
MINUTES OF WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8 PM ON MONDAY 8TH MAY 2017

Present: Cllr Brian Cannell (Chair), Don Hill (Minute Taker), Sarah Friend (Village Agent), Cllr Rachel Dickinson, Cllr Nigel Wilyman, Kevin & Emma Edwards, Robin Hek, Grahame & Alison Stott, Deb Tovey, Sue Betts.

4071 APOLOGIES: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Cllr Mike Ralston, Colin Medus (NSC Liaison), Andrew Francis, Ann Charlesworth, Rosemary Tucker

4072 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MAY 9TH 2016
These were circulated to attendees and approved in June 2016.

4073 MATTERS ARISING
None

4074 REPORTS TO THE MEETING

Reports were presented from the Parish Council, St Paul's Church, The WI, The Village Hall Committee, The Social Club, The Village Agent and SpeedWatch, and are attached to form a part of these minutes.

4075 DISCUSSION

Parish Maintenance: The Cross Tree lower branches need pruning. Clerk to liaise with Adrian Leonard - planning consent may be needed as this will be tree work in a conservation area.

Pothole Reporting: Brian Cannell explained how easy this is via the North Somerset Council website once you find your way around. It was also mentioned that telephone reporting via Council Connect on 01934 888 888 was the route for those without computer access.

Cross Tree Chronicle: The funding shift from public body to community enterprise (The Social Club) has allowed for considerably greater editorial freedom and the new name and format are proving a great hit. Circulation is over 200 and there is also a small but growing e-mail distribution to some 20 addresses. A call goes out from the editors, Emma and Kevin Edwards, for more contributions and photographs for inclusion.

Phone Box: This was mentioned several times as a useful transit repository, particularly as the phone has now been removed. There was a re-run by Brian Cannell of the reasonings against purchasing the box for £1, which are thoroughly recorded in the Parish Council minutes and were prompted by some enquiries from outside the Parish that had been put to residents and also fielded by telephone via the Parish Clerk. Don Hill reminded the meeting that the initial offer resulted in a flyer - about the box and seeking proposals - which went to every household in the Parish, along with the Information Sheet as a prelude to the original decision being taken not to purchase the box (*people from outside the Parish did not receive this, hence their enquiries*). Emma reminded us that BT service personnel had told her the box would prove so difficult to move from its enclosed location that it is likely to be in place for a long time yet.

Speed Limits: Don Hill reported that Cllr Ashton has asked NSC Highways to contact him as soon as proposals specific to Walton Street are available. The success of the Clapton scheme has meant that considerable work was needed to prepare a roll-out of the scheme to other parishes keen to tap in to the idea. Don has had confirmation from NSC that he will be sent the Walton Street proposals during the next few days. The hope of the 40mph stretch of the Coast Road becoming a 30mph zone does not look to be possible on the near horizon, as it does not fulfil criteria that would have to be applied under current legislation. However, the meeting was reminded that the 30mph limit through the Village took some 25 years to achieve... so the far horizon may be just far off rather than impossible to reach!

SpeedWatch: Deb Tovey asked what the limitations were re SpeedWatch operations. Rachel Dickinson reported that they cannot take place in the rain, or in the dark. Our scheme is also limited to the single location outside the Village Hall, due to visibility and safety issues at other locations. The police have not, apparently, been keeping to a commitment to conduct their own checks in other parts of the Parish, presumably because of cost constraints. Getting approval for signage that is acceptable - legal - in both police and insurance terms, for use within the scheme and finding suitable locations for the signs is proving less easy than expected, although efforts to resolve the issues continue. Concern was raised that motor-bikers were speeding through the Village along the B3124 at truly excessive speeds during some evenings. **This concern to be passed to the Parish Council for the Clerk to follow up with the police.**

Broadband: Cllr Ralston was not able to update the meeting as his non-attendance was unplanned. The evident confusion about what exactly will change due to the inclusion of the Parish in the Connecting Devon & Somerset 2nd phase roll-out and the unexpected work by BT at Walton Bay remains. Clarification is awaiting the appointment of the contractor for our area who will replace BT. Unfortunately there has been some legal challenge to the original appointment of a contractor in our area - the other areas have their contractors already confirmed.

Gordano Greenway: There has been little progress of the initial ideas during the past year.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 8TH 2016 REPORTS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council - Brian Cannell, Chair

