Minutes of the Meeting of Walton Parish Council of Friday 8th November 2013

That took place at 7.00pm in the Walton Village Hall Lounge

The Chairman formally opened the meeting and requested that the appreciation of the Parish Council to Mike King for his ten years service as a councillor be formally recorded in the minutes and that the sympathy of the Parish Council with the family of former councillor Bob Pletts also be recorded.
This was unanimously agreed by all those present.

13.14.173 Present

13.14.174 In Attendance
County & District Councillor G. Noel
H. Moore [clerk]

13.14.175 To accept apologies for absence
Cllr. L. Gagg due to previous commitments
Cllr. C. Bishop due to previous commitments

13.14.176 To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes of the parish council meeting of 11th October 2013 were Resolved [4/nil] to be an accurate record and they were then signed as such by the Chairman.

13.14.177 Residents declarations of interest in speaking on agenda items
none

13.14.178 Open forum for residents
No items raised

None declared

13.14.180 To receive the County & District Councillors report.
Cllr. G. Noel reported on the following areas:
- Small improvement scheme – Whitney road improvements had been submitted to the scheme and would now be subject to a feasibility study and assessed.
- Health & Wellbeing fund – Funding requests for get fit & get active projects from recognised organisations need to be received by the end of January 2014

Councillor R. Crossman joined the meeting at this point

- County Council finance office is advising that further cut backs will be required over the next few years. It is hoped that efficiency savings will meet a large proportion of this.
- Local solar farm applications – Both now been approved
- The Council Chairman raised the issue of Piper’s Inn Junction and the ongoing issue of the disparity between the County Council Officers’ accident figures and the locally noted number of accidents. It was requested that the C&D councillor make enquiries as to why this disparity was occurring and if County was actively searching for accident notifications and statistics.

Minutes of Walton Parish Council Meeting of 8th November 2013

Chairman...................................................... Date..................................................
Minutes of Walton Parish Council Meeting DRAFT Minutes

13.14.181 To receive the Police Community Support Officer’s report
The written report provided was read out to those present.
The proposal for a potential “no cold calling zone” is to be put onto the December parish council meeting agenda.

13.14.182 Casual Vacancies on the Parish Council
The vacancies had been formally advertised for the required time period on the village notice boards and website and no election had been called. The Parish Council will now proceed to advertise for people to be co-opted onto the council in the next village newsletter and on the parish website with the closing date for applications to be 31st December 2013 to facilitate discussion at the January 2014 parish council meeting.

13.14.183 Planning
a) To receive any planning decisions reported - none have been reported
b) To consider any applications received
2013/2054 – 32 Hempitts road BA10 9QS – erection of first floor extension to side of property above existing garage and single storey rear extension
It was Resolved [5/nil] that the parish council recommend approval of this application as it is in keeping with similar extensions built in this area
c) To consider a report on enforcement - no issues raised
d) To consider any general planning issues – Solar Park developments – it was requested that as both local developments had received approval the parish council should write requesting information as to the “community benefit proposals” previously mentioned by them.

13.14.184 Precept Grant Applications Received
At this meeting the following applications were discussed in order to decide what grant would be awarded.
a.] Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
It was Resolved [5/nil] that a grant of £500 [five hundred pounds] would be made
b.] Mendip Community Transport
It was Resolved [5/nil] that a grant of £50 [fifty pounds] would be made
c.] Somerset Motor Project
It was Resolved [5/nil] that a grant of £150 [one hundred & fifty pounds would be made as a contribution towards the cost of boots for the project
d.] Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau
It was Resolved [5/nil] that a grant of £50 [fifty pounds] would be made
e.] St. Margaret’s Hospice
It was Resolved [5/nil] that a grant of £250 [two hundred & fifty pounds] would be made
f.] Walton Under Five’s pre school
It was Resolved [3/2] that a grant of £800 [eight hundred pounds] would be made toward the cost of improving the outside play area.
g.] Holy Trinity Church Walton
It was Resolved [5/nil] that a grant of £500 [five hundred pounds] would be made toward the cost of the new fence and grass cutting of the grave yard.
h.] Polden Hills Pony Club
It was Resolved [5/nil] that a grant of £120 [one hundred and twenty pounds] would be made toward the cost of road and ride safety tests.

[It should be noted that the parish council has the general power of competence]

It was noted that the accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2013 had now been received.

