

Clerk to the Council: -  
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**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Walton Parish Council held at St. John's Church Community Hall, Old Chester Road, Higher Walton, on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

**Present** Councillor Y R Shaikh - Chair  
Councillor R Hardie - Vice Chair  
Councillor D Hazeldine  
Councillor V C Lacey  
Councillor S A Harris  
Councillor A Bowles  
Councillor R D Bennett  
Councillor D M Karalius  
Councillor C J Hewitt (Following co-option)

**In Attendance** Parish Clerk R J Hallam  
Residents 0  
Borough Councillors J Wheeler (JW) and M Jervis (MJ)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.01pm and welcomed everybody.

**59. Apologies for Absence**

The Chair reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Greene (family bereavement), Williams (holiday).

**60. Interview for the Parish Council Vacancy in Lower Walton. (In closed session). Candidate Christina Hewitt.**

The Chair described the process for the interview.

Christina gave some background information on herself and her reasons for wishing to become a parish councillor and this was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chair thanked the candidate.

The meeting went back into open session at 7.10pm.

**61. Debate on the Candidate Interviewed.**

The Chair asked councillors if there were any comments. Without any further comments it was agreed that councillors would go straight to a vote.

***It was resolved that Christina J Hewitt should become a member of Walton Parish Council for the Lower Walton Ward. Proposed by Councillor Karalius and seconded by Councillor Harris. All in Favour.***

Christina Hewitt signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor for the Lower Walton Ward.

**62. Adjournment**

There was no adjournment.

### **63. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were reviewed.

***It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Karalius and seconded by Councillor Hardie. All in favour.***

### **64. Reports on Matters Arising from the previous minutes**

The report had been issued with the meeting documentation and the Clerk briefly ran through the items listed.

#### **Draft Minutes/Website.**

The Clerk explained that he had come up with a process for displaying the minutes which had been agreed by Councillors Hazeldine and Greene.

When documents are issued by the Clerk for the forthcoming meeting, he would place a copy of the draft minutes on the website. Following any amendments/approval at the subsequent meeting, the draft minutes would be deleted and replaced by a copy that had been amended/approved at that meeting.

Councillors were in agreement with this.

#### **Letter to Lord and Lady Daresbury.**

Councillor Karalius briefly explained the letter she had sent, in respect of any possible assistance from the Daresbury Estate for the upkeep of the Village Triangle.

#### **PCSO Report.**

The Clerk went through the report for July and August provided by Matt Kirkham and this had been circulated to all councillors on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

#### **Vacancies on Advisory Groups and Appointed Representatives.**

It was agreed that the Clerk would email councillors requesting volunteers to fill the vacancies created, following the resignation of Councillor Price. This includes a role as Trustee for the Walton Playground.

#### **Action – Clerk to email councillors.**

### **65. Report from Borough Councillor.**

Local Plan Inspectors have stated that the land requirements for the 6/56 developments were overstated. MJ reported that the Local Plan would come back to WBC in November/December 2023.

Langtree are still pursuing 6/56 application.

There is a £57m shortfall in what is required for the Western Link.

The DOT have changed the emphasis on road building, new highway projects will not be funded, only those that have already started.

### **66. Forward Plan Update.**

Councillor Harris wanted to remind councillors that it was part of the Forward Plan rationale that in May of each year, each Group should look at the lead for their Group and elect their new lead councillor.

### **67. To receive and accept the report from the Clerk on the Parish Accounts and to formally approve the accounts for payment.**

The Clerk had issued with the Agenda the Financial Report (FR) and a copy of the Receipts and Payments Account for the current year to date, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk presented: -

Cheque number 001490	payable to Knutsford Town Co.	2 X training social media Karalius and Harris	£144.00
Cheque number 001493	payable to R J Hallam	Clerk's Salary	£648.40
Cheque number 001494	payable to HMRC	PAYE/Tax	£162.10
Cheque number 001495	payable to R J Hallam	Off Exp Ink£9.99	£26.98
Cheque number 001496	payable to Gard Gard Ltd.	Warden (Inv5643/5908 38/29hrsX£15=£570/£435+VAT£114/£87£1206.00	
Cheque number 001497	payable to S A Harris	Social Media Training Refund	£60.00

Cheque number 001498	payable to D M Karalius	Materialsflaglaying£99.93/labourflags/tubs£100/plant food	£9	£208.93
Cheque number 001499	payable to PKF Littlejohn LLP		External Audit	£252.00

***It was resolved that the Financial Report and the Accounts for Payment be approved, along with the Cash Book entries and Budgetary Control Report. Proposed by Councillor Bennett and seconded by Councillor Karalius. All in favour. The cheques were signed by Councillors Hardie and Karalius.***

The Clerk advised that he would present the new Budgetary Control Report on a quarterly basis, with the next report being at the November 2023 meeting.

