

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Annual Parish Meeting held on **Monday 8th May 2017** in The Reading Room, Walton at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllrs J Fowler (Chairman), S Wood, B Hogg, T Mounsey, A Armstrong, F Winter, T Brocklebank and T Mark.

In Attendance: City Cllr S Bowman and 5 members of the public.

Apologies: None.

944/17 Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 9th May 2016

Action

Resolved that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting be agreed and signed as a true record

945/17 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report for the period May 2016 to May 2017 was delivered by Cllr Fowler and is attached in Appendix A.

946/17 Public Participation

A member of the public raised the question of whether we have had a response to the letters sent to Barbara Percival regarding the pub. It was confirmed that there had been no response to date.

Syd Bowman offered to contact Barbara Percival regarding this matter and report back. It was agreed that the ongoing communication with the City Council regarding this matter would be a standard item on future meeting agendas.

SB

CT

Meeting closed at 7.27pm

Signed (Chairman):.....

10th July 2017

Appendix A

Chairman's Report. Walton Parish 2016 to 2017.

Over the last year we have seen some changes, the most significant being the change of Council Clerk from Sarah Kyle to Caroline Thirwell. Sarah has been an outstanding clerk for the Parish Council but decided to leave in October last year and hence the Council thanks her for her contribution, help and advice. Caroline has taken over and is fast learning the systems, I thank her for her help in the transition.

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

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

Setting the Precept for 2017/2018. The tax the parish council collects from each household and is paid alongside the council tax payment. As identified last year spending has had to be reduced and carefully controlled over 2016/17 to be more in line with the normal parish incomes. Although yet to be completely confirmed (delay due to bank account authorisation) I expect spending to be still slightly above the level of income.

Once again the budget for 2017/18 has been organised into Essential and Nonessential spending and has been focused on maintenance of the village assets such as the Village green, trees and communications. The frustration for the team is that we are going to have to continue to be careful with the spending (support of projects etc.) for this year 2017 to 2018.

Play Area Inspections – The play area is now under Parish council control hence the need for regular inspections and follow up maintenance. It was resolved that a yearly programme of maintenance inspections would be commenced from April 2016 at a cost of £205 per annum. The regular inspections will continue, and will be paid for out of a play area budget that is reducing. Once the money has been used, the Council will need to budget for the play area requirements.

Tree risk assessments were carried out in 2016 identifying some trees needing attention and maintenance. With the help of a grant the council are managing a programme of maintenance that is ongoing through early 2017 as soon as the trees start to grow leaves.

Village green assessments were started in late 2016 to monitor the condition of the green from the point of view of damage from stray livestock, surface water drainage and rubbish. The results of these assessments are now starting to give some meaningful feedback and actions are being discussed and put into place. Examples are an investigation into the drainage of the lower green and who is responsible, cattle straying onto the green and how we control it (although this is not a new subject). An enquiry into fitting a cattle grid at the entrance to the Moss came back with an estimated cost of £25000.

Internal Auditor – Mrs M Warwick has given notice on the position and hence the Council will be advertising for a new person. We thank Mel for her help.

On a slightly lighter note:

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

Defibrillator – Re-training is being organised for this year. Details in the latest Newsletter.

The Newsletter finally made it out at the end of April with two further editions planned for this year.

The Parish Council continue to support the following groups:

Walton Village Hall Management Committee.

Save Our Pub group.

Hadrian's Wall Walks group.

Jonathan Fowler

7th May 2017