

Minutes of the Walton Parish Council ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, held on Tuesday 10th May 2022.

Present: Councillors Armstrong (TAA), Hodgson (RH), Hogg (BH), Matthews (SM), Mounsey (TMO) and Shaw (GS).

In attendance: The Clerk/RFO (AD).

Chairman: The meeting was chaired by Councillor Shaw

1. Apologies for absence apologies were received from Councillors Mark (TMA) and Wilkinson (WW)

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 4th May 2021

Resolved that the minutes were agreed unanimously

3. Chairman's report for 2021/22

Twelve months ago, we were still grappling with COVID isolation, vaccination campaigns, working from home and school closures. At least now – in 2022, we can say community life is approaching something like normality. Young Farmers, WI and other groups are now meeting regularly and face to face, The Reading room café and the Old Vicarage Bar are open, church services have resumed in person and walkers are returning in ever greater numbers. Grass cutting was a major issue in the last year. Many thanks to Councillors and Parishioners who stepped in to make sure that the Village Green was maintained in good shape until we could sort out a new contract. It is worth noting that the cost of this now represents about 40% of the Council's annual budget.

The Parish Council has also committed to a series of repairs to the Play Area in 2022 and, if a recent grant application is successful, there may be further improvements.

When I joined the Parish Council in 2019, a wise man told me that the hot topics are dog fouling, drains, grass cutting and car parking. After 3 years, I can report that the wise man was absolutely correct. But recently, the Parish Council has been supporting efforts to develop a new Parish Plan. 10 years on from the last one, much has changed ...or has it? Everyone in the Parish has been asked for their views. This is important. If you want Walton to develop, or to stand still or you have a particular specific concern about something in the community where you live, then now is the time to have your say.

In the coming year – May 2023 – elections will be held for a new Parish Council. I've heard some people say that the Council is something for other people, or it's just an old gentleman's club, or it doesn't do much for me . In 2023, everyone has the opportunity to stand – please think about it. More diversity (in age, gender etc) means that the Council is better able to reflect and act on a broad range of views and aspirations for Walton.

4. Discussion of any matters raised by electors of the Parish; no matters were discussed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.12.