The Chair advised the councillors that included in the Accounts for Payment was a refund of £60 for Councillor Harris, as she had been unable to attend the Social Media training provided by Knutsford Town Council owing to personal reasons.

#### **Bankline for Communities.**

The Clerk had received an email from Nat West explaining that the service was still not yet ready, but promised to keep us updated.

**External Audit** – The Clerk advised that PKF Littlejohn LLP had completed their review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, finding that it was in accordance with proper practices and that no other matters had come to their attention to give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

**Action** - The Clerk confirmed that he would arrange to add to the website the “**Notice of Conclusion of Audit**” along with “**Sections 1,2 & 3 of the Certified AGAR**” before the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Councillor Bowles asked the Clerk to look into the payment of the invoice for the Swift boxes.

**Action – Clerk to investigate.**

#### **68. ThenMedia** – New Hosting Company/New Email Provider.

The Clerk advised councillors that we would be moving to a new email provider by the name of Ionos. ThenMedia had been unhappy for some time by the service provided by 123.reg. Email addresses would remain the same, but a new set of passwords would be provided.

**Action - The migration should take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and the Clerk would send out the new passwords.**

#### **69. Report from Advisory Groups.**

##### **Events Planning Group.**

Councillor Karalius (DMK) confirmed that a WBC “Events Notification Form” would be completed for the Christmas Tree Lights Switch On Event. Councillor Hardie had printed off a form and this had been part filled in. The Clerk said that he had added the Insurance details. For submission, DMK will complete what she can and then forward to the Clerk for onward transfer to WBC.

##### **Creamfields.**

Councillor Harris had completed a comprehensive report, compiled of issues raised by residents (emails and verbals), which had been circulated to all councillors.

There had been successes and failures.

At the last two meetings with Cream she had suggested a Park and Ride scheme coming off the M56 at junction 11, in order to avoid some of the parking and congestion issues, but this had not been taken up.

Councillor Karalius had suggested that The Daresbury Hotel car park could be used for parking and Park & Ride.

**Action – Councillor Harris to prepare a letter for the Clerk to submit to Mike Amesbury, Cream Management/WBC/HaltonBC/Andy Carter.**

A post Creamfields debrief is to be arranged.

### **Donations Advisory Group**

A discussion took place on the Warrington Foodbank application for £500, on how this met the conditions laid out in the WPC policy, which included sighting of the latest audited accounts. Councillor Hardie in the light of our policy, questioned whether this was justified. The Clerk confirmed that this should come from Precept money.

Councillor Lacey established that Accounts had been lodged with the Charities Commission.

***It was resolved that the PC would donate the sum of £500 to Warrington Foodbank. Proposed by Councillor Bowles and seconded by Councillor Karalius. 6 for, 1 against and 1 abstained. The Chair did not vote.***

### **Planning Matters**

The Planning report had been circulated to councillors with the meeting documentation.

Councillor Hardie gave some clarification to cases on the report.

No decisions had been made on the café, the Pet Cemetery and Cadent.

Councillor Bennett reported that the 20 metre mobile telephone mast in the field opposite Hobb Lane had now been replaced by a 25 metre mast.

### **Climate and Ecological Emergency Group**

The Group had not met.

Councillor Bowles had obtained some trees, free of charge and arriving in October 2023. 30 for planting on the Golf Course and 15 urban trees for planting by residents in gardens.

### **Report from Village Betterment Advisory Group**

There was no meeting in August, but a discussion took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, between Councillors Hardie and Karalius.

A report was produced by Councillor Hardie and this had been circulated to all councillors. Further bulb planting was discussed and suitable sites suggested. In addition whether a tidied up phone box could be placed close to the bus shelter as a feature, opposite the Walton Arms, costs and permission would need to be investigated.

Councillor Hardie had circulated an email to all councillors which provided councillors with the further information asked for in support of his proposal for street tree planting. The Chair had suggested an amendment to the proposal.

