WALTON PARISH COUNCIL minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th June 2021

Present: Cllrs: E Fairclough (Chair), K Shaw, S Birkby, J Carlon, C Wagstaff, P Lee, S Leith, C Pearson, W Parker and C Nixon.

In attendance: Ward Councillor M Cummings (WMDC) two Clerks to the Council and 13 members of the public.

Cllrs W Parker and C Nixon signed their Declarations of Office prior to the meeting.

27. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.
Apologies were received from Parish Councillor T Saunders, PC Craig Steel and Ward Councillor A Manifield.

Resolved to note reasons for absence.

28. To receive declarations of interest.
None.

29. To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on 4th May 2021.

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2021 without amendment as a true and correct record.

30. To be notified of matters accomplished or arisen since the last meeting not included elsewhere on the Agenda.

The Clerk confirmed a new savings account had been opened and transfer of funds for short-term investment is in process.

The Clerk confirmed a new RESTART grant from WMDC had been submitted for period from 1st April 2021 and the accounts for year ending 31st March 2021 had been submitted to the external auditors as well as being published shortly.

31. Public forum session – To permit members of the public to make representations, answer questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda.
The Chair announced if a matter was not listed on the agenda, the matter will be listed and considered at a future Parish Council meeting.

A resident asked how much funds had been secured as COVID grants and when. The Clerk notified circa £21,000 had been received and various times in 2020/21 with differing amounts based on out business rates banding. Cllr Carlon clarified the funds were to compensate the Parish Council for loss of income as result of our enforced closure and reduced hiring due to social distancing requirements.

A resident gave further details in support of the proposal listed under item 19 of the agenda for a village led project names Waterton's Wall. The project entails preserving and rebuilding parts of Squire Charles Waterton's wall around his estate. A group of individuals have enlisted the support of WMDC Councillors and begun identifying landowners. Next steps will be to carry out a survey on the wall, devise a map and identify all legal owners.

Two neighbouring residents attended to present their complaint regarding the LED lights at the back of the hall and their view that the glare is offensive and amounts to a statutory nuisance. Matter has been listed to be considered under item 11 – correspondence received.

Several residents raised their dissatisfaction of the proposed siting of a 20metre mast at the centre of the village – matter to be discussed under item 12 planning applications. A Governor at the school supported these objections and whilst no comment can be made regarding the technology, there are health concerns surrounding its positioning and its siting so near the zebra crossing.

A member of the public raised a complaint regarding the lights at the New Inn Pub as part of works to extend their car park. Cllr Lee reported the planning permission to hold the market is outstanding and cannot recall if an application was submitted to extend the car park. The work for the outdoor market was completed before planning permission sought. The advice was if this was a concern, the resident should contact WMDC as the planning authority dealing with planning permissions.

A resident raised the volume and speed of traffic within the village, namely on Oakenshaw Lane and Shay Lane. The issue is seen as a concern by many villagers putting users at risk which has been evidenced by the recent and tragic fatality. It has been observed cars driving over the roundabout, speed on Shay Lane, honk their horns, aggressive behaviour near School Lane. Better speeding measures were being called for to address the issue. A Governor of the school also supported the request and asked if they could work collaboratively to address the issue. Matter to be considered under item 8.

32. To receive a report on the SAFE scheme and Police matters.

The Chair announced she had spoken with the Police following the tragic fatality and that investigations are still ongoing. Concerns were raised of the number of accidents in the village in a short space of time and speeding had been highlighted as an area for police to address generally as part of their genal policing and under the SAFE scheme. Traffic officers will be undertaking speed checks during the day and patrols in the evening and during anti-social hours/weekends.

The Chair clarified what the SAFE scheme entails, with Walton being the flagship scheme set up in 1997. The Parish Council pays, from its funds, for extra patrols (as Police overtime hours) by dedicated officers who follow the lead officer based on areas of concern and local intelligence. A report is presented at Parish Council meetings, which are published on the website, to stipulate where the patrols are undertaken and their findings.

The Chair asked for members to report issues she can discuss with the lead officer. A governor reiterated the request for extra patrols outside school drop off and pick up times, particularly when it is raining, as these act as a deterrent.

Resolved to note the report.

33. To receive reports from WMDC Ward 5 Councillors.

Cllr Cummings reported:

- No further updates on Brook Farm.
- The community grant for the replacement planters have been approved.
- No update on the Barnsley Midland Railway initiative.
- She is aware of issue of the roundabout at the School Lane/Shay Lane and this is being dealt with via Highways.
- The 5G mast proposal is an application for lawful development and not a planning application.
- The School had submitted a request for yellow lines immediately outside on Shay Lane which would require a Road Traffic Order and enforcement. This is being looked into. Traffic issues are relevant issues following an accident outside Crofton primary school whereby a little boy is thankfully recovery, albeit in ICU, and the fatality on Common Lane. WMDC Highways Manager has agreed to come to a meeting with members of the Parish Council and the public to discuss these issues.
- She is happy to look into the car park at the New Inn on behalf of the resident that raised concern.
- 2 extra bins had been approved for installation at the Nature Park.

Cllr Cummings reported she was supportive of the new proposed Village Green proposal and that the correct channels had been approached for consideration. Members should await the outcome of that request to be issued via the Clerk.

The consultation on the redevelopment of WYCO on Walton Lane has concluded with around 300 objections submitted. It is unclear at this stage what will happen if the planning application is rejected, to the relocation to Brook Farm planning application.

The Clerk conferred a resident request for a dog waste bin outside Cherry Tree Crescent Trans Pennine footpath.

34. To receive and consider results of the traffic survey held in January 2021 and any steps to be taken.
The results of the Golden River traffic survey was circulated to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. These were placed on Greenside, Oakenshaw Lane and Shay Lane with traffic and speed observed in January 2021, which she acknowledges was during lockdown. Her advise would be to discuss the results with the Highways Manager together with any parameters to determine if traffic calming measures would assist.

Councillors noted traffic measures had been raised for some months now. It was noted emergency services do not like sleeping policemen, whilst others felt there was not enough measures adopted in comparison to other villages. From the limited information from the traffic report, a substantial number of vehicles were logged as speeding.

A member of the public suggested a need to increase education with young children and to collaborate on designing posters by children to grip people's conscious.

The Clerk sought permission from Cllr Cummings to post the results on the Parish Council's website, which was given.

Resolved to invite Highways Manager to a separate pre-Parish Council meeting in July to ongoing issues and results.

35. To consider membership of Working Parties.

Resolved:
1. Planning WP - Cllrs: J Carlon, P Lee and C Nixon.
2. Village Hall & Coronation Cottage WP -
   Village Hall - Cllrs: S Birkby, K Shaw and S Leith.
   Coronation Cottage & Tennis Club - Cllrs: J Carlon
3. Recreation Field and Playground WP - Cllrs: S Birkby, C Pearson, K Shaw.
4. Environmental Improvements WP - Cllrs: J Carlon, C Wagstaff, T Saunders.
5. Tree WP - Cllrs: S Birkby, C Pearson and C Nixon. Florals – Cllr E Fairclough.
6. Website WP – Cllrs W Parker, C Nixon, T Saunders and the Clerk.
7. Footpath WP – Cllrs E Fairclough, K Shaw and C Wagstaff.
8. Tennis Club refurbishment WP - Cllrs E Fairclough, K Shaw, S Birkby, S Leith and T Saunders.

36. To approve accounts to be paid, already paid under delegated powers and income received May 2021.
The Clerk submitted details (copy attached to minutes) of accounts paid totalling £3,518.16 for May 2021 and income received of £3,464.17.

The account balances at the end of May 2021 are:

Current a/c:	£2,594.69
Barclays Business Res a/c:	£62,632.25
HSBC deposit a/c:	£50,917.11
Total	£116,144.05*

* The budget expectation is that the total balance will be £60,885.70 at the end of the financial year.

Resolved: to approve the financial statements and payments.

37. To ratify decisions, as scheduled, made to date by the Clerk under her the delegated authority.
Resolved to ratify decisions as scheduled and to display on the Parish Council website to be noted alongside minutes.

38. To consider correspondence received.
The Clerk reported the majority correspondence received in May 2021.

Two neighboring residents had submitted a complaint that the LED lights caused a statutory nuisance as they caused a glare into their properties all night.
The Clerk clarified the number of lights had not increased but replaced with LED units for longevity and as a more environmentally friendly option. Members noted the need for lights at the back of the hall for security reasons and for hirers to sufficiently illuminate the car park. The Clerk noted a historical complaint from a hirer that the car park was too dark, an a member of the public last year in addition to the Council's duty of care to occupiers/users of the land. Contractors had been asked to angle the lights down to minimise any glare however the scheduled work had been delayed to the end of the week. Members noted they did not wish to cause neighbours any upset but needed to maintain sufficient lighting. The complainants wished for the lighting to be switched off but for the reasons highlighted, they would need to consider a compromise. A member suggested meeting an electrician on site to consider options to serve both purposes.

Resolved
(i) to authorise the Clerk to spend, and members from the Village Hall working party to meet with an electrician, up to the value of £1000 on changing bulbs to soften colour, shrouding or a placing lights on a senor but not to switch the lights off.
(ii) For Cllrs Carlon, Nixon, Shaw and Fairclough to attend a meeting with WMDC on Brook Farm.

The Chair moved item 19 up the agenda to be considered next.

39. To consider supporting a proposed village led project named Waterton's Wall.
In response to the earlier information provided it was clarified members of the Golf Club and the Hotel had been approached as private owners but all legal owners were yet to be identified.

Resolved to note the report, offer support for funding applications and nominate Cllrs Parker and Nixon as liaisons with the project team.

40. To review planning applications validated and decided May 2021.
There were 4 planning applications validated and 1 decided since the last meeting.

