
WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

Walton-in-Gordano - Walton Down - Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald Hill

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Minutes of the Meeting at Walton-in-Gordano Village Hall Monday 6th February 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs B Cannell (Chair), M Ralston, N Wilyman

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

4029. APOLOGIES: Cllr Dickinson, Cllr Ashton, PC Clarke, Colin Medus (NSC Liaison)

4030. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

4031. LAST MEETING MINUTES - January 9th agreed and signed by Chairman & Clerk.

4032. MATTERS ARISING: None

4033. EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Police: Crime reported on police.uk in November - 0. PC Clarke e-mailed that there was no reported crime in the Parish, but there was a theft of a horse trailer on January 6th from Clevedon Lane, and a couple of vehicles in Portbury had items stolen from them between the 23rd and 26th.

4034. PLANNING: None

4035. STREETS AND OPEN SPACES

Coast Road at Two Acres Junction: The water company inspection cover has been repaired.

B3240 Possible "Concealed Entrances" Sign: These only used in relation to concealed road junctions.

Village Hall Car Park: Awaiting NSC contact details.

Parking on the B3124: on the Hall side, between the bus stop and Moor Lane, has become common. Cllr Wilyman witnessed an HGV - not speeding - come round the 'blind' bend towards Clevedon and miraculously avoid a collision with cars parked in relation to a Children's event - the outcome could have been different. This parking issue is probably best resolved via more specific parking advice from the Hall Committee pointing hall users to Moor Lane for parking and specifically advising them not to park on the B3124 between the bus stop and Moor Lane.

4036. OTHER MATTERS

Western Power Supply Lines: Myrtle Cottage Walton Street - reported.

Broadband: CDS 2nd phase roll-out workshop date awaited. Cllr Ralston reports:

We previously asked BT to provide a quote under the Community Fibre initiative, whereby they would cost the 'gap' funding required from the community (the figure in addition to what they would get direct from the government) to provide enhanced broadband. It is attached and is a rather alarming £83K! This is for a new 'All-in-One' fibre cabinet to effectively replace cabinets 4 and 33. Obviously, we can't afford this amount, however we may be able to if the voucher scheme (£500 per household with less than 2mg) was 'pooled' and set-off against the gap funding required. The voucher scheme is currently 'on-hold'.

Now, there is actually another set of ways to achieve our aims, but we are awaiting information from Connection Devon & Cornwall(CDS), which despite the name, is the body organising enhanced broadband for rural communities including North Somerset. Basically, these guys are the conduit of the government funding initiatives to get broadband out to the countryside. We have had notice that we have been designated 'priority status' and that we are guaranteed at least 30mg by 2020 (worst case). CDS will be announcing the contractor to supply new services to our area by the end of March. Importantly, this is NOT BT! When this is announced we will be given an indication as to when this alternative service will be delivered by (hopefully this year and not 2020). So we should know by the March or, at the latest, April.

Furthermore, and to make things even more complicated, BT confirmed today that Walton Bay, served by cabinet 33, is going to get (probably this year) FTTP (BT Fibre to the premises), which is an astonishing minimum of 50mg but can go as high as 330mg! Unfortunately for some of them, one homeowner has refused a wayleave, so a number of the properties won't get anything! Maybe didn't understand the request and consequent implications of refusing it.

There is so far, and this is changing almost daily, no plan for the 'Village' part of the Parish.

So, I have asked BT to requote for Fibre to the premises for the whole village. When this is in, we can then discuss it with CDS who will by then have a better idea as to what they would like to do for the village relative to the funding available, timescale and particular broadband contractor appointed. It may be that we decide to utilise BT if there is funding available (e.g. a new voucher scheme) as they can provide a faster new service in a more timely manner than having to wait for the new CDS contractor. However, if the new contractor is incentivised they may be the better option.

In summary, it looks like we will get better broadband, but from who and when and for how much is still unclear, but we should know fairly soon - by the spring hopefully.

Traffic Matters: Cllr Ashton to walk the Village with Colin Medus.

Village Hall Parking in Moor Lane: Tidy parking notice now part of Terms & Conditions of hire and also posted in Hall.

4037. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Ralston: Commented very favourably on Cross Tree Chronicle - echoed by all members

Cllr Wilyman: Verge cracks are appearing in Moor Lane that will need watching; Clerk promised to keep an eye on them and liaise with NSC area engineer Mike Brown as needed.

Cllr Cannell: Outside the Parish - on the A369 just past the de-restriction signs towards Bristol, the road surface has been breaking up badly for some time. Clerk to forward this worry to NSC/PTC.

4038. FINANCE

2016-17 Accounts to date: Pre-circulated to members, reviewed and noted.

2017-18 Budget: Precept request has been acknowledged by NSC.

Cheques: 735 Village Hall hire £6.00 Standing order variations re website costs and Clerks pay signed.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm