

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Annual Parish Meeting held on **Monday 14th May 2018** in The Reading Room, Walton at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllrs J Fowler (Chairman), B Hogg, T Mounsey, A Armstrong, F Winter, T Brocklebank, T Mark & C Thirlwell (Clerk)

In Attendance: 6 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr S. Wood & City Cllr S Bowman

Action

1021/18 Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 8th May 2017

Noted that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed as a true record in the meeting held on 10th July 2017.

1022/18 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report for the period May 2017 to May 2018 was delivered by Cllr Fowler and is attached in Appendix A.

1023/18 Election of Chairman to Walton Parish Council

Resolved to elect Cllr Jonathan Fowler as the Chairman for the Council year 2018/19. Proposed by Cllr Thomas Mounsey.

1024/18 Election of Vice Chair to Walton Parish Council

Resolved to elect Cllr Tom Brocklebank as Vice Chairman for the Council year 2018/19. Proposed by Cllr Jonathan Fowler.

1025/18 Public Participation

A member of the public raised the question of whether we could request a written report for the recent drain/sewer inspection that indicates their findings and what has been resolved.

Agreed that Cllr Armstrong will email to request this.

AA

Meeting closed at 7.27pm

Signed (Chairman):.....

9th July 2018

Appendix A

Chairman's Report. Walton Parish 2017 to 2018.

Over the last year we have been in a more settled state than in recent years. Caroline Thirlwell, our Clerk now better understands our systems and is a great help. 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 2018/2019. The tax the parish council collects from each household and is paid alongside the council tax payment. This was more straightforward this year as we have closely managed all spending over the last year to bring it in line with the income and savings we have. Once again, the budget for 2018/19 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. As a result, we have set the precept at the same level as last year 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, now under Parish council control requires regular inspections and follow up maintenance. These have continued over the year but the Council will continue to find ways to reduce the cost of these inspections (£70 per visit) whilst maintaining the correct level of condition for people to use. This expenditure will be paid for out of a play area budget that is reducing. (£1,156 January 2018) 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. This is now complete and will be reviewed next year, 2019.

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 of the lower green, identified by the assessments has now been repaired.

Cattle straying onto the green and how we control it has been a subject discussed at most Parish Council meetings over the last year. With no resolution found to stop the cattle straying, the Parish Council's position is to ensure the Green is kept in as good a condition as possible for people to use it. The farming community will need to ensure their livestock are securely held and take the responsibility to make good any damage caused.

Other items to note:

Internal Auditor – The Parish Council require a person to help with this position.

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

From the Village Green assessments, some dropped drains have been identified for repair which will be carried out in 2018.

The Parish Council Bank account is being transferred from HSBC to the Cumberland Building Society due to branches being more easily available.

Dog poo has been identified as a big issue in the village. Parishioners must take responsibility for their pets. Signs have been displayed.

Litter has also been identified as a problem in and around the village and will be followed up by the Council.

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 2018