This last year the Parish Council has dealt with the usual mix of planning, road maintenance and local event issues. As of May 8th, Walton-in-Gordano Parish Councillors are Mr Brian Cannell, Mr Mike Ralston, Mr Nigel Wilyman and Mrs Rachel Dickinson. After discussions, Councillor Brian Cannell was re-elected as Chairman at the May Parish Council AGM. Councillor Mike Ralston was also re-elected as Vice Chair. Councillors Wilyman and Dickinson will represent the PC on the Village Hall management committee. Following Councillor Floss Morgan's leaving we have no representative on NSC Standards Sub committee. This year we co-opted Mrs Rachel Dickinson as a Parish Councillor to replace Councillor Floss Morgan. Councillor Andy Brellisford also resigned due to a re-location just outside Axbridge in November. We thank Andy for his work with us especially in relation to Cycling activities within the Parish and representation with the Gordano Greenway. North Somerset Council is regularly represented at the Parish Council meetings by Sebastian Green. Seb. Green left North Somerset in October and was replaced by Colin Medus as liaison officer. Councillor Nigel Ashton, as Leader of North Somerset Council whilst not able to attend the Parish Council meetings this year his advice and support are valuable resources that the Parish Council greatly appreciates. We continue to work closely with our local police beat manager, PC Jenny Clark, who attends council meetings as her shifts allow. Fortunately, this last year, there have been only a few instances of reported crime in the parish. Neighbourhood watch schemes continue to operate in various parts of the Parish. This year, as in the last couple, there have been only a few planning applications within the Parish, again perhaps reflecting the current financial climate. Broadband Internet speed continues to be a problem with most of the parish. There are a number of national and regional initiatives that we are investigating via Councillor Ralston to improve our digital connectivity. There continues to be some problems with cycling activities within the Parish. We continue to work with the Police, Local council, Land Owners and user groups to try and resolve the problem. The Gordano Greenway activity has been quiet for most of the last year, but continues to be monitored by Councillor Ralston. Community SpeedWatch. Following a resurgence in interest in the Community SpeedWatch Councillor Dickinson has headed up a group of volunteers that is developing the activity in the Parish. Equipment has been procured and discussions are on-going regarding signage. A new Village Agent - Sarah Friend has taken over the activities from Emma Edwards. Sarah came along to the Nov PC meeting to update us on what services she can offer to the parish. After many decades of wanting better vehicle parking for the Village Hall, there is now a possibility of some land being available for this. The Parish Council is guiding and assisting the Village Hall committee with contacts in North Somerset planning department to move this forward. Audrey Hollingsworth retired from editing the monthly Information Sheet and this has now been taken over by Emma and Kevin Edwards with a new name and separate funding - Cross Tree Chronicle. As this is no longer paid for from public funds it opens up greater opportunities for development in the future. Many positive comments have been received for the new format. **Moving to Finance.** The Budget for 2017/18 was set during the January 2017 Parish Council meeting at £3114. After including provisions for future election expenses (£300) and capital expenditure (£800) the amount of the precept from North Somerset was £4214. We continue to be in the cheapest 1/3 of all parishes in North Somerset by precept. I would like to thank those who have shown an interest in the Parish and it's Council over the last year and encourage those who have yet to do so. Finally, on behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors: Mr Mike Ralston, Mr Nigel Wilyman and Mrs Rachel Dickinson - not forgetting the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Don Hill - for their hard work and support over the last year.

St Paul's Parish Church - Sue Betts, Church Warden

Every year when I write this report I look back to the previous year to pick out the highlights of our church life. There are always events which will stick in your memory; the baptisms, weddings and funerals, festivals and celebration services. There have been so many different ways people have come together to enjoy sharing time together. Just as important as the highlights is that our parish church is always there going on from one day to the next, that the door is always open and is there for everyone to use as they wish at any time. This would not be possible without all of your support whether that is as donations or as time given; both is very much appreciated. In 2016 we have received some generous legacies from Barbara Palmer, Gordon Russell and Ken Dille which have allowed us to put up a shed in the churchyard and to start on the conversion of an area in the church into a tiny kitchen which will be very useful as we do a lot of eating and drinking. It has been a slow process waiting for 'planning permission' but work has begun and the plumbing is now in place. Many people, most of them volunteers have been and will be involved in this project, our grateful thanks to them all. We have lots to look forward to in 2017 as well. Coming up this month is our traditional Rogation Service at 11.15am on Sunday 21st followed by our Parish Picnic on the Manor lawn. Guess what after all these weeks of dry weather I bet it rains! Also in May the aliens are coming on Bank Holiday Monday 29th, a kind of treasure hunt around the village for the young and young at heart. On Saturday 3rd June we are welcoming Bob and Rene Truby's granddaughter Daniella Zamparelli, a professional opera singer to our church for a concert - see me for tickets afterwards!

Walton-in-Gordano Women's Institute - Rosemary Ticker (Vice President) (read by Don Hill)

Once again we have had a good year with our membership at 21. Every year we raise money for a local charity, and one we or our families can benefit from. Our 2016/17 charity was MARLENS from Clevedon and we presented them with a cheque at the March meeting when we heard about the work they are doing on the Clevedon seafront. At our 87th birthday luncheon we were entertained by Tim Lewis and Sheila Furness, a very popular couple, whom we have seen many times before. This year they gave us their take on "Toad of Toad Hall". We have had a variety of good speakers during the year - a testament to the hard work put in by our Speaker Secretary; and our monthly competitions have proved very popular. Our annual coach trip is always well supported by members and it is also open to people within the parish to join us. We have also had many social get-togethers to which we welcome friends and members. New members are always welcome to visit us at one of our meetings and perhaps join us. Thank you.

