

Minutes of the Walton Parish Council ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 via ZOOM.

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Hogg, Mark, Mounsey and Shaw.

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

Chairman: The meeting was chaired by Councillor Shaw

1. Apologies for absence apologies were received from Councillors Brocklebank and Wood

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 9th May 2019

Resolved that the minutes were agreed unanimously

3. Chairman's report for 2020/21 Last year's report and annual meeting did not take place because of COVID and unfortunately the COVID pandemic and the national response to it has continued to dominate life over the last 12 months.

We are fortunate that within the Parish we have had a great response from people willing to pick up shopping, prescriptions and generally provide support to those in need in these difficult times. The Walton website has been well used! And the Walton Reading Room café has continued to provide and deliver takeaway meals. Many groups like the WI and the Reading group have continued to meet on-line.

Even in these challenging times, we have new facilities in Walton. A newspaper delivery service run by a group of volunteers, and the Bus Shelter library continues to grow in popularity with donations and customers now coming from beyond the Parish.

The Parish Council has continued to meet via Zoom as required by law and some members of the public have been present at those sessions. Over the last 12 months, the Council has ensured that regular business continues: the grass cutting takes place, the play area and trees have had their annual inspection. Some issues continue to be a cause of concern from Parishioners, the most significant being:

Drainage on the Village Green – some work was completed on the ground near the Play area but there have still been some incidents of waterlogged ground and ground water visibly not clearing.

Protecting the Village Green – there is an extensive area of Village Green across the Parish but many people are not clear about just where the boundaries are and what can or cannot be done to or on the Village Green.

Dog Fouling – seems to be a problem reported from time to time but at different points in the Parish.

For the Parish Council, itself, Dee Lockhart has resigned and the remaining Councillors have 2 more years in office before elections in May 2023. We are looking to co-opt at the meeting in July and anybody interested should speak with the Parish Clerk. Allison Riddell resigned from the position of Parish Clerk in December 2020 and we are all very grateful for the work she completed to ensure that the Council is in a good position financially to manage the day to day commitments and also that we are compliant with all the legal requirements placed on a public body. Her successor is Allan Dawes clerking his first meeting today.

As the Government regulations are slowly relaxed, we can all hopefully return to a more normal life in the Parish. The meeting of the Parish Council in July should, hopefully, be the first to be held face to face in the Village Hall since January 2020. Going forward, Councillors hope to take forward the refresh of the Parish Plan that was last updated in 2013. Given what has happened over the last 18 months, Parishioners may well have new and different views on what should happen next in Walton's story!

- 4. Discussion of any matters raised by electors of the Parish, the issue of the methodology regarding co-option of Councillors was sought and explained.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.10.