Minutes of the Meeting of Walton Parish Council of Friday 12th July 2013
That took place at 7.00pm in the Walton Village Hall Lounge

13.14.076 Present

13.14.077 In Attendance
1 Member of the public
Ian Bowen [Planning Policy ~ Mendip District Council]
District & County Cllr. G. Noel
H Moore [clerk]

13.14.078 To Accept Apologies for Absence
Cllr. B. Pletts, due to personal reasons
Cllr. B. Musgrave, due to previous engagement

13.14.079 To confirm the minutes of previous meetings.
The minutes of the parish council meeting of 14th June 2013 were Resolved [4/nill with 3 abstentions due to non attendance] to be an accurate record and they were then signed as such by the Chairman.

13.14.080 Residents declarations of interest in speaking on agenda items
None declared

13.14.081 Open Forum for Residents
No issues were raised

None disclosed

13.14.083 To receive the County Councillors and District Councillors Reports
Cllr. G. Noel provided an update with regard to:
- Further cuts required to be made by Somerset county council
- Mendip district council looking for economies of scale by seeking partnerships with other councils for service provision
- Health watch ~ volunteers required to feed back information on health services
- Current position on the Local Development Framework.
- Community environment fund small grants available
- The new homes bonus

Questions were then raised by councillors with regard to potential redundancies and the current system for reporting and filling pot holes.
The chairman expressed the thanks of the parish council for the information provided.

13.14.084 To receive the PCSO report
None provided.

Mr. Ian Bowen of Mendip planning policy team, provided an update on the current situation with regard to the Mendip Local Development Framework reporting that
- It was being checked against the latest census data
- No major changes expected
- Submission to planning inspector currently scheduled for the Autumn
- Public examination ongoing

Discussion occurred with regard to the reasoning behind the stated required development levels for Street. It was reported that although levels of employment provision were being revisited employment is only 1 consideration ~ Mendip as a whole needs more housing due to population growth. The existing substantial allocations to Wells and Glastonbury were reiterated.
The Chairman expressed the thanks of the parish council for Mr. Bowen taking the time to attend and provide an update as to the current situation.
13.14.086 The Legacy of Mr. H. Skinner

a.) Land purchase for allotments
   (i) Report on progress ~ It was noted that the parish council solicitor had advised this week that paperwork has been moving between themselves and the diocese solicitors and that the current draft received was being looked at.
   (ii) Local Legacy Fund ~ It was noted that an award of £15,000 had been made toward the allotment project by the local legacy fund and that the Chairman & Clerk were due to meet with the fund officer toward the end of the month.

13.14.087 Roads and traffic through the village

a.) Verge Cutting
   1. A Decision as to the requirement of a second cut of the minor road verges was deferred until the August parish council meeting.

c.) Pot holes
   1. It was reported that Whitley Road was now scheduled to be closed for resurfacing from the 29th July

d.) Roads & traffic in general
   1. Mildred Road Wild Flower Trial: It was reported that pictures of the colourful display provided by the trial were now on the village website and that a positive response was being received from residents. Some residents had been watering the area mistakenly cut by highways and it is recovering well. **This item to go onto the agenda of the next meeting in order that the expansion of the wildflower area can be considered**

3. Bridge over 18ft Rhynne: It was reported that this bridge is still closed. Due to the need to design the replacement and put the works out to tender no action is likely prior to the end of September.

4. The notice board and grit bin at Brooks Road have been demolished by a car. This has been made safe by highways. Contact has been made with the driver’s insurance company who have advised council to proceed with the purchase and installation of replacements. Quotes have been obtained for replacements. It was **Resolved [7-nil]** to proceed with purchase of replacements and to enquire if highways would install the replacement or advise of a suitable contractor.

5. It was reported that a tree in the garden of 65 Main Street had branches overhanging the pavement and creating a hazard for pedestrians. **It was Resolved [7-nil] that the Clerk write to the occupier requesting that the hazard be made safe.**

6. It was requested that the land owner be chased with regard to the brambles encroaching onto the pavement at the bottom of Brooks Road.

13.14.088 Planning

a.) To receive any planning decisions reported
   i.) 2012/0848 Haycroft Farm Veal Lane – variation of original application condition 2 – **Approved with conditions.**

b.) To consider any applications received
   i.) 2013/1189 Land north of Butleigh Drove Pedwell ~ A Solar Park comprising the erection of solar arrays of photovoltaic panels, inverter sheds, fencing and associated equipment.

Cllr. R. Crossman declared a personal interest due to knowing the landowner.
Discussion occurred with regard to the proposed location and considerable concerns were raised with regard to potential access difficulties. It was Resolved [7/nil] to recommend approval of this application subject to a Section 106 condition being made that Butleigh Drove be made good both prior to and after the development as the road is not currently suitable for the H.G.V. use as proposed in the application.

Cllr. M. King left the meeting at this point

No other planning consultations had been received for consideration

c.) To consider a report on enforcement

Nothing to report

d.) Any other planning issues –

Housing Needs Survey ~ It was reported that the Somerset Association of Local Councils had been contacted with regard to this and the Community Council for Somerset were recommended to carry it out. Contact had been made and a quote obtained as well as details of potential grant funding to assist.

It was Resolved [6/nil] that the Clerk to proceed with an application for funding.


1. A financial report as at 31st June 2013, that included the bank reconciliation, was circulated to all councillors. The bank statements for that period were provided to those present. It was Resolved [6/nil] by the council that this was an accurate record and it was then signed as such by Cllr. R. Crossman.

2. The Clerk requested authorisation to transfer the public works loan board money to the bonus saver account. It was Resolved [6/nil] that this transfer be authorised.

13.14.090 To consider the authorisation of Expenses & the agreement of cheques for payment of accounts

Cheque: Payee & Reason:

1339. H. Moore = Four weeks wages to date

1340. HMRC = Tax & NI re above

1341. Mr. C. Willcox = tidying and clearing of Chancellor Road garden area

1342. Society of Local Council Clerks = Updated Reference re Local Council Administration.

1343. Walton Trust = Room hire fees for parish council meeting 12th July 2013

1344. Walton Press = Printing of June village newsletter

Cheques for Payment 12th July 2013

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE £849.58
13.14.091 Village Play Areas
It was reported that the Meadow Lane play area is continuing to be very popular and well used.
It was noted that the historic written record of the weekly checks be transferred to the Clerk for storage

13.14.092 Visual History Project
It was reported that the authorisation had been received for the parish council to become holders of, and take responsibility for, the Walton village film.
The letters were handed to Cllr. Hanrahan who agreed to collect the film from its current holder with the film to be kept as part of the visual history project collection.
This item to be on the agenda of the next meeting.

13.14.093 Barn Owl Box
It was Resolved [6-nil] that the parish council would consider the provision of up to four boxes for location at suitable sites within the parish. An article promoting the project is to be put into the next village newsletter.

13.14.094 Village Fun Day
1. It was reported that plans for the fun day were on going and that a possible evening entertainment [folk based] was being considered to tie in with the royal birth celebrations.

Councillors J. Haydon and R. Crossman left the meeting [and the room] at this point

2. After considerable discussion it was Resolved [4-nil] that a grant of £300 be made as a general contribution toward the cost of the fun day with a further £300 being granted as a contribution toward the evening entertainment if it occurs.

Councillors J. Haydon and R. Crossman rejoined the meeting at this point

Discussion ensued at this point with regard to the showing of the village film at the fun day and the suggestion will be raised with the Walton Trust.

The Chairman postponed this item to the August meeting

13.14.096 Upcoming Meetings
- Next parish council meeting – Friday 9th August 2013 7pm in the village hall lounge
- SALC East Area Meeting – Monday 15th July 2013
- Planning events for parish councils – proposed dates circulated to all present

THE MEETING THEN CLOSED