
MINUTES OF WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8 PM ON MONDAY 14TH MAY 2018

Present: Brian Cannell (Chair), Don Hill (Minute Taker), Mike Ralston, Rachel Dickinson, Nigel Wilyman, Sue Betts, Elaine Kent, Richard Kent, Henry Kent, Anne Greenhill, Andrew Francis, Nigel Ashton, Felicity Baker

4177 APOLOGIES

Colin Medus (NSC Parish Liaison), Rosemary Tucker, Ann Charlesworth, Deb Tovey

4178 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MAY 8TH 2017

These were circulated to attendees and approved in June 2017. The matter of speeding Thursday evening motorbikers was dealt with via the Parish Council.

4179 MATTERS ARISING

None

4180 REPORTS TO THE MEETING

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

4181 DISCUSSION

Parish Council Finances: Andrew Francis has noted, at the end of the Chair's Report below, that there is not a clear perception of the financial constraints that measure what the Parish Council can and cannot do. He suggested that a lay explanation of the Council's income, spend and longer term aspirations should go into the Cross Tree Chronicle. All agreed and **Don Hill undertook the task in his role as Parish Clerk.**

Community Spirit: Andrew reported that this past year has seen an influx of younger residents taking part in community events. Opportunities should not be missed for the Church, Parish Council, Social Club and other community groups to work closely together as and when it is appropriate.

The Cross Tree/B3124 Junction: Anne Greenhill explained the access problems she had at Cross Tree Farm. The possibility of an extended pavement was explained by Rachel Dickinson; this would compel traffic to pass a few feet further out from the Cross Tree Farm gateway and provide better visibility when exiting the property. Nigel Ashton said that some sort of 'roughed-up' surface was the preferred option in such a situation. Various people related experiences of near misses as pedestrians at the junction, and of witnessing cars exiting Walton Street to the right (instead of the left) of the Cross Tree - in the teeth of very often fast traffic swinging into Walton Street without due care and attention. Richard Kent pursued a possibility he has championed before, of a 'Stop' sign at the entry to Walton Street from the Clevedon direction. Nigel Ashton took a note of this discussion and undertook to see if these ideas could be taken forward.

Cycle Events: The last Saturday in May - the 26th - sees one of the two annual events passing down Walton Street. Don Hill will, as Clerk to the Parish Council, contact the NSC events team and point out that Walton Street now has a 20mph speed limit on it. There was general agreement that some of the cycling down Walton Street during these events was exceedingly dangerous.

Broadband: Elaine Kent queried why the super-fast fibre will be so expensive relative to the existing service. Mike Ralston explained that it offers a hugely significant step up in speed and, if a resident does not feel they need this, they will be at liberty to stay with their existing service. **Mike will check to see if there is an option to include one's landline telephone service within the scheme.**

There were no further topics raised and the Chair thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting and for taking part.

The meeting closed at 9.15 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 14th, 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 Ralston and Dickinson will represent the PC on the Village Hall management committee. We have no representative on NSC Standards Sub committee. North Somerset Council is regularly represented at the Parish Council meetings Colin Medus. 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, we have seen a steady influx of planning applications. This may be a sign of improving conditions following a few lean years in the construction industry. After some years of inactivity, Lorraine Field redevelopment has started up again. A number of issues have been raised and are being very closely monitored and dealt with by North Somerset Council planning officers. Broadband Internet speed continues to be a problem with most of the parish. In the last month or so, very welcome news has come that the Fibre Broadband infrastructure provider – Gigaclear – has our village scheduled in for the next tranche of work. We expect this later in the year. There will, of course, be some disruption to roads etc whilst this is going on. The PC will keep everyone updated as we have the information. It must be noted that from our current information, there will be a cost to the home owner if you want to access the fibre and utilise the much faster Broadband speeds available. Councillor Ralston is our expert on this subject. The Gordano Greenway activity has been quiet for most of the last couple of years, but continues to be monitored by Councillor Ralston. Community SpeedWatch. Following a resurgence in interest in the Community SpeedWatch Kevin Edwards is leading a group of volunteers that is developing the activity in the Parish. It has been a challenge to maintain a core of volunteers. If you would like to be involved please contact Kevin. Following a number of discussions a paper (Road Safety in the Parish of Walton in Gordano – Speed limit and Village Gateway Options) has been formulated to capture a number of initiative ideas to both control the speed of traffic through the parish and also to enhance the look of the Village. This framework document can be used as a basis for future projects. You may have noticed that today physical work started on the 20mph speed limit along Walton Street. We are very thankful to North Somerset for enabling this to progress. On a couple of occasions last year, we saw a massive increase in heavy lorry traffic and significant congestion through the village and valley due to temporary closure of the M5. We have been in consultation with North Somerset and the police on mitigating actions possible in future such instances. It is with sadness that we record the moving away and death of some long term villagers. Earlier this year Rosemary Tucker moved away from Walton. Kevin and Emma Edwards and family also moved but will keep involved with Walton. Tony and Christine Barrow moved, not far away, to Weston in Gordano. We also record the passing of Fred Woodman, and a couple of weeks ago Charlie Dunn, who for many years ran Church Farm in Walton. Charlie's funeral is tomorrow at St Pauls. We pass on our condolences to Fred and Charlie's families. **Finance.** The Budget for 2018/19 was set during the January 2018 Parish Council meeting at £3250. After including provisions for future election expenses (£300) and capital expenditure (£800) the amount of the precept from North Somerset was £4350. 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.

