
WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

Walton-in-Gordano - Walton Down - Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald Hill

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Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 12th November 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

5002 APOLOGIES Cllr Rachel Dickinson, Cllr Nigel Ashton, Colin Medus (NSC Liaison)

5003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Cannell re Old Rectory House planning application - family friend

5004 LAST MEETING MINUTES (October 8th 2018) were agreed, and signed by Chair & Clerk.

5005 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE None

5006 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT No reports

5007 PLANNING

New: **18/P/4638/FUH & 18/P/4639/LBC** Old Rectory House Erection of a single storey rear sun room.
18/P/4658/FUH Castle View Walton Bay Single storey side extension. **No objections to either.**

Decisions Due: **Lorraine Field - 18/P/4021/FUL** to vary condition 21 of decision 17/P/1339/F. **18/P/4276/FUL** Lorraine Field plot 15. **18/P/4346/FUH** Nutshell fence

5008 PARISH MAINTENANCE

Moor Lane-End Gully on B3124 at Rear of Home Farm Cottage: Investigation done. Highway may need digging up to cure blockage problem.

Village Gateway Preparation: Verge work will be done with Church Farm hedging work.

B3124 Speed Calming: White line edging, towards Portishead. **Clerk pursuing with NSC.**

Moor Lane - Rubbish in Rhyne at Cassie's Gate (4 Acres): Cleared by estate.

Village Hall Car Parking: New notice has gone up; hirers reminded of the Moor Lane parking option.

B3124 30mph Plumtree Roundel overgrowth too high for Clerk to reach. **He to ask Estate to clear.**

5009 OTHER MATTERS

Broadband: Cllr Ralston explained the problems of the main contractor, Gigaclear, in terms of its management of the project, and its appointment of Carillion as main sub-contractor. Presuming the resultant issues can be sorted out, completion of the phase 2 roll-out may be delayed to June 2022: <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-gigaclear-joint-stakeholder-briefing/> tells the full story. A summary of the report from Connecting Devon and Somerset is attached to these minutes.

Meetings Calendar & Hall Booking 2019-20: agreed (and passed to Hall Booking Secretary post meeting)

5010 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Wilyman: SpeedWatch is going well. A recent stint registered 14 offenders (one at 50mph). There is a sense that speed is being reduced through the Village since SpeedWatch began.

5011 FINANCE

2019-20 Budget: A new public light contract via EDF means the first cost increase for four years. Parish Maintenance to increase. Draft proposals to be available in December, for approval in January.

2018-19 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers, reviewed and noted.

Cheques: 767 Hall Hire £6.00

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

FASTER BROADBAND - THE LATEST UPDATE

The Gigaclear contract with Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) & the Government approving agency Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK)

Summary by DH of a CDS Stakeholder Briefing dated 9th /November 2018

(For the full text visit: <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-gigaclear-joint-stakeholder-briefing/>)

Introduction: CDS is a subsidised rural broadband programme connecting harder-to-reach communities, where commercial companies will not operate. CDS phase one started in 2013, with BT Openreach connecting fibre to their roadside cabinets and using existing copper wires from the cabinet to the property. Properties more remote from a cabinet needed new networks - CDS phase two. In July 2015, five of six contracts on offer went to Gigaclear, of Abingdon, and demanded connections of at least 30mbps download speed.

Gigaclear's appointment of Carillion telnet and the fall-out from its collapse: For this huge contract Gigaclear appointed a main contractor - Carillion-telnet - to deliver all aspects of it, including design, survey, securing way leaves, construction, build and commissioning. With everyone managing the fallout from the Carillion liquidation, Gigaclear brought in smaller contractors, so that work could begin. Without a main contractor, subcontractors were not always effectively managed, leading to some poor work, problems with Highways Authorities, and further delays. The previously successful Gigaclear build methodology was proving unsuitable on Devon and Somerset roads and lanes where the absence of verges on many stretches was exposing a capacity problem. It had not sufficiently resourced the local teams with wayleave officers, and instead resorted to digging in roads rather than trenching across fields, escalating their costs and slowing progress. They were running the contract remotely from Abingdon and were slow to recognise the need for a fundamental change of approach, repeatedly assuring CDS that its roll-out would be delivered by the summer of 2020 as planned.

Takeover by Infracapital: In May 2018, Gigaclear was bought by one of its main investors, Infracapital, an infrastructure investment specialist. New leadership and investment was brought in, and a root and branch review of each contract begun. It was clear that the build timescales were not going to be met, and by September 2018 CDS notified Gigaclear that it believed them to be in default on three of its five contracts. CDS demanded remedial plans to get the broadband roll-out back on track with a revised and credible timetable. Gigaclear now has an office in Taunton to manage the CDS contracts. The local team has grown from 4 to 40, and growing. Gigaclear has re-developed its plans and aims to provide the originally specified broadband service. The plans are not yet robust enough and CDS continues to withhold payment to Gigaclear who remain on notice of default. CDS demand assurances on capacity, resources, investment and robust timetables. The plans must also be permissible in law against the original procurement requirements and be State-Aid compliant. Currently, Government funding must be spent by March 2020. CDS is exploring with BDUK and other funders the potential for extending this funding spend-date. Within a few weeks we should know the outcome of all this. In the meantime Gigaclear continues to build at risk. This includes completing the first community areas planned under the contracts and completing survey work for the next wave of communities.