
WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

Walton-in-Gordano - Walton Down - Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald Hill

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Thursday, 12 May 2016

To: Attendees of Walton-in-Gordano Annual Parish Meeting, 9th May 2016

By e-mail:

Cllr Brian Cannell (Chairman), Cllr Mike Ralston, Cllr Floss Morgan, Cllr Nigel Wilyman, Don Hill (Minute Taker), Seb Greene (NSC), Kevin & Emma Edwards, Tony Barrow, Richard & Henry Kent, Grahame & Alison Stott, Sue Betts, Audrey Hollingsworth, Janet Brellisford, Richard & Sara Talbot, Reggie & Joanna Van Romunde, Rachel Dickinson

By post:

David & Patricia Parkinson, Arodene, Walton Down, BS21 7AR
Robin Hek The Gargoyle, Walton Bay, BS21 7AZ

Dear All

As you know, the purpose of approving the minutes of a meeting is for those who attended it to attest to the accuracy of the minutes as a true record of what took place: the process of approval is strictly for that purpose: "Matters Arising" can be raised at the next meeting.

I am sending all attendees sets of draft minutes for information and approval, with a view to them being signed at the **June 13th** meeting of the Parish Council.

If you are happy that the draft minutes are a true record of the meeting you need do nothing. If you feel they are not, please e-mail/write to me before **June 3rd 2016** indicating what you feel needs to be altered. I will then clarify alterations such that you all agree them before the Parish Council meeting.

Any points that the meeting has asked to be put before the Parish Council, or any other body, will be directed to that body to progress.

Kind regards



DON HILL
Minute Taker

MINUTES OF WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8 PM ON MONDAY 9TH MAY 2016

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chairman), Mike Ralston, Floss Morgan, Nigel Wilyman, Don Hill (Minute Taker), Seb Greene (NSC), Kevin & Emma Edwards, Tony Barrow, Richard & Henry Kent, Robin Hek, Grahame & Alison Stott, Sue Betts, Audrey Hollingsworth, Reggie & Joanna Van Romunde, David & Patricia Parkinson, Janet Brellisford, Richard & Sara Talbot, Rachel Dickinson

3954 Apologies: Cllr Andy Brellisford, Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Rosemary Tucker (WI), Brenda Matthews (WalG Social Club), Anne Charlesworth

3955 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of May 11th 2015: were circulated to attendees and approved in June 2015.

3956 Matters Arising: None

3957 Cllr Floss Morgan: Floss's intended move to Hampshire has been known about for some time. However, such is the speed with which the Park Home property market can work, that that move is now just two weeks away. Floss presented her resignation to the Parish Council meeting held earlier this evening. Cllr Cannell repeated his earlier thanks to Floss for the huge energy she has applied to her role as a Member, and in particular, the way she has represented the interests and concerns of the residents of Walton Bay. She will be missed.