North Somerset Council - Nigel Ashton, Ward Councillor and Leader of North Somerset Council

Planning for the **development of Lorraine Field** has now been passed, subject to the inspection of the levels of bases before homes can be put on them and to suitable screening around the pitches immediately adjacent to and overlooking neighbouring properties (pitches 3 & 5). **The Walton Street 20mph speed restriction** was installed today. It was delayed so that it could be done at the same time as using the jet-patcher to repair the highway surface before laying down road markings. The experiment in Clapton was analysed as the basis for developing a policy relating to 20mph limits through villages - basically through their 'core' area. Some of these schemes can be controversial, but when they settle in, they do appear to effect a real reduction in average speed levels over those that pertained before. A possible 20mph scheme in the central 'Village' section of the B3124 may be a possibility once schemes across the District have provided some more significant analysis. **Super-fast Broadband** is now confirmed to be introduced to the Parish during the 3rd quarter - July-September 2018. Subscribers will need to pay some £40-£80 per month depending on the speed selected; there will be a £100 activation fee and a charge of some £130 for a fibre connection from the subscriber's front door to their telephone. Originally the Parish was not included in the fast broadband rollout at all. However, an injection of cash from central government and North Somerset Council has led to the imminent service provision. **North Somerset Council's financial constraints** have been well ruminated over during the past few years, during which they have been working to effect savings needed due to a decrease in central government funding. Many councils have 'left it to the last minute' and are now facing significantly more appalling funding issues than we are. However, rigorous as the NSC process has necessarily been, each year the carefully laid financial plan becomes distorted - by inflation, growth in service demand, stretched service providers. This is now seriously impacting the District's ability to ring-fence the most critical of services - social, highways, waste etc. **Road repairs** are a highly visible area of NSC performance. Often asked, is why a road has to be completely closed for repair: it proves to be significantly quicker, ergo cumulatively less stressful to road users. Under financial pressure, an understandable bias towards caring for urban highway issues has been balanced by a realisation that rural areas must have their roads 'kept up to scratch'. Financial provision has been building to that end. **The The Housing Plan** has come into public notice via the proposed Vale villages project in the Green Belt at Ashton Vale. This site is in North Somerset, but because it is on the border with Bristol, the City has rights of access in the form of 50% of resident placement in its affordable housing provision. This means North Somerset will have to house 900 Bristol families - at North Somerset's cost - rather than being able to house 900 families from its own waiting list. These realities make green belt management significantly more complex than they appear to be at first look. **The Green Belt** is a significant challenge for NSC, given the

persistent and ever increasing central government pressure for more housing provision. Commercial developers hold banks of land - and planning permissions - for building: their core motive for actually building, however, is the ability to sell the resulting homes for the optimum price. This commercial reality stretches Local Government planning strategies to the limit. Local Authorities have to plan for what must be: developers plan for what, optimally, they can profit by. This leads to 'bits and pieces' development by developers. Local authorities have to plan for infrastructure essentials like school, doctor's surgeries, and the like, developers can, within their property and permissions portfolio, build what they want, where they want, for profit, with scant regard for social responsibility. NSC are aspiring to conduct a green belt consultation with its parishes to develop a vision of what those parishes want, in terms of development, for their particular areas. The hope is that a plan can emerge that includes the green belt in the realities of progress, recognises the need for social cohesion - keeping communities together - and creates a green belt that is 'dynamic' rather than 'frozen'. **Waste collections** are changing in June. The new waste contract has had many bedding-in issues. The forward plan, taking effect from June 4th, will result in waste crews working the same areas every week: getting to know their areas and the peculiarities and needs of those areas. Don Hill raised the issue of Assisted Collections, about which, as Parish Clerk, he has received a complaint. These are handled on an integrated or special basis, according to the location. Nigel and Don agreed to keep abreast of problems that may arise as the new system rolls out.

St Paul's Church - Sue Betts, Church Warden

This year we have had everything from an opera evening to hunting around the village for visiting aliens. The highlight of the year was our flower festival which fortunately landed on the three only truly summer days in the whole of August. Coupled with the very successful Open Gardens organised by Emma Edwards and the village social committee on Bank Holiday Monday we had a record breaking weekend with the funds raised divided between the church and churchyard funds.

Our charity fund-raising was also reported on: charities supported ranging from Mission to Seamen to our sponsored Uganda child. The World Toilet Day celebration not only results in further toilet twinning of a whole toilet block in Uganda but also was featured in our local paper. We have had two new members of our clergy teams Revd Caroline Sackley and Revd. Martin Little and what fantastic addition they have been added to our already Premiership team. Noel became an Honorary Canon at Wells Cathedral, it was truly memorable to witness a celebration whose origins dated by many centuries. The quinquennial inspection of the church structure was carried out on July 5th 2017 but we did not receive the report until December. There are only two items in the report which require immediate attention: the fixing of the tower ladders and the filling of a gap in the flooring next the pews on the right hand side. Many of the problems pointed out have already been rectified by the redecoration of the interior of the church and doesn't it look good. Fund raising for roof repairs will be our focus in 2019. Work on the servery started after the decoration was completed. Thanks to our many very generous supporters we have only had to pay out £120 towards this project; that for the water heater. We are truly blessed by all have made this possible and we send our sincere thanks to them all. We are looking in 2018 to make our churchyard self-sustaining. Doesn't Kevin do a wonderful job looking after our churchyard and we want it to stay that way, a place of rest for our whole community. So we have introducing our Guardian Angel Appeal, asking for a £1 a week donation to our churchyard fund. You will then become a Guardian Angel and receive one of these special mouse mascots. We are looking forward to all kinds of events in this coming year including our Royal Wedding celebration on Sunday starting a 11.15am with a service using hymns and readings from the wedding on the previous day followed by our Garden Party, Street Party well some kind of party. Please join us, we've going to have fun.

Walton in Gordano Women's Institute - Rosemary Tucker, President

Our membership remains constant and once again our years program has been very interesting and enjoyable. We have had outings, social events and good speakers, thank you to our members who organise these. We are now 88 years old, meeting in the village hall every third Thursday afternoon at 2-30 and would welcome any women who would like to join us for an afternoon of interest, fun and friendship.

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

2017 was another busy year for the Village Hall. It continues to be hired regularly, despite the fact that, unfortunately, the possibility of having a car park next to the Hall has, yet again, been put on hold. Last year I reported that there had been damage to the wood panelling in the Hall from an over-exuberant table tennis player. After having approached several DIY people without success to get it repaired, Kevin Edwards repaired it, having taken on the job of DIY man. We thank Kevin for all that he did before moving out of the Village. However, not very long after the wood panelling was repaired, a different table tennis player smashed his bat into the wall but this time it was into the asbestos panelling. This necessitated a repair by a professional asbestos company but was paid by the offender. Another, minor, area of damage that appeared after the first one, was repaired at the same time but had to be paid from Hall funds. The Hall is currently in good repair and we look forward to its continued use by the local community in 2018.

Walton-in-Gordano Social Club - Andrew Francis, Chair

The current Chair of the Walton-in-Gordano Social Club is Andrew Francis and he is supported by a great group of 12 villagers who form the committee, probably the healthiest situation for a number of years in terms of volunteers and support. We are always looking for volunteers to assist with events and activities in particular the annual village fete. The club has once again arranged and hosted a number of events in the village over the last 12 months. This has included the Christmas Quiz Night with Cheese Supper, the 2017 Fete and for the first time this year the "Walton Arms" pub night - a BYO evening in the hall with traditional pub games and a chance to chat, it was a fantastic evening and something we hope to repeat later in the year. We also bought, for the village, several sets of Christmas lights which were put up on the Cross Tree, Village Hall, Church Farm and at the Bay. This seemed to encourage a number of villagers to improve their own displays and we hope that this will continue in 2018. This initiative was greatly helped by an anonymous donation of £100 towards the cost from someone who lives in the village which was very much appreciated. We have recently been given permission to put some flower planters up on the Village Hall wall and have also received a donation of unwanted planters from another villager. We hope to establish some floral displays throughout the village in the coming months. As a result of these events we have once again donated large cash sums to both the Church and Village Hall. 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 continued to run the Village newsletter, the Cross Tree Chronicle which has proved to be a very welcome and successful addition to our village.