



Walton Parish Council

Website - www.waltonpc.org.uk

E: clerk@waltonpc.org.uk

T - 07938842421

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 3 October 2024.

Present Councillor S Harris - Chair

Councillors. H Allison, R D Bennett (arrived 7.08 pm), R Hardie, D Hazeldine, C Hewitt, V C Lacey, and A J Williams.

Attending Locum Clerk – L. Jacob; one member of the public.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7 pm and welcomed everyone.

24.88 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. J C Greene and S Saberi. Warrington Borough Councillor Matt Scott was unable to attend.

24.89 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting.

24.90 Matters to be considered with the exclusion of the press and public

[using Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s. 2]

At this point no items were considered as necessary to exclude the press and public.

24.91 Public Participation

In accordance with Standing Orders, members of the public and any visitors in attendance addressed the meeting.

91.1 PCSO Report

The PCSO was on annual leave and no report had been received.

91.2 Members of the Public

A resident raised a matter concerning employment issues.

91.3 Borough Councillor Report

Cllr. Harris reported that Warrington Borough Council's Financial Inspection report was still ongoing; that twenty new all-electric buses were now in operation and that Paul Clisby had been appointed as the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer). Borough Councillors will be putting a question to the next Full Council WBC meeting regarding poor reporting systems (Councillor Contact and My Warrington). In the meantime, Cllr Hazeldine confirmed that he was happy to be the central point for referring issues to WBC. [Cllr. Bennett arrived]

24.92 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 5 September 2024 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

24.93 Finances

93.1 The following payments were approved (invoices had been circulated prior to the meeting):

Cheque

No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
001573	Gardenia Gardens Ltd	Invoice 8349 August	621.00

001574	L Jacob	Invoice 09/2024	570.00
001575	D Hazeldine	Reimburse expenses	18.80
001576	ChALC	Induction course	25.00
001577	Anita Williams	Reimburse expenses	115.85
001578	Walkers Nurseries	Conifer Plants	75.00

The cheque to Anita Williams had been altered from £199.08 to £115.85 to reflect that an order placed had been cancelled in order to ensure that the invoice was made to Walton Parish Council.

An invoice from Then Media for £316.80, received after the agenda was issued was presented. Clarification on the possible change to the billing arrangements needed to be sought prior to payment being made.

93.2 The budget monitoring information to end September 2024 provided was noted. This showed that receipts to date totaled £46,006.96 with total payments of £8772.85 and projected spending of £15, 528.43. This indicated uncommitted funds (General Reserve) of £21, 705.68. The bank reconciliation and budget monitoring statement were signed by Cllrs. Harris and Hewitt.

24.94 Recruitment for Clerk Position

The Employment Committee had set a meeting date of 15 or 16 October, depending on room availability, with an agenda to be issued three clear days before the meeting.

24.95 Reports from Advisory Groups

95.1 Planning

The group had been sent the following planning applications:

2024/01064/LBC 1 Walton Lea Road, Walton, Warrington, WA4 6SW
Removal of internal wall and replacement of rear window with double doors

Comment – there is no objection to the replacement of the window with double doors. The parish council ask if the nibs from the internal wall removal can be retained as an indicator that a wall was in place.

2024/00917/FULH 105a &, 105 Walton Road, Warrington, WA4 6NR
Boundary Wall
No comment – the railings have already been installed.

2024/01100/FUL Tennis 72m From Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road;
28m From Walton Lea Road, Warrington, WA4 6SJ
5 padel tennis courts and canopies, associated customer kiosk, outdoor social area, groundsman store, and car and cycle parking
Comment: the parish council have concerns that do not constitute an objection, on the following grounds:
potential noise and light transfer to neighbouring residential properties;
concerns on highways grounds regarding potential increase in traffic flows on a no-through route; inadequate provision of lighting of the footpath, the pedestrian route to the facility; opening hours to 10pm, resulting in potential noise and light disturbance over a prolonged period for neighbouring residents

2024/01199/TPO White Oaks Hobb Lane, Walton, Warrington, WA4 5LS
Remedial pruning to x1 no. Tree
No comment to be made to the Planning Department but it was observed that the plans were inadequate in that they did not identify the specific tree to be pruned.

95.2 Village Betterment Advisory Group

95.2.1 There were no recommendations to consider from the group. Cllr Harris asked if the Group would consider improvements to the Runcorn Road/Moore boundary part of the Parish.

95.2.2 The information provided by Gardenia had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. It was suggested that, as no costings had been provided, that the Betterment Group consider the proposals in the context of the whole contract, to prioritise the tasks. In addition, the Betterment Group were asked to consider and research enhancements to the Runcorn Road area of the village.

95.3 Donations Advisory Group

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 10 October 2024 and will consider a donations policy document to be presented for discussion and approval at the full council meeting in November

95.4 Events Advisory Group

Recommendations for consideration

- a) To spend up to £50 to purchase a Remembrance Poppy Wreath using the Local Government Act 1972, s. 137
- b) To spend up to £45 on providing refreshments following the Remembrance event.
- c) To spend £120 on a face painter and to donate £100 to the Lions for services to the Christmas event.

Resolved to spend the sums recommended in (a), (b) and (c).

- d) The options for the electrical supply for the tree lights were discussed. The options are to spend £600 on reinstating the supply with further costs associated with registering for an unmetered supply and organising an annual safety certificate, or to investigate the costs of purchasing solar lights. In addition, the provision of floodlights for the event was discussed.

Resolved to move forward with the option to reinstate the electricity supply and that up to £300 can be spent on the provision of floodlights

24.96 Working Groups

96.1 The recommendations of the Working Group following the review of the new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations issued by NALC were considered in turn.

Resolved that the Standing Orders presented, with the following amendments, will be adopted as the Standing Orders of Walton Parish Council:

Amend 3 x to read “A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2 hours, upon which a resolution shall be passed to extend the period of the meeting to complete the business on the agenda.”

Instances of the word “sub-committee” will be replaced with “Advisory Group” throughout. Agreed that the suggested changes to the Financial Regulations discussed, specifically section 1.5, 1.7, 2.7, 4.7 and instances where the Clerk and RFO are signposted separately to be indicated by Clerk/RFO are incorporated into the document and then recirculated to all councillors for further consideration prior to being presented for approval and adoption at the full council meeting in November.

96.2 The findings and recommendations of the Working Group set up to research banking arrangements were considered.

Resolved that the decision on banking is deferred until the new clerk position is filled.

24.97 Reports from Portfolio Holders and Outside Body Representatives

97.1 Footpaths/Towpaths

97.1.1 The following matters had been reported to Warrington Borough Council by councillors:

Flooding on the A56.

97.1.2 A central system for reporting issues to Warrington Borough Council was discussed. Agreed that the system presented will be used, led by Cllr. Hazeldine in the interim until the clerk position is filled.

97.2 Highways, Vegetation & Street Lighting

No further reports had been made to Warrington Borough Council and updates from WBC on issues reported had not been received.

97.3 Walton Hall Estate

A written report from the Walton Hall Estate had been circulated prior to the meeting. A representative from the Estate would be invited to attend the November meeting.

24.98 Newsletter

A draft of articles received was circulated. Accompanying photographs were requested and the deadline for submitting additional articles was set for 11 October. Costings will be outlined for agreement at the November meeting.

24.99 Forward Plan 2024-2025

Agreed that this item will be a standing agenda item and its title changed to Strategic Plan 2025-2031 to reflect the wider scope of the proposed document. The group is focusing on key themes and projects that will reflect the ambition of the community.

24.100 Creamfields

[Cllr. Bennett left the room at 9.16 pm]

Cllr. Harris, in the capacity of borough councillor, had presented a successful motion to Warrington Borough Council which will establish an All-Party Working Group whose remit will be to pursue active liaison with Halton Borough Council. Correspondence had also been sent to a resident in response to the issues they raised about this year's event.

24.101 Walton Parish Playground Trust

[Cllr. Bennett rejoined the meeting at 9.19 pm]

Cllr. Bennett is pursuing the actions which are required to register Cllrs. Hazeldine and Lacey as new trustees.

24.102 Report on Actions taken and correspondence received since the previous meeting

The action and correspondence report was received.

Cllr. Williams added that correspondence received from a resident had been passed to Borough Cllr. Scott.

Cllr. Hardie enquired about a telephone conversation recorded in the correspondence list.

24.103 Set date and time of next meeting

The date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting was agreed as Thursday 7 November 2024 at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm