

Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of WALTON PARISH COUNCIL held on 9th MAY 2019 at 7.15pm at Walton Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Armstrong, Brocklebank, Brown, Hogg, Lockhart, Mark, Mounsey and Shaw

IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk
3 members of the public

CHAIRMAN – The meeting was chaired by outgoing Chairman, Jonathan Fowler.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY 2018 WERE SUBMITTED.

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2018.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Outgoing Chairman J. Fowler gave a report on the activities of the Council over the past year as follows:

The last year has brought more changes to the Parish Council. The Council team has continued to work together very well however we now have a new Parish Council Clerk. December 2018 Caroline decided to resign from the post and I thank her for her help over the last two years. After some difficulties in finding a new clerk I can now announce that we have Allison Riddell in position (she is also the Brampton Parish Council Clerk). Allison will bring some much needed regulation to the council and more reliability and stability.

I would like to thank all of the Council team for their individual help, support and input to the parish. Thank you, also to the City Councillors Syd Bowman and John Mallinson for their regular support and help.

The Council have had to follow up on various issues over the last year:

Setting the Precept for 2019/2020. The tax the parish council collects from each household and is paid alongside the council tax payment. As previously, we have organised the budget into essential and non-essential spending taking into account various projects and work that needs to be done to maintain the village assets.

As a result we have set the precept at the same level as previous years taking into account the normal expenditures as well as costs for additional projects such as drainage on the green.

Play Area Inspections – The play area costs continue to be checked to ensure the specific budget lasts as long as possible. Inspections and maintenance work will continue. Once the money has been used, the Council will need to budget for the play area requirements.

Following the village tree risk assessments carried out in 2016 a programme of maintenance was carried out through early 2017. Tree maintenance is up for review in 2019. We have a budget hence you will see some work carried out.

Village green assessments have continued and highlight the condition of the green from the point of view of damage from stray livestock, surface water drainage and litter. Drainage in and around the green will be an ongoing project during 2019. Improvements have been made during 2018 and early 2019, however, as we have seen with a hole appearing near to the Reading Room there are still some surprises. Often, the difficult part of this project is trying to find where the drain goes and who is responsible for it.

Cattle straying onto the green and how we control it has been a subject discussed at length in the past. There was no real resolution found to stop the cattle straying, but the Parish Council's position continues to be to ensure the Green is kept in as good a condition as possible for people to use it. The farming community must continue to ensure their livestock are securely held and take the responsibility to make good any damage caused.

Litter and Dog fouling have been topics discussed on occasion throughout the year with actions taken on both items. A litter pick was organised by the Village Hall Committee on the 24th March with a surprising amount of rubbish collected. On the Dog fouling issue, as always, it is owner's responsibility for their pet. Signs have been put up on notice boards and in regular dog walking areas to remind people. This has had some degree of success.

Defibrillator at the Village hall has been checked and maintained by John Evans since it was installed. This responsibility has now passed to Dee Lockhart. I would like to thank John for his help.

Other items to note:

The Lime trees around the village green continue to be maintained with regular pruning of the lower foliage by members of the Council.

The Reading Room café continues to build on the success started by Paula with Helen Armstrong now taking over. This brings visitors and vibrancy to the village and is a great asset.

Walton Vicarage Brewery opened its doors on a very blustery Saturday in mid December 2018. As expected this has become a focal point for the village on Friday and Saturday evenings and again has added to the community spirit.

The Parish Council continue to support the following groups:

Walton Village Hall Management Committee.

Save Our Pub group.

Hadrian's Wall Walks group.

4. THE CHURCH

Mrs. P. Cronin read out a letter on behalf of the Church seeking comments from parishioners and members of the council. On how to improve the profile of the Church and increase interest.

Discussion took place regarding lack of attendance, poor advertisement of events and consideration of any new ideas to help promote the Church.

RESOLVED that any information from the Church on events etc would be promoted on the local Facebook page. 2-3 members of the council were happy to talk to the new vicar/PCC and the matter would be on a future agenda for further consideration.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.40pm.