

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Walton Parish Council was held on Monday 21 November 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: John Evans (Chair), Simon Wood, Jonathan Fowler and Gordon Kyle.

In Attendance: County Councillor Lawrence Fisher, City Councillor Syd Bowman, PCSO Emma Tonge, Mel Warwick representing Walton Village Hall and Walton Play Area Group and parishioners Ian Bullough, Pam Cronin, Margaret Winter, Brian Hogg, Phil Jones, John Smith and Phil Knowles.

Apologies: Robert Ridley, T. Alan Armstrong, Rodney Hodgson and Penny Clover.

Action

279/11 Declarations Of Interest

Councillor Evans declared in interest in all matters relating to the Village Hall. Councillor Wood declared an interest in item 299/11 relating to the Save Our Pub campaign.

280/11 Minutes Of Meeting Held Monday 19th September 2011

Resolved to authorise the Chair to sign as a correct record.

281/11 Public Participation

Parishioners were given the opportunity to comment during relevant agenda items.

282/11 Reports From City/ County Councillors And Police

County Councillor Fisher outlined the new process for the Neighbourhood Forum meeting and grants procedures. He also explained that parliamentary boundaries were also currently under review.

City Councillor Bowman informed the meeting that a Healthy City event had been a success and that Dr. Jason Gooding had taken over at the City Council as the new Chief Executive. He also stated the joint City Council/Carlisle Parish Councils Association meeting would be taking place the following evening.

PCSO Tonge stated that there had been a shuffle with police teams and areas and warned parishioners that fuel thefts commonly rise at this time of year so they should be vigilant.

283/11 Clerks Report

The following report had been previously circulated and was noted:

Quality Parish Council – work is currently delayed as it is unclear whether the Localism Bill will change the necessary criteria for Parish Council's to gain additional powers. Councillors are however informed that there is in fact already an additional power available to parish councils called "The Power of Wellbeing". There are certain criteria that a Council needs to meet to gain this power which Walton could easily apply for – however so far the additional powers have not been required. It is therefore queried as to whether we would in fact need any more power that may be available from gaining QPC status. Debate will therefore need held in the future as to whether the benefit's achievable from Walton obtaining QPC status outweigh the costs (financial and time) and whether the application should subsequently continue.

Youth Council - as per the above this is also on hold temporarily.

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Youth Club – will not progress due to lack of support from adult volunteers.

Lime Tree Risk Assessment – has been booked but has not been carried out to date.

Commemorative Tree – is on hold until agreement is reached with Cumbria County Council over the land ownership.

Fingerposts – a decision regarding the grant from the Neighbourhood Forum is now expected on 7 December 2011.

Noticeboard for Outlying Parish – the grant application was unsuccessful and this matter will be considered in January's meeting.

Heritage Lottery Funding – the grant application was unsuccessful and no further progress will be made.

Newsletter – is planned to be distributed the first week in December.

284/11 Councillors Training

Councillors agreed that the training that had been undertaken in November had been very useful. **Resolved** to defer discussions over whether to undertake a second stage training course to the January meeting.

285/11 Broadband

No report had been received. The Chair apologised for failing to report the Council meeting dates to the Broadband Champion so that the report could be submitted. Councillor Evans will contact Mrs Jones before the next meeting

JE

286/11 Precept

A report had been previously issued by the Clerk highlighting the expected financial situation going into the new financial year. After discussion it was **resolved** that the precept is increased to £4879 per annum for the financial year 2012/13. It was noted that with this increase in precept the Council still expect to use a minimum of £1000 from its reserves to meet expected expenditure.

287/11 Calendar of Meetings

Dates had been previously circulated along with a recommendation from the Clerk that the Council revert back to meeting on the second Monday bi-monthly. **Resolved** to set the calendar of meetings for 2012 to this schedule.

288/11 Parish Map Board

A first draft of the board had been previously circulated to Councillors who had feedback comments to the Clerk. A copy was also passed around parishioners at the meeting. **Resolved** to place the final order for the board after corrections have been made.

CLERK

289/11 Carlisle City Council LDF Core Strategy Review

Although the Parish Council had missed the official deadline for this consultation an extension had been granted. The Chair had completed the consultation on behalf of the Council and the response was to be reviewed by Councillor Fowler prior to submission.

290/11 Noticeboard

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A discussion was held as to whether the old notice board on the bus shelter was surplus to requirements now the new larger board had been moved to its adjacent location. It was **resolved** to have this board removed – the Clerk to contact Councillor Ridley to action this.

