

Minutes of the Walton Parish Council ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, held on Tuesday 16th May 2023

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Hodgson, Hogg, Matthews, Shaw, and Weaver.

In attendance: The Clerk, 1 member of the public.(EB)

Chairman: The meeting was chaired by Councillor Shaw

- 1. Apologies for absence** apologies were received from Councillor Wilkinson and Unitary Authority Member Mallinson
- 2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2022**

Resolved that the minutes were agreed unanimously

3. Chairman's report for 2022/23

In the last 12 months, the Parish Council has secured grant funding for the refurbishment of the Play area which has just been completed. Hopefully, this should see its use continuing for a further 10 years at least.

A big focus for the Parish Council continues to be the Village Green – its maintenance and protection. This year's new grass cutting contract will see a slightly smaller area being cut in 2023, a reduced number of cuts overall and no grass being collected. This should reduce the cost to a manageable amount. However, the future of the Village Green is still a matter of concern and the expectation is that the new Parish council will look to Parishioners views for a future direction i.e. 2024 onwards.

The Parish Council made £500 available to support events over the Coronation weekend. Other support to mark the event includes help to install the new flagpole and the planting of 10 fruit trees later this year on the edge of the Village Green. With well over 150 people at the main event on Sunday 7th May, the historic Coronation event was well supported in Walton and special thanks should go to Emma Brocklebank and the Village Hall Committee for making it happen. And, as ever, a number of Parish Councillors took part in the raising of the marquee on Friday 5th and then took it down again on Tuesday 9th. Councillor Hodgson's leadership (and tractor & trailer) made a big difference!

Elected Parish Councillors now serve on the Village Hall Committee and that should mean closer working and coordination between the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee which we all welcome.

In 2021 and 2022, a number of Parish Councillors stood down from the Parish Council and we soldiered on with a number of co-opted members. As all the co-opted members have now been appointed to the new 2023 Parish Council, their experience must have been a good one.

Special thanks must also go to Allan Dawes, clerk to the Council, who has kept us all on the right path even if it sometimes takes us a while to get there.

- 4. Discussion of any matters raised by electors of the Parish,** thanks were received from EB for work done by Councillors for before, during and after the Coronation week-end celebrations.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.05

DRAFT