3958 Reports to the Meeting: are attached to form a part of these minutes.

3959 Walton Street Traffic Problems: The idea of 'Stop' signs at the B3124 junction was raised, as was that of more urgently progressing the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, and traffic management devices such as speed bumps. The growing volume of traffic and the severity of some accidents makes action on these initiatives more urgent than ever. A driver had been cut from a car outside Old Rectory House during the weekend just past, resulting in untold chaos that the police had considerable difficulty in marshalling. Brian Cannell recounted the history of attempts to introduce a stop sign in the 'from-Clevedon' direction and the particularly complicated procedures for putting in a stop sign. He reminded the meeting of the considerable thought that was given by engineers to possible traffic management schemes when the major engineering work was completed. Regarding the most obvious device - speed bumps - being on a hill meant that they would tend to trap water and create an ice hazard, they create noise, both in themselves and in the deceleration and acceleration of traffic and they are unbeloved by ambulance drivers. Measures are in place in Wraxall and Clapton - why can't they be put in place in Walton? Don Hill said that he has been in touch with Clapton and their initiative is being closely monitored by NSC as a prelude to its possible extension to other areas. Introducing a 20mph speed limit would cost some £5,000. Police concern centres on a 20mph speed limit being unenforceable - might the money be more effectively spent on more overtly physical barriers to speeding? David Parkinson pointed out that, notwithstanding any downsides to a 20mph speed limit, those drivers observing it would enforce the limit on following traffic, which, given the volume of such traffic, was sure to significantly reduce average speeds. New localism means parishes are becoming more directly responsible for funding their own schemes of work and, to this end, the Parish Council has restructured its finances so that capital funds can be accumulated to this end. The meeting felt that work in Walton Street was too urgently needed to wait for funds to be accumulated - it needs to be done now. It was proposed that, given the problems are in, but not of the Parish, NSC should be pressed to at least make a contribution to the costs. A further idea - originally proposed by Mervyn Ross - was that costs might be covered by the raising of subscriptions. Sue Betts said - if the Church can do it, so can the Parish! Given the intensity of feeling about Walton Street traffic management, **it was agreed that the minute resulting from this discussion be passed back to the Parish Council to be progressed with urgency.**

- 3960 Walton Common:** Avon Wildlife Trust held a meeting in the Village Hall on April 20th in which they explained what their management plans are. Six Dexter cattle are due to go onto the Common very soon, that number rising to some 25 in the future. Given the public presence, these animals will tend to be older, less frisky ones. The cattle will have freedom to roam within the area of the electric wire. There will be a traffic-light-type system at the public footpath entrances to the Common indicating whether or not there are cattle there. Richard Kent pointed out that, unlike Cadbury Hill and some other public access sites with cattle, the Walton Common site is relatively open, so walkers are less likely to suddenly 'come upon' cattle in a way that might alarm either party. The usual access caveats will apply, in that dogs must be kept under close control and that a fairly permissive approach to movement on the Common will become acceptable as the cattle become established. The rights of Commoners, and Parishioners access rights are understood not to be affected. Beyond this, the key point is, as stressed by both Richard Kent and Nigel Wilyman, that the Common is not a 'common', it is private land, over which the owners - The Miles Estate, their managers - Avon Wildlife Trust, and their scientific overseers - Natural England, have full dominion. On that basis, complaints relating to illicit camping or mountain biking etc should be addressed to The Miles Estate. All along, the principal irritant re Walton Common and Avon Wildlife Trust, has been the latter's lack of communication. This has caused significant upset to many of the public who they rely on for their membership and resources, and has also done damage to their public image. Sara Talbot echoed this by saying that Avon Wildlife Trust are subject to legally enforceable public consultation protocols which they simply did not follow.
- 3961 The Information Sheet:** This is the principle communication vehicle within the Parish. It has been funded by the Parish Council, under various stewardships, for many years. It is currently possible due to the unstinting efforts of Audrey Hollingsworth, who gathers the entries, arranges the printing and organises a team of volunteer deliverers. There has never been a gauge of public reaction to the Information Sheet and its usefulness - so this evening proved to be just that. David Parkinson summed up the mood - he said 'it's why I am at this meeting - I read about it in the Information Sheet'. Emma Edwards, who, over the years, has moved around in many of the local parishes, said we are the envy of them in being able to successfully sustain enough worthwhile content to make the Information sheet a vital piece of Village kit - which is magically un-fussy and affordable to produce. Audrey Hollingsworth reports that she prints 180 copies per month and that some people also receive it via e-mail. Electronic delivery would obviously save the printing costs. The idea of lost e-mails, undelivered e-mails, accidentally deleted e-mails raised strong murmurs of support for the printed version. It is something you can hold, it has a sense of the Village about it in a way that an e-mail or web-based version simply would not. The Information Sheet is clearly much loved as it is. Audrey Hollingsworth was seen to smile.
- 3962 Community SpeedWatch:** Brian Cannell explained the history of us being unable to operate SpeedWatch in the past, although the possibility has been investigated on many occasions. The latest review - which came after the current year's budget was set - identified the area outside the Village Hall as one from which the scheme can operate. The police are keen for the Parish to proceed, but the scheme is dependant on having the kit (speed gun and high-vis jackets) at some £350 and volunteers (at least six to remain viable). Operation of the scheme would be self-governing, via a co-ordinator in a similar way to that of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Volunteers would be able to operate on a random basis that suited their personal timetables. The randomness introduces surprise for the traveller and is the main reason why sharing the kit with other parishes is not practical. There are presently three volunteers on the Parish Clerk's list. Don Hill asked anyone who wants to volunteer to contact him (contact details in any issue of the Information sheet).
- 3963 Parish Recycling:** Floss Morgan explained the NSC initiative - in the form of a competition - to raise awareness of how to re-cycle and what to re-cycle. With progress through bronze, silver and gold levels, a parish can achieve a maximum reward of £350 for creative improvements.

She gave an example, particularly relevant to the Park Home sites in Walton Bay, where waste-vehicle access problems and the lack of site-based facilities mean there is no formal recycling done. The Hampshire model is to use black bags, as now, for waste, and transparent bags for ALL recycling, which is then sorted at the waste depot by the waste contractors. NSC are to hold a recycling event and exhibition in the Village Hall on May 25th between 2-6pm. Everyone is asked to go along to share their re-cycling queries and to learn the detail of how to re-cycle the many multi-composition items we puzzle over each day. As Tony Barrow reminded us, 'North Somerset Life' - the mention of which, like our own Information Sheet, seemed to illicit a hum of approval - offers ever updated information on what can and cannot be re-cycled. Floss mentioned that Walton-in-Gordano, with only 33% of its waste not being re-cycled, is second only to St George's in re-cycling efficiency throughout North Somerset.

3964 Broadband: Grahame Stott reported that - worst of all possible worlds - the telephone cables supplying the lower part of the Parish from Clevedon, are aluminium. Although BT have ruled out the provision of fast broadband to the lower Parish (it appears to be on the way to Walton Bay via Portishead), they might at least be persuaded to upgrade the cables. Their want to hang on to ownership of Open Reach, suggested Grahame, might be making them more flexible in their service model. An un-costed possibility was raised, some time ago, that NSC might be able to beam signals into some the remoter areas around Castlewood. Seb Greene undertook to see if this option has any life, but warned that it has already been ruled out once, on cost grounds. Various alternatives were mentioned by those who have needed to invest in better broadband. Mike Ralston noted these as part of the matrix of information he keeps abreast of as the first phase of the super-fast broadband project draws to a close.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

WALTON-in-GORDANO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 12TH 2016 REPORTS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council - Cllr Brian Cannell, Chairman

This last year the Parish Council has dealt with the usual mix of planning, road maintenance and local event issues. The three main local issues that have caused concern have been Walton Common, Cycling activities and Community SpeedWatch. More on all of these later. As of May 9th, Walton-in-Gordano Parish Councillors are Mr Brian Cannell, Mr Mike Ralston, Mr Andy Brellisford and Mr Nigel Wilyman and Miss Floss Morgan. 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. Councillor Mike Ralston represented the PC on the Village Hall management committee. Councillor Floss Morgan was our representative on NSC Standards Sub committee. Councillors Mike Ralston and Andy Brellisford, represented WaIG PC on the Gordano Greenway project to ensure our voice was heard in this forum. After the Council's AGM earlier this evening, representation of the Village Hall Committee and NSC's Standards sub-committee remain open, while Cllrs Ralston and Brellisford continue to represent us on the Gordano Greenway project. North Somerset Council is regularly represented at the Parish Council meetings by Sebastian Green. 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, but we need to remain vigilant in how we leave our homes, outbuildings and property so we don't unwittingly assist potential criminal activity. Neighbourhood watch schemes continue to operate in various parts of the Parish. This year, as in the last, there have been only a few planning applications within the Parish, again perhaps reflecting the current financial climate. There has been a drive by local councils to improve the recycling rates across the country. To this end, we have been encouraged to develop a Parish Recycling Incentive scheme. This initiative is very ably lead in Wa-i-G PC by Councillor Morgan. There continues to be problems with cycling activities within the Parish.

The two main areas of concern are the road races / organised activities and Mountain bikers on footpaths. Some progress has been made with better marshalling of cyclists travelling along the Coast Road, Walton Street and the junction of the B3124. Unfortunately, much of the good work can be very quickly undone by a small number of thoughtless individuals who appear to disregard highway safety or other road users and shout abuse at anyone who criticises them. We continue to work with the Police, Local council and user groups to try and resolve the problem. The other main cycling activity that causes much concern are mountain bikers using the public footpaths along the Coast, Common and local woods towards the Golf Course. These are not cycle paths and should not be used for this purpose. We, along with North Somerset Council have erected No Cycling notices at the entry and exit points of these paths within our Parish, but the abuse both of the facility and of any members of the public that challenge the cyclists continues. This is not a local issue but a national problem. Councillors continue to work on this problem with the local authorities and land owners. The Gordano Greenway activity has been quiet for the last months, but continues to be monitored by Councillors Ralston and Brellisford. The future use and management of Walton Common also raised in profile during the year. Whilst it is accepted that the Common must be managed, the communication to and the understanding of, both current users and those holding Commoners rights to the Common has been poorly handled by Avon Wildlife. We have been presented with a fait accompli by Avon Wildlife, that has understandably caused much anger amongst many people within the Parish. The Parish Council had invited Avon Wildlife to this meeting to address the concerns of the Parish, but we have had no response to these requests. The PC will continue to try and negotiate with Avon Wildlife on this matter and will keep the Parish informed as we get any information. Community SpeedWatch. There has been a resurgence in interest in the Community SpeedWatch following a proposal by the Police that we could locate this by the wall of the Village Hall. We are seeking volunteers to man this as well as investigating how we can procure the equipment as this has a cost that came too late to be included in this year's financial budget. The Parish Council continue to fund the regular monthly Information Sheet that Audrey Hollingsworth so ably edits, published and, with her team of willing helpers, distributes. **Moving to Finance.** The Budget for 2016/17 was set during the January 2016 Parish Council meeting at a level of £4014. This included a number of provisions for the coming year along with a modest increase in Clerk's pay. Taking into account reserves, and a NSC Council Tax Supplement, the total precept for 2016/17 is £3800. Whilst it is true that Walton is one of the smallest parishes in North Somerset, our precept for 2016/17 ranks 28th out of 39 in terms of cost to a Band D property, so 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, Miss Floss Morgan, Mr Nigel Wilyman and Mr Andy Brellisford - not forgetting the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Don Hill - for their hard work and support over the last year.

North Somerset Council

Seb Greene introduced himself and explained his role. Parish Liaison Officers do their work on a voluntary basis, outside their normal day-to-day work. They provide a link between the Parish Council and Clerk and the wide range of operating units within North Somerset Council. They both put the right people in touch with each other, and, where appropriate, help to move processes from communication to action. Seb offered his involvement during the open discussion, or afterwards if anyone wanted to contact him; he also took notes during the sessions to feed back to colleagues.

St Paul's Church - Sue Betts,

2015 was a truly memorable year for our village church in many ways. At the start of the year we knew we had a difficult job ahead of us to pay all the bills necessary to keep our church going. I'm not going to bore you with endless figures but we need nearly £700 a month just to pay for the Parish Share, the money we have to pay to keep our clergy team and that is before all the other bills such as electricity, insurance, maintenance, grass cutting – the list just keeps going on. As you have probably already heard we did it and with some money to spare! This is all due to the support of the people in this room, in this community and beyond so thank you, I can truly say that it could not be done without you. There have been so many highlights in 2015 including our Mouseketeer winning trip to London also two very generous anonymous donations, hopefully our sincere thanks have got back to

these donors. Sadly we have said goodbye to some faithful members of our church community over this past year, they are greatly missed. This year are looking forward to two 'village' weddings – one has ready happened - and the development of a servery in the church (when the architect pulls his finger out) so there will be even more tea and cakes!

Village Hall Committee of Management - Floss Morgan, Chairman

Once again the Village Hall has been ticking over with regular and one-off bookings. The hiring analysis shows dog training, table tennis, art group and the WI to be regular activity users and the Parish Council to be regular meeting users. Activities and meetings took place every month during the year with several social events for the whole village and wider community to attend plus several private parties and one-off activities bringing in revenue. The number of bookings have increased from 95 in 2014/15 to 176 in 2015/16. Additional events have included a wedding, gospel group, photo shoot and art lessons. Additions to the inventory have been sugar bowls, tea towels, tablecloths for the 12 small tables and table covering for 3 large tables. A major expenditure this year, 2016, will be internal decoration of the hall and external painting of the end wall. The work is being undertaken by Richard Sergeant. The first part of the work was completed March 2016 at a cost of £1247, with the all-weather 'Hall For Hire' notices being put up. The next phase will begin in May 2016 with painting the ceiling and panels at a cost of approximately £1050. As of 9th April 2016 the bank balance was £5420.41. Once again, thanks must go to Bob and Val Baldwin for their excellent work with cleaning and maintenance of the Hall.

WI - Rosemary Tucker *(read by Don Hill)*

The women's institute in the village is flourishing; our numbers stay constant; we have several members who have belonged to Walton in Gordano Women's Institute for over 20, 30 and 40 years. All this is testament to our organisation, which has just celebrated its 86th birthday, and to the national WI, which celebrated its 100th in 2015. One member went to a garden party in Buckingham palace, another went to the Royal Albert hall for the AGM. As an institute we had a long weekend in north wales visiting LLAINFAIR PG for lunch where the first WI was started. We had a full coach for a most enjoyable trip. We have an interesting programme of speakers, outings and social events, and we are always happy to welcome visitors and new members to our friendly group. The village Information Sheet is an invaluable source of information about our activities.

WalG Social & Events Committee Report - Brenda Matthews, Chairman *(read by Emma Edwards)*

The WalG Social & Events Committee runs from August to August. Last August we gave the church and the hall £1000 each from the profits we made. In August 2015 we set up an Arts Club which meets every Saturday afternoon, this helps the hall with a weekly rental income. In December 2015 we had another cheese/wine and quiz night which was well attended and enjoyed by all. In April 2016 we held another concert in the hall and this was also well attended and enjoyed. Also throughout the year we have organised several coffee mornings and the next one will be on June 18th in the village hall. The next big event will be the village fete on July 16th which we plan to make bigger and better than previous years, weather permitting. May we take this opportunity to ask for volunteers to help in any way that you can as without the help and support of the villagers we could not put on this event. Also, if anyone would like the events committee to help them organise any social gathering/events, or to join the committee, please contact either Andrew Francis via email ralf.789@sky.com or Brenda Matthews at g.matthews1@hotmail.com tel 873408 or any other committee member. An additional reminder that on Sunday July 17th - the day after the fete - we are holding the fete's 80th birthday event in the Village Hall, with lunch, cricket and other activities that will contribute to a convivial event - do join us!

Village Agent WERN - Emma Edwards

Thank you for inviting me this evening and embracing the village agent role. This year this village has benefited from a new art group, scrabble afternoons, coffee mornings. These events are for the benefit of the whole Gordano Valley, encouraging parishioners from all three villages to mix. I would like to also thank the Parish Council for funding the crime prevention afternoon last year, I hope to organise more this year. Village Agents can provide support for individuals and communities - as always please just ask.