



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 7 November 2024.

Present Councillor S Harris - Chair

Councillors. H Allison, R D Bennett, J C Greene, R Hardie, D Hazeldine, C Hewitt, V C Lacey, A J Williams. S Saberi arrived at 7.45pm.

Attending Locum Clerk – L. Jacob; Neil Simpson representing Walton Hall Estates; two members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Hazeldine.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hewitt, as a resident of one of the proposed locations for the Hydrogen Above Ground Installation (HAGI) proposed by Hynet (Item 9.1.3 [change number to reflect continuous numbers once they are applied]), declared this information, remained in the room and took part in the discussion.

3. 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 an item of correspondence was considered as necessary to exclude the press and public and later proposed when that item was reached (Item 16).

4. Public Participation

4.1 Presentation from Walton Hall Estate

Neil Simpson representing Walton Hall Estate provided a verbal update on the commercial aspects of the Estate, including information relating to lettings, catering contracts and events. Councillors then put questions. Mr Simpson emphasised that the Estate regards itself as part of the community. The Chair expressed thanks for the co-operation received from the Estate

[Mr Simpson left at 7.20pm].

4.2 PCSO Report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting that included theft of stone from residential property; report of youths setting off fireworks and a report of motorcycles being driven dangerously.

4.3 4.3 Members of the Public

A member of the public representing Rethinking South Warrington, a community-led group that had been established to respond to the Warrington Local Plan process, reported that the group had now concluded and that monies which had been raised and not spent were being distributed to those parishes who had been involved with the group. A cheque for £53.59 was presented.

[A member of the public left at 7.23pm]

A member of the public, representing a resident of the parish, delivered a statement relating to an incident that the resident wished to raise.

[A member of the public left at 7.33pm].

4.4 Borough Councillors

Cllr. Harris reported that the borough council will undergo a QCQ inspection. Cllr. Harris

will also follow up the queries about the hedges on Hobb Lane that were communicated to Cllr. Scott.

5. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 3 October 2024 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6. Finances

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

Cheque

No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
001580	Gardenia Gardens Ltd	Invoice 8574 September	450.00
001581	L Jacob	Invoice 10/2024	490.00
001582	R Hardie	Reimburse expenses	50.00
001583	Noticeboard Company	2 x Information Boards	1865.04
001584	Lymm Parish Council	SWP Local Plan	274.76
001585	Then Media	Web hosting	316.80

6.2 The budget monitoring information provided to end October 2024 was noted. This showed that receipts to date totaled £46,006.96 with total payments of £10,198.50 and projected spending of £14,218.78. This indicated uncommitted funds (General Reserve) of £21, 589.68. The bank reconciliation and budget monitoring statement were confirmed and signed by Cllr. Bennett.

7. Recruitment for Clerk Position

7.1 The minutes from the Employment Committee were received and the recommendations were discussed:

7.1.1 **Recommended** that the Recruitment Policy as presented is adopted by full council. **Resolved** to accept the recommendation.

7.1.2 **Recommended**, the documentation related to the recruitment of the clerk position, being the job advertisement (including a recommendation on salary scale), job description, accompanying person specification and written particulars of employment.

Resolved to accept the recommendation

7.1.3 **Recommended** that the format and content of the contract of employment will be that provided by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC).

Resolved to accept the recommendation

7.1.4 **Recommended** the form of the advertisement, a closing date of 6 December, an interview panel of three councillors and the creation of an information pack. Some queries were raised about the closing date and the number of councillors on the interview panel.

Resolved to accept the recommendation.

Cllr. Harris thanked the Committee for the work that had been done to research and provide the documents.

[Cllr. Saberi arrived at 7.45pm]

8. Use of Parish Council email addresses

The proposal that all councillors use their waltonpc.org.uk email addresses for receipt of and issuing of correspondence related to parish council business was discussed. It was discussed and noted that there is no statutory requirement to do so.

Resolved that all councillors should use their waltonpc.org.uk email address.

9. Reports from Advisory Groups

9.1 Planning

9.1.1 The group had been sent the following planning applications:

2024/01299/DCOC

Stanlow site to the Central Hub and to North, East and South pipeline Corridors, extending to St. Helens, Partington and Northwich
Hydrogen Production Plant (HPP)

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 9.1.3, the Hynet proposal that indicates one of the preferred sites for the Hydrogen Above Ground Installation (HAGI) is sited on land on Mill Lane, Walton.

Cllrs. Hewitt and Lacey had attended the public consultation event. Cllr, Harris had circulated notes of a meeting with the WBC Case Officer. It was noted that the site was a new proposal, not indicated in previous consultations.

Resolved that Cllr. Hardie, Hewitt and Saberi would draft a response, to be agreed by the parish council and submitted by the deadline of 19 November 2024.

The details of the public consultation will be loaded to the parish council website as an informative for residents.

2024/00301/ADJA

Daresbury Hall, Daresbury Lane, Warrington, WA4 4AG

Proposed restoration of Daresbury Hall and Coach House to enable conversion to residential use, the demolition of various buildings and extensions, and the construction of new build dwellings in the halls grounds

Comment – No comment

2024/01215/FULH

Oaklands Chester Road, Warrington, WA4 5LP

Construction of a new leisure outbuilding and a single storey side extension with internal alterations

Comment – a concern to be raised of overdevelopment and development taking place on green belt land.

2024/01217/LBC

Walton Hall Gardens, Walton Hall, Walton Lea Road, Walton, Warrington, WA4 6SN

Install of dividing partition to split rooms.

Comment – No comment

9.1.2 The following plan was noted as refused by Warrington Borough Council:

2024/01064/LBC 1 Walton Lea Road, Walton, Warrington, WA4 6SW

Removal of internal wall and replacement of rear window with double doors

Reason for refusal:

The proposal would cause unacceptable harm to the fabric of a Grade II Listed Building due to the removal of internal walls and features. This harm would have a significant impact on the Listed Building and would be contrary to Policy DC2 of the Warrington Local Plan 2023 and the NPPF.

9.1.3 A report on attendance at the Hynet North West Hydrogen Pipeline Project public consultation was received. This item was discussed at Item 9.1.1

9.2 Village Betterment Advisory Group

9.2.1 The report of the meeting held on 17 October 2024 was noted.

9.2.2 The proposal that the group be permitted to be the first line of contact between the gardening contractors and the Parish Council, on the understanding that no financial commitments are entered into without the Parish Council's agreement was discussed.

Resolved that the group may act as the first line of contact.

9.2.3 The dates of future meetings of the group were noted as follows: 12 December 2024 at 10am; 20 February 2025 at 2pm; 17 April 2025 at 2pm.

9.3 Donations Advisory Group

[Cllr. Hardie left the room at 8.43pm]

The recommendations of the Group were considered as follows:

9.3.1 Draft Terms of Reference

Resolved to accept the Terms of Reference as presented.

9.3.2 Draft Donations and Grant Procedure and Application Form

Resolved to accept the document as presented.

9.4 Events Advisory Group

[Cllr. Hardie returned to the room at 8.46pm]

The recommendations of the Group were considered as follows:

9.4.1 The purchase of battery-operated flood lights for £230.00;

9.4.2 Two sets of solar-powered programmable multi-coloured Christmas lights for £30

9.4.3 C Cell Batteries for both sets of Christmas tree lights for £27

9.4.4 Four sets of battery-operated blue, programmable walkway lights for trees for £80

9.4.5 Contingency fund for food of £100

9.4.6 Balloon modeller entertainer for £150

9.4.7 Caterer cost of £150

9.4.8 One Outdoor Christmas figure (battery operated) for £150 to site at Lower Walton

9.4.9 A six to seven foot real Christmas tree for Higher Walton.

Resolved to accept the proposals 9.4.1 to 9.4.9

10. Financial Regulations

The draft Financial Regulations were considered.

Resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations as presented.

11. Reports from Portfolio Holders and Outside Body Representatives

11.1 Footpaths/Towpaths

The following update on matters that have been reported to Warrington Borough Council by councillors was noted:

Holly Hedge Lane – the broken grit bin will be reported to WBC.

In addition, the Betterment Group will carry out a survey of the parish.

11.2 Highways, Vegetation & Street Lighting

The following update on matters to be reported to Warrington Borough Council was noted:
The verges on Holly Hedge Lane were continuing to deteriorate and the works promised by the developer had not been carried out;

Hedges and verges were in need of attention and road signs required cleaning on the stretch of the A56 from the entrance of the traveller site on the A56 down to the Toast Rack bridge. Cleaning around the bus shelter was also required – the Betterment Group will include this on their survey.

The drainage issue on the A56 will be highlighted to Borough Cllr. Scott;

Cllr. Hazeldine was following up the damage and removal of red barriers at Holly Hedge Lane bridge;

Borough councillors had been alerted to the visibility issues caused by overgrown vegetation on Hobb Lane.

11.3 Walton Hall Estate

Information had been received during Item 4.1.

12. **Creamfields**

[Cllr. Williams left the room at 9.07pm]

Cllr. Harris reported that a meeting had taken place following the motion put to Warrington Borough Council and liaison with Halton Borough Council was being pursued.

13. **Newsletter**

The timeframe to produce an Autumn newsletter had slipped and therefore no newsletter would be printed and distributed..

14. **Strategic Plan 2025-2031**

[Cllr. Williams returned to the room at 9.09pm]

The group are continuing to work on a draft plan for presentation at the December meeting.

15. **Walton Parish Playground Trust**

Cllr. Lacey is now registered as a Trustee and has made an annual return to the Charity Commission. The next action is to register Cllr. Hazeldine as a Trustee. It was suggested that a budget for the maintenance and improvement of the area could be considered when preparing the budget proposal.

16. **Report on Actions taken and correspondence received since the previous meeting**

The action and correspondence report was noted.

A response to the resident who had raised street tree maintenance issues was discussed. It was agreed to send a holding response to the resident, to raise the matter with WBC and to enquire to the overhead cable owners if they might consider keeping the cables clear.

A proposal was put that an item of correspondence in the form of a complaint, received six hours after the agenda was issued, and requiring a response within 20 working days which would fall outside of the next scheduled meeting, be considered with the exclusion of the press and public because it required information about named individuals to be considered.

Resolved that the item would be considered with the exclusion of the press and public.

The item was discussed and a response was agreed to refer the author to the Monitoring Officer and to seek an independent viewpoint on the handling of the matter by the parish council.

17. Set date and time of next meeting

The date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting was agreed as Thursday 5 December 2024 at St. John's Community Church Hall, Old Chester Road, Walton commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.59pm