018

£8,819 - General Reserve

The General Reserve now represents 17 months of annual precept income and it is expected that this reserve will continue to decrease over the next few years as the Council repays the long term loan.

Outstanding Commitments

As at 31st March 2020 there were no outstanding commitments save for the usual ongoing operating expenses of the Council.

Next Steps

On the basis that the Council approves the annual financial statements and the annual governance statement, the Council's books will be passed to Richard Dorsey (independent auditor) for an internal audit review after which the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be submitted to the external auditors.

Finally

I would like to extend my thanks once again to Helena Buck for her professionalism in managing the Council's books to a high standard and for ensuring that the Council's internal financial controls have been adhered to throughout the financial year.

Councillor David Taylor

10th May 2021