Cllr Lee reported from the submitted drawings, the proposed height was 18 metres, with 3 cabinets near the boundary wall outside the school on The Grove. The submitted application is for recognition proposal falls within permitted development order. It was noted whilst many attendees had objections, some individuals would support the application and the need for better communication technology. It was noted from the documents, the applicant looked at 5 other sites but these were discounted as being to close to residents or TPOs.
Another member noted permitted development is not possible for anything above 15 metres and therefore full consultation should take place following a full planning application.
Discussions took place on the appropriate of the location, the close proximity to the school and the strength of 90 objections logged against 8 supportive comments.
A vote was held on a proposal to lodge an objection on set grounds. The motion was carried.

Resolved
(i) To object to application 21/01172/TEL – 20m metre 5G mast on the following grounds:
   a. It is considered that the proposed mast is not permitted development within the terms of the GDPO 2015 as amended. Accordingly, an application for full planning permission is required.
   b. The mast will be overbearing, dominant and prejudicial to visual amenity.
   c. The proposed structure will be virtually on the boundary of the Historic Core as described in Policy 4 of the Walton Neighbourhood Plan. The mast will detract from the character of the Historic Core which the Parish Council wishes to maintain and enhance. The mast will not meet the tests outlined in Policy 4.
   d. Whilst not knowing the full details, the PC is aware that the adjacent school objects to the proposals and the PC is minded to support the school in this regard.
(ii) to note the validated and decided applications.

41. To consider the temporary planning permission issued to 'The Van' and any action required.
It was noted the temporary planning permission runs to March 2022.

Resolved to write to WMDC to remind date permission expires and to reinstate land as Green belt land.

42. To consider hiring from 21st June and any alterations to the hall's COVID risk assessment.
The Clerk noted capacity is currently limited to 30 to allow social distancing together with extra cleaning requirements amongst some of the control measures in place. Members felts these additional burdens should be dispensed with as soon as time allows and not to be continued optionally.

Resolved to authorise Clerk to alter risk assessment and terms in line with Government guidance and ACRE guidance to remove measures as soon as permitted.

43. To consider quote for gas and electrical work prior to boarding cellar ceiling.
The Clerk advised any work to be completed over the summer holidays to avoid minimal disruption and for safety reasons to minimise attendees in the building whilst it is ongoing. The Clerk noted this work had not been budgeted as the additional work had not been anticipated.

Resolved to commission
(i) A gas engineer to drop the gas/water pipes to allow boarding of cellar ceiling at a cost of £1,520 plus VAT and
(ii) An electrician at a cost of £749.36 plus VAT to rewire electrical cables/connections.
(iii) To list costings against the 'Contingency budget head'.

44. To consider revised quotes for paving outside the Village Hall.
Resolved to procced with the cheapest contractor, Hemsley Building services at a cost of £2,350.

45. To consider steps to take and any quotes for remedial work to Coronation cottage wall.
The Clerk noted 4 contractors had been approached for a quote based on the amended specification but only one quote returned due to capacity/workload. On this basis, the Financial Regulations paragraph 11.1 would need be suspended. It was noted the wall needed rebuilding as soon as possible and attempts had been made to obtain multiple quotes, It was felt the quote was reasonable given the size of the wall that need to be rebuilt.
Resolved to proceed with Hemsley Building services at a cost of £1750.

Recreation & Playgrounds Working Party

46. To consider quote for two picnic benches for the recreation ground.
Resolved
(i) To purchase 2 new picnic benches from the same supplier as existing picnic benches at a cost of £1509.60 plus VAT
(ii) To commission ENGIE to install the new benches and for them to be sited close to the existing picnic bench behind the flat hardstanding near to the corner of the border, up to a cost of £987.65 plus VAT.

Environmental Improvements Working Party

47. To receive a report on damage to the surrounding wall to the stone sign located on Walton Lane.
The Clerk noted the surrounding wall to the stone sign on Walton Lane, which belongs to the Parish Council has collapsed and will place the sign at risk if the wall is not rebuilt. Following correspondence and a site meeting with WMDC and Cllr Wagstaff, it has been agreed the builder, who erected and installed the stone sign will rebuild the surrounding wall following acceptance of his quote. The costs are to be met by WMDC but the work is yet to be carried out.

Resolved to note the report.

48. To consider location for newly refurbished extended picnic bench.
The Clerk noted the extended wooden bench that was removed from the War memorial has been refurbished and is ready for siting.

Resolved for the Clerk to liaise with members of the Recreation Working Party to determine location facing the football pitch.

Tree Working Party

49. It was noted the Tree survey was to be held in June and reported on in July. Members of the Tree Working Party to attend and raise concerns raised by residents. A member of the public raised the initiative 'Plant a tree for the Queens Jubilee'. The item to be discussed at a future meeting.

50. To consider and approve terms and conditions for the new Clerk/RFO.
Resolved
(i) to exclude the Press and Public
(ii) to approve recommendation of the Staffing Committee and authorise Chair to sign Contact of employment for new Clerk/RFO on the terms stipulated.

51. To receive matters reported directly to the Clerk.
None.

Meeting closed at 10.05pm