Walton-in-Gordano Village Hall Committee - Deb Tovey, Chair

The Village Hall is part way through a programme of refurbishment. The painting of the external walls has been completed and we are just awaiting warmer weather for the front doors to be glossed. Internally, most of the walls and ceilings have now been painted and some of the white goods in the kitchen have been replaced. Unfortunately, one of the table tennis players got a bit carried away and crashed into the wooden panelling near the Fire Exit Doors in the Hall, causing some damage which we're aiming to have repaired soon. We also want to complete the painting and replace the flooring in the kitchen, rear lobby and toilets this year. The main item of interest recently has been the possibility of turning a part of the field next to the Hall into a Car Park. Initially, we were told that, as the Hall is in the Green Belt, we would never be given Planning Permission for the change of use, but very recently, we have been told that there may be "Special Circumstances" for that permission to be given as parking on the highway is becoming a hazard. We will be pursuing all avenues. Hall Hirings have increased, helped by the new "Hire This Hall" large-print sign outside. It is used for a diverse range of events such as weddings and family parties, table tennis, art classes, Social Club events and committee meetings. We give our grateful thanks to Bob and Val Baldwin for all they do in arranging the hirings and for the upkeep of the Hall. Without them we would flounder and possibly lose the use of a vital asset for the Village Community.

Walton-in-Gordano Social Club - Andrew Francis, Chair *(Read by Emma Edwards)*

The current Chair of the Walton-in-Gordano Social Club is Andrew Francis and he is supported by a great group of villagers who form the committee. New members are always welcome and we are always looking for volunteers to assist with events and activities. The club has once again arranged and hosted a number of events in the village over the last 12 months. This has included Coffee mornings which we put on as a free event, Quiz Night with a Cheese Supper, Music events and the annual Fete. As a result of these events we have donated £1500 to the Church and another £1500 to the Village Hall. This was achieved entirely from and by the Social Committee and volunteers without support or donations from other village groups or bodies and is a fantastic achievement for the village as a whole showing we have a very vibrant community. We retain a balance of funds which is used to arrange and fund the annual fete and which is also available to support other village events, clubs or activities and we are happy to receive requests for funding. We have also taken over the Village newsletter, the Cross Tree Chronicle, which we hope will provide a focal point for information in the village.

Village Agent - Sarah Friend, WERN

Thank you for inviting me this evening. I took over the role of Village Agent from Emma last year and know I have a hard act to follow. I have attended one Parish Council meeting and your lovely Christmas fair where I was warmly welcomed at both. Rachel Dickinson and I had a brief conversation about holding a joint surgery up at Walton Bay to make ourselves more accessible to the residents that live there. This is something we would like to take forward, but at the moment we are struggling for a venue. With the warmer weather we have toyed with the idea of a gazebo. Please let us know if you think this would be useful. I hope in the coming year to attend more of your village events, time permitting. I am available to provide support for individuals over 50, whether it's a quick question about something or something more complex. I can visit you at home, help over the phone or via email. Please just ask. Thank you.

SpeedWatch - Rachel Dickinson, Coordinator

The SpeedWatch Scheme in the village has now been up and running for a few months. We have one authorised location which we can safely record the speed of drivers passing through the village, by the Village Hall. The Police have agreed to also carry out speed checks in areas which are too dangerous for volunteers such as on the Coast road the main road from Portishead. Unfortunately we have only been able to recruit and train four volunteers. As there needs to be a minimum of two volunteers out on each SpeedWatch session this restricts our ability to be out recording speeds for the Police to follow up. During the time the SpeedWatch has been operational we have reported 71 cars for speeding out of 3690 cars passing through during our SpeedWatch sessions. The maximum speed recorded outside the Village Hall was 50mph. We took part in a day of action against speed on the 20 January 2017. 34 SpeedWatch schemes operated on the day running 40 sessions. 436 drivers were reported out of just over 11,000 vehicles passing through the SpeedWatch areas. The Police write to drivers who are caught speeding. Their details are kept on a central database covering all the schemes. Repeat offenders can be visited by the Police and if necessary the Police will carry out a formal speed check and prosecute the driver accordingly. It has been suggested that the best deterrent would be to have some large signs stating how many drivers have been reported for speeding like those in Weston in Gordano. Although these are a very good idea they do not form part of the official SpeedWatch scheme and in fact the Weston in Gordano signs are the only ones in our SpeedWatch area. It has not been necessary to have them in other areas. If we are to install them it is essential that they are lawful. The content needs to be correct, and I have repeatedly asked the Police to confirm what they will allow on the signs and await their instructions. The location also needs to be lawful. Until suitable sites can be found and the correct approvals obtained it will not be possible to install the large signs. In the meantime it will be possible to install some A4 signs through the village using the same design as the Clevedon SpeedWatch group have up around Clevedon. We now have a price for them and the Social Committee have agreed to support the purchase of the signs. Next week I will be confirming the locations so that we only order the right number of signs. If you have a good location within the village such as a lamp post or private gate post please let me know as soon as possible so we can add the location to the preferred list. The best way for the SpeedWatch scheme to work is for more volunteers if you are able to offer just one hour on a couple of occasions in the year that will increase our chances of reducing speeds within the village. Please contact me for more details.