Councillor Haydon and Councillor Crossman left the room at this point due to being members of the Walton Trust.

- It was **Resolved [3-nil]** that a grant of £3,100.00 [three thousand one hundred pounds] be made to the Walton trust in April 2014 as a general contribution toward running costs.
- It was **Resolved [3-nil]** that the minimum annual amount currently guaranteed to the Trust may be varied in future years.
- It was **Resolved [3-nil]** that the Clerk write to the Walton Trust to formally advise them of this amendment.

Councillor Haydon and Councillor Crossman rejoined the meeting at this point.

13.14.186 Land purchase for allotments

The latest exchange of emails with the parish council solicitors was read out to those present.

- It was **Resolved [5-nil]** that following advise received from Maxine Heal at Chubb Bulleid [parish council solicitors] the route for the water pipeline **over the diocese retained field** be followed as preferred by the diocese, that is along the north west boundary.
- The possible completion date of the end of November was noted by the parish council.
- Quotations have been requested for works required to install the new gateway required to provide access to the retained field but had not yet been received.

13.14.187 Roads and Traffic through the village

**a. Mildred Road Verges**

Shrub Planting – This had now been completed by the Nursery and had generated positive feedback from residents

**b. Brooks road safety meeting**

Councillor Gagg had attended a site meeting with Street parish council and the Highways department and had provided a written report that was read to those present.

Several issues with regard to the roundabout and Brooks road in general were discussed.

Highways are to carry out a “snagging exercise” on the roundabout, repaint the white lines and add signage in order that the roundabout may then be adopted.

**c. Small improvement scheme application**

It was reported that a small improvement scheme for improved passing places in Whitley Road from the A39 on to the parish boundary at Sam’s yard had been submitted as previously discussed [12.13.014c]

**d. Roads & traffic in general**

The clerk was requested to advise Highways that:

- Long Lane was flooding again by the garages and further work was required.
- The drains were blocked at the Pusey’s Garage end of Mildred road.
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13.14.188 Consideration of approval of the monthly financial report

1. A financial report as at 31st October 2013, that included a bank reconciliation, was circulated to all councillors present. The bank statements for that period were also provided to those present. It was Resolved [5-nil] by the council that this was an accurate record and it was then signed as such by Cllr. R. Crossman.

2. It was noted that the first repayment to the public works loan board would be made on 4th December 2013.

3. It was noted that training on Budgets and financial management had been arranged for the Chairman and the Clerk for November 14th.

4. It was Resolved [5-nil] that a meeting for parish council budget setting be arranged between Cllrs. Crossman, Marsh and the Clerk (as RFO) to prepare a draft budget for presentation to the December parish council meeting.

5. It was noted that Mendip District Council (MDC) had been requesting that precept requests be submitted by January 3rd 2014 however the Clerk had obtained an extension to the end of January subject to the receipt of the council tax base and "smoothing grant" information from MDC.

13.14.189 Authorisation of expenses and the agreement of cheques for the payment of accounts

It was Resolved [5-nil] that the following payments are approved by the council with the cheques to be signed at the end of the meeting.

1369  H. Moore  4weeks wages to date
1370  HMRC  Tax & NI re above
1371  Sweet Acre  planting of Mildred road verges
1372  FFO  annual fee to information commission as per freedom of info act
1373  Walton Trust  room hire re October parish council meeting
1374  Somerset CC  play area grass cutting in October
1375  SALC  Training for Chairman & Clerk in Budget preparation

Cheques for Payment 8th November 2013

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE  
£1,310.30

Minutes of Walton Parish Council Meeting of 8th November 2013

Chairman........................................................................................................ Date........................................................................
Consideration of proposals for this event was deferred to the next parish council meeting.

13.14.191 Localism
This item was deferred to the next meeting when Cllr. L. Gagg would be in attendance.

13.14.192 Village Play Areas
1. It was Resolved [5/nill] to proceed with Giles Edwards [on receipt of or sight of, public liability insurance] to remove and replace the post and rail fencing and cut back the hedge with a decision on the further works required being deferred until a later time.
2. Quotes for the cradle swing parts have been requested but not yet received.

13.14.193 Upcoming Meetings
Tuesday 26th November - planning training event 6pm at Wells Town Hall
NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13th December 2013 - 7pm in the village hall lounge

The meeting then closed.

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Chairman........................................................................................................ Date........................................