***It was resolved that the PC develop a detailed and costed scheme in the areas of, Stetchworth, Walton Heath, Worsley Roads and adjacent Streets. The Street planting for infill and extension to previous planting, such schemes to have community involvement and expect to cost up to £3K and to be brought back to the PC for final approval before 2023 year end. Proposed by Councillor Hardie and seconded by Councillor Bowles. All in favour.***

**Action – Councillor Hardie will progress the matter further.**

The proposal on planting of spring bulbs and wildflower seeds was further discussed and it was to increase the proposed spend and extend the planting.

***It was resolved that the PC should spend up to £220 on spring bulbs and wildflower seeds for planting in the wide verges either side of Mill, Holly Hedge and Hobb Lanes, Turning Circle and the surrounding area. Proposed by Councillor Hazeldine and seconded by Councillor Bowles. All in favour.***

### **Risk Assessment Advisory Group.**

Councillor Hardie, in the light of further investigation will add further to our Risk Assessment report for the Christmas Tee Lights Switch on Event.

## **70. Report on Parish Matters**

### **Local Plan.**

Nothing further to add to what was said earlier in the meeting.

### **Other Parish Matters**

#### **62/62A Bus.**

Following the withdrawal of the £1000 subsidy by Halton BC the service is due to be withdrawn on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Councillor Harris had written letters and suggests we should also write to Moore PC and our MP.

**Action – Councillor Harris to prepare some notes for the Clerk to make a submission to our MP and Moore PC about the matter.**

#### **Village Liaison Group**

Councillor Harris gave an update on the activities of the Group and felt that the Church/PCC needs to be approached about filling the vacancy left by Anita Raggett.

The next meeting will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## **71. Reports from Appointed Representatives**

**Footpaths/Towpaths** – The towpath on the stretch from Hough's Lane Bridge to Walton Gardens Bridge is atrocious caused by WBC mud washing down the embankment. Needs taking up with Canal Company.

**Action – Clerk to take up with The Bridgewater Canal and WBC.**

Where you leave the towpath on the east side of Hough's Lane Bridge, there is an access way for wheel chairs and disabled scooters leading on to Walton Lea Road, but cars park there. We need to ask WBC if they will mark off a section so that wheel chairs and disabled scooters can leave the towpath.

**Action – Clerk to enquire with WBC about wheelchair and disability scooter access where cars are parked next to the canal on Walton Lea Road.**

**Roads/Traffic and Street Lighting – Councillor Bennett (RDB)** – reported that the hedge needs cutting back all around the golf course boundary, Park Lane, Warrington Road and Hough's Lane.

Councillor Bennett said that the end of Mill Lane at the junction with Chester Road was ideal for planting if the area was cleared. Councillors should take a look and give their views at next meeting.

RDB will straighten up the bollards on Chester Road.

The tree/bush needs cutting back from blocking the light on Underbridge Lane.

**Action – Clerk to advise WBC**

**Walton Hall Estate** – No report.

## **72. Review of Correspondence**

### **Energy Saving Support for Warrington Residents**

Councillors copied into this email 15/08/23. WBC Neighbourhood Team looking for invite to PC meeting.

### **Safety Central Volunteering Opportunities**

Councillors copied into this email on 22/08/23. Volunteer opportunities with Cheshire Fire and Rescue.

Looking for invite to PC meeting.

### **School Appeals Panel**

Councillors copied into this email 10/08/23. Looking for new members. Councillor Hazeldine put his name forward.

### **Email from Resident about Trees on Village Triangle**

Councillors copied into this email 02/09/23. Also requesting information about ownership. Asked Simon Twigg (tree man at WBC) for update on current safety situation in respect of the trees. No response as yet.

**Action – Clerk to follow up with S. Twigg.**

**Residents email about traffic calming measures at the junction of Walton Road and Chester Road**

Councillors copied into this email 05/09/23. Asking if WPC is able and willing to assist before serious accident occurs. Suggest copy into Jamie Fisher.

**Action – Clerk to copy in Jamie Fisher.**

**73. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton, commencing at 7.00pm.**

**Section 2**

**Complaints about Parish Councillor – Update from Chair.**

The Chair reported the follow-up to the complaints listed under Point of Order in the minutes of the 6th July 2023 meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 21.20 hrs.