RR

Concerns were also raised about the appearance and maintenance of the new noticeboard – suggestions were made that the board requires varnishing and work to prevent it raining in. Investigations are to be made as to the best way forward and quotes obtained for remedial works.

CLERK

291/11 Land Registration of Village Green

A report had been previously circulated to all Councillors outlining that the Land Registry had proposed that the wording to be used for Mr & Mrs Lowes and Mrs Richardson be as follows:

“The land is subject to rights of way, drainage and passage of services.”

This was in place of the previously noted negotiated wording. **Resolved** by the Parish Council to accept this wording in the register for the Village Green.

It was also stated that the following wording be used in regards to the objection raised by Mr Mason:

“The land is subject to rights of access for pedestrians and animals, rights of access with vehicles along existing tracks, and rights of drainage and passage of services including rights of access for repair, maintenance and replacement in favour of Greenside.”

Resolved by the Parish Council to accept this wording in the register for the Village Green. This will be submitted to Land Registry alongside a map that clearly shows the existing tracks.

JE

292/11 Orchard House

An updated and significantly reduced plan had been previously circulated to Councillors highlighting the new area being claimed by adverse possession of the Green by the owners of Orchard House. After consideration and statements provided that the area in question had been occupied for a number of years by a shed and oil tank, it was **resolved** to remove this area of Green from the application to Land Registry. This was on the strict conditions that the area shaded light blue that had been subject to previous Council debate remained under the ownership and management of the Parish Council.

It was also stated that Mr & Mrs Jones should contact the Commons Registration Department to enquire as to whether the area remains on the Village Green Register.

293/11 Cumbria County Council Land Ownership

Correspondence had been exchanged with Mike Smith from Cumbria County Council regarding the two pieces of land that they own in the Village (adjacent to the church and opposite the Centurion) and a meeting is to be arranged between Mr Smith and Councillor Evans to discuss the possible sale of land to Walton Parish Council.

JE

294/11 Car Park

Concerns had been raised by parishioners that the car parking situation in the Village was becoming dangerous for pedestrians, in particular, children. The difficulties with the

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majority of the land being registered Village Green were discussed but it was suggested plastic grid matting could be installed underneath the grass in a specifically designated area – so the car parking area would remain visually unchanged as the grass would grow through the mats. Discussions over how the area could be policed were held, and concerns over residents using it for long term parking were raised. Concerns over a legal method of segregation, legal issues with allowing driving on a Green and ways of financing the project were also discussed. It was however **resolved** that the financial costs and legislation would be investigated before the next meeting so that a potential decision over feasibility could be reached.

295/11 Social Committee Representative

Following Councillor Ridley’s resignation from the Social Committee it was **resolved** that Councillor Wood would become the parish council’s representative on the committee. He will report back to each meeting with any necessary updates or information.

296/11 Neighbourhood Forum Panel

A volunteer councillor was requested to attend this meeting on Wednesday 7th December to discuss the new way of dealing with Neighbourhood Forum grant applications. **Resolved** that the Clerk will circulate further information to all Councillors so that a decision can be made about who will attend.

CLERK

297/11 Village Hall

It was reported that the first pub night had been a success and well attended. A further pub night would take place on 26 November when the Christmas tree lights would be officially switched on with carol singing. Councillor Evans also stated that he had met with a reporter from the Cumberland News to advertise the availability of the tea room facilities in the Hall.

298/11 Play Area Group

Mrs Warwick reported that the final thermoplastic designs had been laid and the project was now officially completed. The work on the sustainability grant was due to commence.

299/11 Save Our Pub

Mr Hogg passed printed information to the Chair for consideration in time for the next Parish Council meeting. Councillor Evans informed parishioners that this topic had also come up during the above-mentioned interview with the reporter and it was up to the SOP Group as to whether they also wished to speak to the press.

300/11 Social Committee

The annual nativity tea will take place on Sunday 18 December. Plans for the Jubilee celebrations are progressing.

301/11 Youth Club

As mentioned earlier, the Youth Club was not to progress further due to lack of adult volunteers.

302/11 Grass Cutting

Discussions were held regarding the quality and frequency of the grass cutting this year. It was however **resolved** to defer any decision over whether to tender for a new contractor until Councillor Ridley could confirm how many times the grass had been mown this year as it was suspected that drainage issues had prevented the full quote of cuts from being achieved. The matter will be discussed at the January meeting.

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303/11 Play Area Maintenance

This item was deferred until after the Chair can meet with the Play Area Group to fully consider the maintenance schedule implications for insurance and the equipment guarantee. It was however stated that the Play Area Group will fund at least the first year's costs of any necessary maintenance checks. It is also to be investigated whether the City Council will be prepared to include the area in their annual safety inspection.

**JE
CLERK**

304/11 Accounts to end October 2011

These had been previously circulated to Councillors and were noted.

305/11 Donation Request St. Mary's Church (Cemetery Maintenance)

Representatives from St. Mary's Church attended the meeting and outlined that fees for grass cutting had risen this year to £755 per annum. A request of £300 was made to help pay for this. After discussion it was **resolved** to donate £300.

306/11 Donation Request St. Mary's Church (Tree Surgery)

Representatives explained that the work to save the tree had already been carried out and any contribution would be welcome to offset the £864 cost. After discussion it was **resolved** to donate £80.

It was also agreed that additional copies of newsletters and a copy of the parish map could be provided to the Church for their proposed welcome pack for new residents.

307/11 Donation Request Walton Play Area Group (Thermoplastics)

City Councillor Bowman kindly offered to pay a contribution towards this donation request of £79.28.

308/11 Donation Request Walton Village Hall (Crockery)

City Councillor Bowman kindly offered to pay this donation request of £50.

309/11 Donation Request Walton Social Committee (Nativity Tea)

City Councillor Bowman kindly offered to pay this donation request of £30.

310/11/ Donation Request Carlisle Youth Zone (Running Costs)

Concerns were raised about paying donations to organisations outside of the Parish. Other concerns were also voiced about the overall running costs of the Youth Zone and its inaccessibility to the majority of the youth's in Walton. It was therefore **resolved** that all donation requests from outside the Parish will only be considered in the November or March meeting when it can be assessed against the budget to date. This request was subsequently deferred until the March meeting.

311/11 Donation Request Cumbria Military Museum (Running & Relocation Costs)

As discussed above, donations from outside the Parish will not only be considered in the future at the November and March meeting. This donation was also therefore deferred to the March meeting. The Clerk is to circulate round to Councillors a guidance sheet that will be used to deal with all donation requests in the future to assist the Council to comply with best practice in these matters.

CLERK

312/11 Accounts Payable

The following receipts were noted:

- £30.00 CarSpeed Autoparts (Advertising)
- £1077.00 Groundworks (PAG Grant – transferred between accounts)
- £239.25 HMRV (VAT)

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- £79.28 PAG Contribution (Temporary)

Resolved: to authorise the following expenditure:

- 136.72 S Kyle salary November (Standing Order)
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- £64.70 S Kyle expenses and reimbursements
- £56.70 YPO (Printer ink)
- £15.42 YPO (Stationary)
- £50 Walton Village Hall (Water – previous month) (PAG)
- £393.91 Sovereign (Thermoplastics) (PAG)
- £1575.62 Sovereign (Thermoplastics) (PAG)
- £1.09 Mel Warwick (Postage) (PAG)
- £1.91 Mel Warwick (Postage) (PAG)
- £21.00 Walton Village Hall (Rental)
- £75 CALC (Training)

313/11 Council Matters and Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Planning Application, Sandysikes (Solar Panel Listed Building Consent) – this will be placed on the agenda for the January meeting however the Clerk will respond in the meantime under the delegated powers available.

314/11 Correspondence

The following were noted:

- Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service Documents
- Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Conference
- Community Infrastructure Levy – the Chair had responded to this.
- Government Consultation on Neighbourhood Planning – the Chair had responded to this.
- CALC AGM/Annual Report
- CALC Circular Oct/Nov
- Letter from Diane Bradbury, Cumbria Constabulary
- Joint Meeting CPCA/City Council Agenda
- Connecting Cumbria Information
- Clarification of Right to Speak Information
- Minutes and Supporting Documents CALC AGM 4 Oct 2011
- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust CLT Information
- Local News and Views – Cumbria County Council
- Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review Draft Recommendations
- Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework Site Allocations Policies and Proposals Map

315/11 Date Of Next Meeting

Monday 9th January 2012 at 7.30pm. This is a week earlier than previously advertised. Agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk before noon on Friday 30th December 2011.

The meeting closed at 9.21pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....