

10 PARISH MATTERS

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. **Clerk to seek advice from NSC (Planning & Conservation)/Western Power on feasibility of options.**

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: Cllr Ralston to introduce.

11 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

12 FINANCE

i) **2020-21 Accounts:** agreed via email, sent for internal audit, which is now complete.

ii) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 (AGAR):** Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2020/21 Part 2 & Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2020-21: each to be reviewed, agreed and signed off.

2021-22 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers.

Cheques: 789 Phil Smith - Internal Audit £45.00

13 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 July: therefore **there will be no Parish Council meeting in June.***

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.

We were so sad to learn of the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh. His quiet and assured toughness of spirit has served us all so positively for longer than most of us are able to remember. May he rest in the peace that he so deserves

Minutes of the MS Teams Meeting at 6pm on Monday 12th April 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: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on the sad passing but positive contribution of Prince Phillip to all our lives. Members observed a one minute silence in respect for his memory.

031/21 APOLOGIES - none

032/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

033/21 LAST MEETING MINUTES - March 8th - were agreed, and reserved for signature.

034/21 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE - none

035/21 PLANNING - Visit the NSC website for fuller details. Applications notified on the day of the meeting will also be considered.

New: 20/P/3047/FUL Home Farm Gateway Widening. Notwithstanding this application being retrospective there are very cogent road safety arguments in its favour and Members felt unanimously that they they would not raise any objections to it. Clerk to so inform NSC planners.

Decisions Due: 21/P/0487/FUH & 21/P/0488/LBC The Manor - replacement windows.

036/21 PARISH MATTERS

Gullies in Walton Street: Emptying due, but may be delayed.

Street Light - 6 responses (two from non-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. Clerk to seek advice from NSC (Planning & Conservation)/Western Power on feasibility of options.

20mph Speed Zone Extension: Cllr Ashton reported that new NSC 20 mph schemes are going ahead, with policy being changed to increase the area covered. He has a question going to NSC on 20th April asking for clarification of terms - i.e. who pays for the schemes and any physical restrictions needed to make drivers comply. Key concerns are that if a 20mph zone is too long, people will ignore it and if it is too expensive then smaller parishes couldn't afford it.

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: The 88 service ceased at the beginning of April. NSC are expected to provide a Walton Bay to Clevedon service - details are still awaited at the time of this meeting. **Clerk to chase.**

037/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Ralston

Walton Bay: Cllr Ralston complained strongly to Hunters about their Sales Board attached to the Walton Bay Parish Notice Board and felt that their response was one of apparent indifference.

Walton Street: Drainage Related Hole at Springhead path junction with Walton Street. **Clerk to report to NSC.**

Golf Club Fence: Cllr Ashton emailed the Clerk with a report that NSC lawyers, having studied the executed 1956 agreement between the Miles Estate and Somerset County Council, and acknowledge that NSC are responsible for the maintenance of the fence running between the golf course and Walton Street from Taggart House to Arodene. Cllr Ralston received the same information from the golf club. The meeting felt thanks are due to Cllrs Ralston and Ashton for their diligence in resolving what has been a long standing issue.

Cllr Dickinson

Footpaths on Common: The issue of the fallen trees on the footpath between Plum Tree Cottage and the Common where it passes the side of Hackswood House was raised. Cllr Dickinson noted that there were additional trees which were catching on the power line due to lack of maintenance by Western Power Distribution (WPD). This is putting the line at risk and is a potential safety hazard for the public walking along the footpath. Avon wildlife, who manage the woodland for the Estate, are attempting to get WPD to remove the trees as it is unsafe for their contractors to carry out the work. If this issue is not resolved, and to the extent that the public footpath system is involved, **the Clerk will contact NSC Tree and Footpath officers to see if they can progress any action that may be needed.**

Cllr Cannell

Moor Lane: Fly Tipping in the Ash Track gateway. **Clerk to report.**

038/21 FINANCE

2020-21 Final Accounts: pre-circulated and signed off ready for internal audit.

2021-22 Opening Accounts: pre-circulated, reviewed and noted.

Cheques: 798 ALCA Annual Subscription £70.66 approved.

039/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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 July. **There will, therefore, be no Parish Council meeting in June.**

To comply with legal requirements for the May meetings, Members therefore agreed to meet via Microsoft Teams on May 5th, as under:

The Parish Council Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday May 5th via Microsoft Teams 6pm.

It will be followed at 6.30m by the Annual Resident's Meeting, which will have a single item agenda - Open Discussion.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

Post Meeting Note:

This meeting went ahead on the basis of guidance received this morning. While the meeting was under way new guidance emerged, relating to S243 of the Local Government Act 1972, advising that meetings should be postponed during the period of mourning. As S243 refers to the holding Elections, and as the meeting had actually taken place there was some confusion about the guidance and it was decided to publish these minutes rather than to declare them void.

