
WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

Walton-in-Gordano - Walton Down - Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald Hill

18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 e-mail: clerk@waltoningordanopc.org.uk
website: waltoningordanopc.org.uk

These minutes have been reviewed and agreed to by all Councillors, but remain draft until that agreement can be ratified at the next formal meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 6pm on Thursday 21st May 2020

All meetings are held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Nigel Ashton, our Ward Cllr attends when possible; Colin Medus, our NSC Liaison Officer, attends every other month

There is a vacancy for another Councillor - please contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved

Due to current circumstances, because there is not a reliable enough broadband service to adopt online meetings, because we do not currently have online banking and because various audit papers and cheques had to be signed, this meeting was convened to be held in the garden of the Village Hall. All four members of the Council were party to and commented upon the agenda items before the meeting such that the meeting itself, for the assurance of optimum spacial concerns, was largely a ratification of positions agreed pre-meeting by all four Councillors.

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Nigel Wilyman

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

031/20 APOLOGIES: Cllr Dickinson, as a mother of a very young family.

ANNUAL MEETING

032/20 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Members have proposed that the Current chair (Mike Ralston) and Vice Chair (Brian Cannell) remain in office for the year to May 2021.

033/20 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Dickinson is prepared to continue representing the Council on the Village Hall Committee of Management

034/20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Reviewed by all Councillors prior to the meeting, noted as attached.

ORDINARY MEETING

035/20 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Due to current restrictions it is not possible to hold a May Annual Parish meeting. Unless future guidance indicates otherwise, the next Annual Parish Meeting will be in May 2021

036/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wilyman as owner of subject property in planning application number 20/P/0966/HHPA at Minute 039/20 below.

037/20 LAST MEETING MINUTES

March 9th were agreed and signed.

038/20 GOVERNANCE

- i) **Updated standing Orders:** Prepared based on the 2018 NALC template - agreed to, to satisfy internal auditor requirements, posted to website and added to 2020 Governance documents to replace existing. Ratified here.
- ii) **Annual Governance Statement Approval:** In relation to the Annual Review of Governance documents (Minute 017/20 of the February 2020 meeting); agreed that Section 1 of the 2019-20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - The Annual Governance Statement - was a true representation of the Council's internal governance controls.

039/20 PLANNING

New: 20/P/0986/LDP: 1 Brighton Cottages; bedroom, bathroom, playroom and office in existing detached but adjacent outbuilding. **20/P/0966/HHPA:** Rivendell replacement conservatory. **No objections to either application.** (Cllr Wilyman was not involved in the pre-meeting consultations relating to application number 20/P/0966/HHPA).

040/20 PARISH MATTERS

Shoot: Beaters enter properties to pick up birds. The Estate has a right to do so on its tenancies and, apparently, on property it has sold. **Cllrs Cannell and Wilyman will check their deeds**, to see if this is so.

Golf Club Pond: Awaiting a Club response re flood-security lower down Walton Brook.

Sewage: As advised by the Environment Agency, being followed with them directly, by Complainant.

041/20 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

none

042/20 FINANCE

- i) **2019-20 Accounts:** agreed via email, sent for internal audit, which is now complete.
- ii) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 (AGAR):** Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2019/20 Part 2 & Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2019-20: each reviewed, agreed and signed off.
- iii) **2020-21 Accounts:** Opening position **as attached**
- iv) **Cheques:** **789** ALCA Sub - £58.79. **790** Zurich Insurance £246.38. **791** Philip Smith re Internal Audit £45.00. **792** HMRC re PAYE for April/May/June £112.50.

043/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be announced. Monitoring papers will be circulated in lieu of meeting papers until normal physical meetings resume.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm

These minutes have been reviewed and agreed to by all Councillors, but remain draft until that agreement can be ratified at the next formal meeting of the Council

REPORT OF THE CHAIR TO THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING OF WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

Due to the present coronavirus situation and our need to keep this meeting brief and to the point, I will be brief with this report, which although it a mandated part of this Annual Meeting, is usually given at the Annual Parish Meeting - immediately following this one - which, of course, is not taking place this year.

Councillors: With May 2019 being an election year, our 4 councillors presented themselves for re-election. As the Parish is entitled to have 5 councillors and there were only 4 nominations, we were all deemed elected without an actual election taking place. We continue to have a vacancy for a Councillor, which we can fill by co-option.

Planning: As usual, there were a steady stream of planning applications coming before us for comment during the year. Such is the nature of our parish that these applications prove to be interesting residential projects, rather than commercial ones. The complexity of some applications however, can demand a lot of close attention and Councillors are to be commended for the time they are prepared to give to this significant aspect of Parish Council work.

Highways: Our strategy for highways - Village Gates and speed limits is being hampered because the placing of some of our existing speed limit signs is at odds with current highway regulations. This means that any future works we propose will have to include the bringing of the speed limit signs much closer to our centres of population. As well as being so counter-intuitive, this will severely hamper the active and successful SpeedWatch work which volunteers in the community commit to on our behalf. We have not lost sight of our highway ambitions, but we need to find a way of achieving them without losing what took so long for the Parish to establish originally, in terms of speed limits.

Finance: Our day to day spend is straightforward, consisting mainly of employment costs of the Clerk various elements of parish maintenance such as the street light at the corner of Moor Lane and the B3124, and our website. We have reserves of some £8,000, which includes provision for asset replacement. However, with increasing demands for parishes to contribute to project costs such as those we envisage for our village gates, speed limits and signage, this will not go far and needs assiduous long term attention to maintain and grow it.

I must thank all my fellow Councillors for the regular hard work they put in to keeping the wheels of our Parish turning - their efforts are entirely voluntary and they draw no expenses in relation to them.

Cllr Mike Ralston

May 21st 2020

