

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

Minutes of the Meeting on Monday 9th October 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk),

Public Attendance: 1

4096 APOLOGIES - Cllr Nigel Ashton, Colin Medus (NSC Liaison)

4097 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

4098 LAST MEETING MINUTES - (Sept 11th) were agreed and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

4099 MATTERS ARISING - none

4100 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

POLICE - no reported crime.

TRANSPORT

SpeedWatch: There is a new volunteer from Walton Bay in the team. The smaller A4 notices are to be erected when the volunteers can timetable the work.

Speed Limits: NSC's Walton Street 20mph limit due. 30mph limits under review.

Roadwork Signage: Some has been left on Moor Lane, near the electricity sub-station. It is 'littered' on roads and pavements all over the district in the wake of the recent intensive road maintenance programme and some of it is clearly a health and safety risk. Clerk to report our specific case to NSC and to ask what clearance policy is in place to ensure that these expensive bits of kit are properly removed from work sites.

B3124 - Heavy Lorries: There are two sorts of – increasingly regular - road closures; the planned and the unplanned. For our community the most regular closure occurrences are on the M5 motorway as they affect travel between junction 19 at Portbury and junction 20 at Clevedon (the recent unplanned closure of the A369 at Portbury Hundred being a critical exception). The planned closures tend to be notified well in advance, and are supported by clear diversion routes that are designed to keep traffic flows away from the secondary road system. For unplanned closures, drivers must rely on local knowledge and 'sat nav's. Lorries have 'Lorry Navs' which should guide them forward via the 'A' road system and away from secondary roads in a way that is supported by their company traffic management policies. It is becoming increasingly obvious that lorry drivers are ignoring 'the rules' and are using the B3124 as a link between junctions 19 and 20 of the M5 when there is an unplanned closure, which, by definition, will tend to be un-signposted.

In June 2017, Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council (WeIG) noted, presumably diverted, lorries passing through the village, and confronted the lorry companies. The companies tended to respond with assurances that those drivers contravening the good-practice routing options that they are expected to observe, will be disciplined. One company suggested that the B3124 communities seek a 7.5 Ton weight limit on the road; something WeIG are pursuing with NSC, with our Ward's Cllr Ashton and MP Liam Fox copied in. *(Clerk's note: 7.5 ton restriction signs tend to have a caveat notice attached saying 'except for access'. This notice makes it difficult to prove a violation without having followed the route and 'access' pattern of the vehicle being observed – it would also require*

signage along the Coast Road to avoid shifting the problem up there and down Walton Street). In order to address the problem of routing during an unscheduled closure, we need to know, firstly, what guidance to drivers NSC and the Highways Agency have in place. If there is none, should there be, and what form should it take? **Clerk to pursue this via our Parish Liaison Officer, cc the PCC.**

Gateways Futures: The idea of Village Gateways - and Planters at the gateways and elsewhere - was raised at the last meeting and put down as an agenda item here. These treatments at the entrances to/exits from communities are known as Gateway Futures and their key purpose, besides providing an community aesthetic, is to aid motorist's awareness of the fact that they are entering a populated area. With such a short stretch of B3124, and with its twists and turns concealing what few properties run adjacent to it, this feature would be particularly significant in our village.

The meeting has already listed Moor Lane as a possible 'Quiet Lane' and agreed that, despite the present volume of traffic, the same status should be sought for Walton Street in an attempt to discourage the use of the Coast Road as a main traffic artery.

In September 2015 the Parish Council received a design and costings for community entry signs at Walton Bay, costing some £870. With similar signage for Walton Down, these items fall within the scope of the Gateway Futures concept, and the Council's Capital Provision as it builds over the coming years. The B3124 village entry signs were renewed by NSC in recent years. The larger entry junction signs on the B3124 are on the NSC works programme for imminent renewal with ones of an improved design.

In preparing for this discussion, Cllr Dickinson has been in touch with NSC's David Bailey and is due to walk the parish with him to pursue what will and will not be possible both at the Parish entries and in terms of planters, signage, traffic calming and road markings etc. In the light of Barbara Wyliman's recent e-mail, she has also included, on her agenda, the Clevedon-end entry to, and the exiting problems from Moor Lane of and onto the B3124.

Barbara has proposed planters be placed under the Cross Tree noticeboard, on the slate ledge under the Moor Lane public light, on the Mounting Stone, adjacent to the Cross Tree Pill Box, and to replace the disused BT telephone box. Relevant permissions would, of course, be needed. Regular planter upkeep would have to be arranged on a long term basis. Appropriate costings for the purchase, maintenance and insurance of all Gateway Futures items would need to be put in place. Next steps: **Clerk to contact Miles Estate re possible removal of telephone box and its replacement by a planter or other greenery. Clerk to get some preliminary costings for Gateway Futures materials.**

4101 PLANNING

Decision Due: 17/P/1339/F Lorraine Field. New Site-levels drawings + plot 1 plans.

Granted: 17/P/2073/WT The Manor - Tree work.

4102 PARISH MAINTENANCE

Cross Tree: Tree work done.

Gully Behind Home Farm Cottage: the one nearest Moor Lane was not cleared. **Clerk chasing.**

4103 OTHER MATTERS

Broadband: Gigaclear will be installing Fibre To Premises broadband in our area over the next 3 years with speeds from 50Mbps (£41.30 monthly) to 1000Mbps (£76.60 monthly). There is

an activation fee of £100 and a charge (£130) for taking fibre from door to router. Not cheap, but genuine fibre to home super fast broadband, rather than just the fibre to cabinet in the first phase. Gigaclear and CDS are currently finalising the rollout schedule and will then communicate with properties involved. Households can register interest by visiting: <https://www.gigaclear.com/postcode-checker/connectingdevonandsomerset> and giving their postcode. This does not commit them to anything, it just allows Gigaclear to keep them informed.

4104 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Dickinson:

1. **Village Hall:** The hoped-for car park presently appears not to be going ahead.
2. **Walton Street Somerset Stones:** These keep rising, not helped by being clipped by increasing traffic. NSC area engineers, and locals, tend to re-bed them before they get reported.

Cllr Wyliman:

1. **Public Footpath:** The 1st gateway between Arodene and Brighton Cottages used to have a stile. This has been replaced by a lockable gate, that could restrict freedom of access. *Clerk to check the position with NSC's Andy Carroll.*
2. **Walton Brook:** Walton Street open section. Clarity was achieved re the Moor Lane open section of the brook, the position in Walton Street remained unclear. *(Clerk's note: Post meeting the Clerk remembered that NSC have continued to clear the Walton Street section on the basis that their work on the retaining wall and utilities reverted the responsibility from the landowner as a riparian duty, to NSC.) Clerk to chase NSC to get the brook cleared.*
3. **Village Maintenance:** *Clerk to follow up the budgeted programme with Adrian Leonard.*
4. **Graveyard Maintenance:** who is responsible? The Church authorities.

4105 FINANCE

2017-18: Accounts pre-circulated with meeting papers, reviewed and noted.

Social Club: Application for 2018 fete Marquee Donation. For the past two years the former donation budget has been replaced by the capital budget under the increasingly constricted financial framework parish councils have to operate under. As central government strategy means there is little leeway to grow the budget, and as the capital budget needs to accumulate to fund a range of projects and capital replacement over coming years, the meeting decided that, however reluctantly, that in the present financial climate, there was not the scope to re-establish the donation budget head, and that the Social Club application must necessarily not be granted. *Clerk to so inform the Club.*

Cheques: 748 Hall Hire £9.00

The meeting closed at 9.00pm