

Minutes of the MS Teams Meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 5th May 2021

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Nigel Ashton, Ward Cllr & Colin Medus, NSC Liaison Officer attend when possible

There are 2 Councillor vacancies - please contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Rachel Dickinson

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

Before the meeting started, Colin Medus told us that he will be leaving NSC and, therefore, his role as our liaison link with them: he came along this evening to say goodbye and to say thank-you for what he described as a happy and positive experience with us. In wishing Colin well, there was an unanimous disappointment at our losing him. Mike Ralston pointed to the huge contribution Colin's expertise and communicating skills have given to so much of what we have been working to achieve over recent years: we would not have been in the same place without his quiet, confident and competent support and advice. Colin left - with our warmest wishes for his future - before the formal start of the meeting at 7.05pm.

040/21 APOLOGIES - none

ANNUAL MEETING

041/21 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Members agreed, without a vote, to continue with Cllr Ralston as Chair and Cllr Cannell as Vice-Chair of the Council. **Cllr Ralston will complete the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.**

042/21 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Village Hall Committee - Cllr Dickinson agreed to continue in this role

Gordano Greenway - with no contact or activity over a long time it was agreed that representation on this body would be discontinued at least for now.

NSC Standards Sub-Committee - Cllr Cannell agreed to be our representative in this role.

Clerk to adjust the website record on these appointments accordingly.

043/21 CHAIR'S REPORT

This had been read by all present, was agreed to, and is **appended to these minutes.**

ORDINARY MEETING

044/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

045/21 LAST MEETING MINUTES - April 12th 2021 - were agreed, and reserved for signature.

046/21 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE - none

047/21 GOVERNANCE

Annual Governance Statement Approval: In relation to the Annual Review of Governance documents (Minute 016/21 of the February 2021 meeting), Section 1 of the 2020-21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - The Annual Governance Statement was circulated with the meeting

papers. It was reviewed and agreed, **for signature by the Chair and Clerk** as a true representation of the Council's internal governance controls.

- 048/21 PLANNING** - Visit the NSC website for fuller details. Applications notified on the day of the meeting will also be considered.
New: 21/P/1048/FUH Plumtree Cottage - Single story rear extension to kitchen. No objections. **Clerk to so inform NSC Planning.**
Decisions Due: 20/P/3047/FUL Home Farm Gateway Widening.
Approved: 21/P/0487/FUH & 21/P/0488/LBC The Manor - replacement windows.
- 049/21 PARISH MATTERS** (these will be updated via email as needed and be reviewed at the July meeting)
Gullies in Walton Street: Emptying due, but may be delayed.
Street Light - 7 responses (5 from residents) to the April Cross Tree Chronicle piece have been received, all in favour of retaining a light. Clerk awaiting NSC response re an enquiry as to what, if any, planning permission will be needed. There appear to be two options to placing a new light: either on a pole in a location far enough away from the barn to allow for the barn's maintenance (the basis of the current replacement quote), or fixing the new light to either the Moor Lane or the B3124 face of the barn itself. Cllr Cannell registered thanks to those who have already responded to the options for the future of the light. The consultation remains open.
20mph Speed Zone Extension: Updates from NSC are expected.
Walton Street: Flooding at gateway from the field coming off Walton Down - NSC report awaited. The suspected water leak outside Arodene - Cllr Dickinson remains in contact with Bristol Water.
Buses: Details of a new 56 service from Clevedon Triangle to Walton Bay are in the Walton Bay noticeboard. The service runs four times a day on every working weekday. Timetable distributed via Cross Tree Chronicle.
Footpath From Plumtree to Common: Trees are reportedly overgrowing on some sections and has been reported to NSC footpaths officer: a response is awaited.
Walton Street: Drainage Related Hole at Springhead path junction with Walton Street - reported
Moor Lane: Fly Tipping in the Ash Track gateway. Reported.
NSC Footpaths Initiative: It was agreed that **Cllr Ralston and the Clerk will progress this with NSC.**
- 050/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**
No specific reports were entered.
- 051/21 FINANCE**
i) 2020-21 Accounts: Internal audit complete and with no adverse auditor's comments.
ii) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 (AGAR): Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2020/21 Part 2 & Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2020-21: were reviewed, agreed, **for signature by the Chair and Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.**
iii) 2021-22 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers reviewed and noted.
iv) Cheques: 799 Phil Smith - Internal Audit £45.00. **Payment agreed.**
- 052/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday July 12th in the Village Hall * - this presumes that physical meetings will be allowed and the Hall will be available - **time to be confirmed.****
- * June Meeting Date:** Due to evolving Covid-19 regulations it currently appears that it will not be possible to hold parish council meetings - electronic or in person - from 7th May until June 21st: therefore **there will be no Parish Council meeting in June.**

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council Annual Meeting - via Zoom - 5th May 2021 at 6pm

Report of the Chair

2020-21 was certainly a year not to be repeated. There was no April meeting in 2020 and a meeting towards the end of May, to deal with needed ratification of audit papers and signatures (which the auditors briefed could not be supplied electronically), was basically to ratify pre-agreed positions.

With a need for virtual meetings, all Councillors had problems with maintaining consistent broadband signals. One of our number - Nigel Wyliman, a former Chair of the Council in years past - resigned during the summer and has been much missed. The rest of us had to make new broadband arrangements to secure lines that could operate reliably in a public-facing environment. We therefore started holding Microsoft Teams meetings in July, on our usual 2nd Monday of each month except August: the meetings started at 6pm.

As I write, the system of virtual meetings comes to an end on May 6th and physical meetings will not be allowed until June 21st. This effectively means that no meetings can be held between May 7th and the end of June. Our next meeting will therefore be on July 12th 2021, *hopefully* in the Village Hall.

Councillors

With Nigel Wyliman's departure we now have vacancies for two Councillors. I would encourage anyone interested in joining the Council to contact our Clerk, or one of the existing Councillors. The work is voluntary and can be very rewarding, despite the stock image of Councils at all levels being somewhat ineffective.

Planning

There have been fewer planning applications coming through during this Covid year and nothing particularly contentious.

Highways

We have not, thus far, been able to resolve the conflict between NSC's need to apply government criteria to the relocation of our speed limits on the B3124 and our wish to install village gates. We soldier on and are hopeful that NSC's planned expansion of 20mph speed limits in rural areas may also lead to an expansion beyond the limit up Walton Street which, together with the recent introduction of a 7.5 ton weight limit, should slow speeds and reduce vehicle sizes using the Coast Road. We are still watching this, and will appreciate any feedback people can offer on their perception of how it is working. You can contact us on traffic issues by visiting the bottom of any of our website pages and clicking on the brown 'Report a Traffic Incident' box.

After studying a copy of an original agreement between the Miles Estate and Somerset County Council, NSC recognise their responsibility for the maintenance of the Golf Club fence up Walton Street between Arodene and Taggart House. They are organising that restoration work with the Golf Club and we will certainly be looking forward to the outcome.

We had hoped to become involved in work on the public footpaths, but found the work to have been done before our commitment could be fulfilled. We were, however, alerted to NSC Highways responsibility for public footpaths and discovered that supporting footpath work other than via them was fraught with potential liability issues.

Finance

With regular payments going out on Bank Standing Orders, and with an NSC year stretched in many other ways than our highway projects, we have no significant expenditure to report. We have, however, provided for the costs of replacing the public light on the B3124-Moor Lane junction when it ultimately needs replacing during the next couple of years.

We are a small band here at the Parish Council and working virtually has proved more demanding than one might expect. Luckily we all know and respect each other, which has proved hugely helpful in getting us through this difficult year. I must thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their unstinting dedication to their duties during the ever-changing sea of regulations that has been washing over us all of late. I would also like to thank Cllr Nigel Ashton, our Gordano Ward Councillor and Colin Medus, our NSC liaison officer, who have provided invaluable guidance and support to us throughout the year.

MINUTES OF WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021

Present: Mike Ralston (Chair), Don Hill (Minute Taker), and 5 other residents

ARM21/01 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received

ARM21/02 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MAY 13TH 2019

These were circulated to attendees and approved in June 2019 and were therefore not a formal agenda item for this meeting. There was no meeting held in May 2020 due to Covid-19.

ARM21/03 REPORTS TO THE MEETING

Due to the restrictive circumstances prevailing during the past year there were no reports from local organisations called for this meeting, which of regulatory necessity, had to be held via Zoom.

ARM21/04 DISCUSSION

Resident Involvement in the Parish Council:

Walton-in-Gordano has long been a socially vibrant parish, with a wide range of active interest groups that have been able to keep a monthly newsletter functioning over many years. There was an eloquently developed proposal that the Parish Council could do much to involve the community in *its* affairs by developing a strategic vision of where it wants to go and how it plans to get there. Many larger parishes are developing Neighbourhood Plans that are probably beyond the scope of very small parishes such as ours. However, a community consists of landowners and of residents, who will all have a sense of why they are part of the parish and how they would like to see it progress. Hopefully the Parish Council will be expanding its number of Councillors to its maximum of five over the coming months and this will provide much needed people-power for the development of some of these ideas.

The 56 Bus Service from Clevedon to Walton Bay:

There is apparently disappointment at Walton Bay that the new 56 bus service runs to Clevedon rather than to Portishead. The meeting asked that the Parish Council be asked to find out, more widely, the views of Walton Bay residents and to see what further plans North Somerset Council have - or might be persuaded to - to service the needs of this isolated population. **Don Hill noted this for action, in his role as Parish Clerk.**

The Parish Street Light at Moor Lane:

5 residents responded to the Cross Tree Chronicle piece about the light, which was phrased in a way calculated to draw responses. All respondents were strongly in favour of the light being replaced by a new light rather than it not being replaced. The Parish Council report that the necessary budget provision will be made in January 2022, so there is plenty more time for people to respond with their thoughts.

Fibre Broadband:

Truespeed is still the only company currently planning to offer a service through the Gordano Valley. They report, however, that it will be another 10 months before the service can be in operation. There is a new service from Starlink.com, currently in Beta form. This has the potential to be a significant improvement on currently available satellite broadband systems but is expensive to install (some £500).

There were no further topics raised and the Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for taking part.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm