

Minutes of WALTON PARISH COUNCIL meeting held TUESDAY, 12th November, 2024

Present: Councillors: - Armstrong, Hodgson, Hogg, Matthews, Reynolds, Shaw, and Wilkinson.

In attendance: - Clerk, Cllr Mallinson (Unitary Authority Member), and 1 Member of the Public

074/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Weaver.

075/24 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS – RESOLVED No requests were received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

076/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – RESOLVED No declarations by elected members of interests in respect of items on this agenda were received.

077/24 MINUTES

077/24.1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2024 – RESOLVED To authorise the Chairman sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2024.

077/24.2 MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2024 – RESOLVED To authorise the Chairman sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 5th November 2024.

078/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – the Member of the Public (MOP) declined to ask any questions at this point.

UNITARY AUTHORITY REPORT – Cllr Mallinson outlined the Unitary Authority expected deficit for 2024/2025 of around £20m and that it should be noted that the Authority was again struggling with its financial position it was hoped that the situation would ease in the following year to allow a Budget setting of break-even. However a number of high-risk areas to the Councils performance and financial stability were highlighted such as Information Technology and Children's and Adult Social Care services.

Cllr. Hogg asked again about the hedge around the signpost opposite the Old Centurian Pub and Cllr Mallinson indicated that the hedge had been cut back revealing the signpost at the top level. However no response had yet been received regarding legal ownership and it was **RESOLVED** that AD would contact Claire Liddle in the Legal Services department of the Unitary Authority to progress.

REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC) At this point Cllr Shaw reported that he had been visited by the 3 "officers" of the VHMC (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) who had all announced their intention to resign the positions with immediate effect. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** that GS would hold a meeting with Cllr Weaver on his return and that a meeting would be arranged urgently between the 3 remaining VHMC members to find a way forward. AD would also try to engage the services of ACRE in understanding the legal relationship between the VHMC and the Parish Council

079/24 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING APPLICATIONS – none to consider

080/24 FINANCE MATTERS

The Clerk circulated Bank Reconciliations and Budget v Actual reports to council members for discussion to the end of October 2024.

Payments Authorised as follows:

245 DM Payroll Services	£ 60.00
246 Green Team – Grass cutting	£ 540.00
247 Clerk – Wages and Expenses	£ 409.87
248 HMRC – Income tax	£ 93.00
249 HMRC – Income tax	£ 22.00
250 Clerk – Wages and Expenses	£ 207.91
251 Green Team – Grass cutting	£ 810.00
252 Green Team – Grass cutting	£ 270.00
252 Walton P.C. New bank	£ 500.00
253 HMRC – Income tax	£ 51.80
254 Clerk – Wages and Expenses	£ 298.57
255 One.com – web hosting	£ 100.65

The Clerk also presented the proposal for the 2025/2026 Budget and Precept together with a revised 3 year plan, and after much discussion it was agreed that the Council set it's precept level for 2025/2026 at £10,050

081/24 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

RESOLVED Council had approved the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting on the 5th November 2024 with the Community Investment Project as a single item Agenda to discuss and agreed the next steps would need to involve the production of a robust "Business Plan" for any proposed scheme. In light of the resignations from the VHMC it was fet that they should take some priority at the moment.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Armstrong for the production of an "as is" drawing of the area incorporating the Village Hall Reading Room(s) and area in between. Cllr Armstrong will provide members with a PDF version of the drawings.

082/24 CORRESPONDENCE AND LITERATURE RECEIVED BY THE CLERK- all had been distributed electronically other than the issue of the NALC agreed Pay Changes for 2024 2025 which had just been agreed. This would place the Clerk at scale point 10 (no change) and the rate would increase to £13.91 per hour (an increase of £0.63 per hour). As this was from effect of 1st April 2024 back pay had been calculated by the Payroll Services and are included in the payments detailed above. Council members were also advised that the annual increment subject to approval to SCP 11 would be effective from 1st March 2025 and would lift the rate by £0.22 per hour to £14.13 per hour. These changes are reflected in the Budget proposal.

The Clerk also presented 2 surveys from CALC which they had requested completion. A General survey for the Council activity which the Clerk and Chair would complete and an individual Training survey which members were asked to take away a coy and complete and forward back to CALC.

083/24 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – Council members were reminded to submit items for the next meeting and note that any further items for consideration should be submitted to the **in writing**.

084/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING(s) – held in Walton Village Hall at 7.30pm.14th January 2025

085/24 CLOSE OF MEETING 21.10