



# Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald M Hill

18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council held at The Village Hall; Monday 14th May 2012 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Ann Charlesworth, Richard Kent, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** Don Hill (Clerk)

**3487 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Claire Leandro (NSC), PC Jenny Clarke

**3488 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Morgan took the Chair. The election was uncontested: there being no other nominations for these posts than the existing holders - Cllr Cannell, Chairman and Cllr Charlesworth, Vice-Chairman. Cllr Morgan and Cllr Kent (who arrived as this process was under way), agreed that Cllrs Cannell and Charlesworth should continue in their posts and Cllr Cannell duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office that his position required of him. Cllr Cannell resumed the Chair.

**3489 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:** After discussion, it was decided that, as in recent years, the only outside body to which the Council would appoint representatives, was the Walton-in-Gordano Village Hall Committee of Management. Cllrs Charlesworth and Kent agreed to continue as representatives and were unanimously appointed. **Clerk to relay these appointments to the Hall Committee Chairman in writing.**

**3490 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

**3491 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

### **3492 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT**

**Police:** In mid-April thieves stole 7 chain saws from a locked Home Farm outbuilding.  
**New website** due, with new “communications” page, replacing the Ringmaster system. People can sign up to receive news stories, messages and alerts using a variety of channels (voice, text, email, etc). This will allow people to update their own details, express further interests and stay in touch with Neighbourhood Watch, for example, to highlight specific local issues.

**Bus Stops:** All stops being made low-floor entry by the end of 2015. Clerk/Cllr Morgan undertook to keep access clear of weeds in the interim.

### **3493 PLANNING**

**New: 12/P/0437/F** Extension to groundkeeper’s store - copied to WaIG PC for information. The Golf Club is part of Clevedon, but this application relates to land that is technically in Walton-in-Gordano. **12/P/0602/F** Highcliffe, Walton Down - solar panels to garage roof. No objection. **12/P/0668/F** Restland, Walton Bay - Revised garage plans. No objection. **12/P/0741/WT** Old Rectory House - fell 1 x yew & 1 x conifer. No objection.

### **3494 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES**

**Somerset Stones - Sunnybank:** Final repair due June 25th. Walton Street will be closed.  
**Pothole/Trees/Mud Clearance in Moor Lane:** Clerk to follow up with NSC's Mike Brown, who is now our official Area Officer.  
**Coast Road Kerb Maintenance:** being done via the work Western Power are doing.  
**Cliff Path Damaged Stile below Brighton Cot:** Update from Andy Carroll due during June. Clerk to follow up.  
**Moor Lane Stream:** NSC Rapid Response team have repaired slippage.

### **3495 OTHER MATTERS**

**Small Pavement Hole:** in pavement near Church sign next to rickyards. Not the underground collapse that was the subject of recent repair but a minor break-up around the old bus-stop pole.  
**Hedging in Walton Street:** Trimmed. Clerk to alert others via piece in June Information Sheet.  
**Litter on the Cliff Path:** Notice was attached to May Information Sheet  
**CPRE:** Avon Village of the Year information to hand. Noted.  
**S&OS Contracts:** There are separate contracts for street cleansing, tree surgery and parks horticulture. From 2013 these will become one contract. The proposal is open for consultation. Noted.  
**Emergency Disaster Planning (Ian Wilson NSC):** Emergency disaster plans exist, and are periodically modified or re-energised. This is happening now, to encourage 'Communities to help themselves in an emergency, and to thus assist emergency services. Congresbury, having worked on river Yeo defences, is piloting this revision, with more PCs becoming involved later. Noted.

**NSC Care & Support Strategy:** Defines how NSC Adult Social Services and Housing work with NHS North Somerset, to ensure people can access quality information and advice about services and options available for care and support. Revised strategy now out for consultation. Noted.

**Age Concern Community Connect:** An explanation of this service. Noted.

### **3496 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Cllr Kent** is concerned about the growing pothole/kerb damage referred to above at 3494.  
**Cllr Morgan** is concerned about the operation of traffic lights at Walton Bay while the Western Power cable laying is taking place. She will raise these concerns with Paul Smart after the meeting, when he arrives to contribute to the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **3497 FINANCE**

**Accounts 2012-13:** circulated with pre-meeting papers, and noted.  
**Audit:** 2011-12 Annual Return documents signed by Chairman and Clerk. There is a consultation period as from May 15th (notices are in notice boards) prior to submission of the return to the external auditors.  
**Cheques:** **630** WalG Social Club re fete marquee donation £500.00    **631** Village Hall re hire £15.00    **632** Broker Network (insurance via Came & Co) £265.00    **633** Audrey Hollingsworth - Replacement for cheque 629 which was mislaid - this is a Prior Year event that has been accounted for in the 2011-12 accounts.  
**Precept:** 1<sup>st</sup> half year paid April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting closed at 7.45pm**



## Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald M Hill

18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

### Minutes of Parish Council Meeting at The Village Hall - Monday 11th June 2012 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Ann Charlesworth, Richard Kent, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** Claire Leandro (NSC Liaison), Don Hill (Clerk)

**3503 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), PC Jenny Clarke

**3504 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

**3505 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

#### 3506 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

**Police:** No crime in the Parish to report.

#### 3507 PLANNING

**Decision Due:** 12/P/0602/F Highcliffe solar panels. 12/P/0741/WT Old Rectory House tree fell.

**Refused:** 12/P/0668/F Restland garage. The history of applications for this site were reviewed. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> refusal on the basis of “massing scale and siting”. The Clerk reminded the meeting that they had not objected to the applications and Cllr Cannell pointed to that, in reality, the roadside visibility of the proposed garage would be minimal, despite the roofline in the visual presented in the application as drawing 05. It was accepted that the argument of “mass” was supportable - even if not practically critical - when viewed against the footprints both of the original property and of the new build (which was the subject of a sequence of separate applications). Comparisons of “mass” were drawn between this, virtually hidden, application and the granted applications at Arodene, at Walton Down that give a sense of huge “mass” from the roadside.

**Other Planning: Wind Turbines in Gordano Valley:** this item refers to an application in the bed of the Gordano Valley within the Clapton-in-Gordano Parish. Cllr Cannell was briefed on the application by a Clapton resident who feared it may be the thin edge of a wedge of proliferation of such applications that could turn the Gordano Valley into “Turbine Valley”. Most of the objections to date have been subjective, but there has been one significant objection that claimed the necessary wind speed (minimum 4.5 metres per second (?)) was not attainable in this valley, where the main force of the prevailing wind tends to pass across the top of it. Cllr Kent could not envisage that the scheme could be economically viable, even though - notwithstanding its presentation by a local farmer - it was probably backed by an energy company. The situation will be watched.

#### 3508 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES

**Somerset Stones - Sunnybank:** Repair due June 25th. Road closure notice issued.

**Pothole/Trees/Mud in Moor Lane:** Awaiting response from Mike Brown. Clerk to follow up.

**Cliff Path Damaged Stile below Brighton Cot:** Update due during June. Clerk to follow up.

#### 3509 OTHER MATTERS

**Boundary Commission Presentation:** WsM, 2pm, Thursday July 5<sup>th</sup>. Periodically electoral boundaries are reviewed to ensure that wards and constituencies have an even as feasible a population content. This presentation will be an explanation of a planned NSC ward review and any impact this may have on Parishes within wards where boundary changes happen. It is not expected that the review will materially effect Walton-in-Gordano, as its boundaries with East Clevedon and Clevedon Walton St Mary do not pass through critical population areas.

**Faster Broadband:** “Connecting Devon and Somerset” is sponsored by county/unitary councils. Leaflets were distributed explaining the planned roll-out from Feb 2013. Cllr Morgan took some for Walton Bay; some went to the Village Hall. More from [www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk).

**Code of Conduct for the Carriage of Mobility Scooters on Low-Floor Buses:** Under this new scheme, users of mobility scooters (type 2 design only) who want to travel by bus need to contact their local bus company for an assessment. With their scooter, they will be checked to ensure that the scooter's dimensions and the combined weight of scooter and user are within prescribed limits, to be carried safely. They will be asked to board and move to the wheelchair area of the bus, and to alight from the bus, to ensure that they can control the scooter in a safe manner. If they can, they will be issued with a photo pass, which will allow them to use low-floor buses of the operator conducting the assessment, plus those of any other UK operator in the scheme. The scheme does not effect electric wheelchair users and their use of buses.

**Hinkley C Pylons - Alternative Undergrounding Route:** National Grid want to make their connection between Hinkley and Avonmouth via pylons as against underground or off shore. They have referred to possible undergrounding of sensitive sections, however, there is little indication that they will survey for suitable routes and the fear is that they will simply "overhead" the whole connection (notwithstanding the lengthy process of "consultation" they are undertaking). It has been proposed that the Statutory Authorities/Consultees fund an investigation into an alternative route which could be subsea or, if on land, as optimally underground as possible. The pressure group would appreciate a view on the proposal in principle (no financial or workload obligations are involved) and the registration of that view with our Ward Councillor, Cllr Ashton. (Minute 2358, Dec 2009 and Clerk's letter Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 refer to the Council's declared position on the overall project). It is a given that the Parish can offer no financial commitment towards the investigation, but the meeting was wholeheartedly supportive of it being undertaken. **The Clerk to so inform Cllr Richard Parker of Compton Bishop (for the Hinkley C Connection Group (Statutory Consultees) and Cllr Ashton.**

**Integrated Care in North Somerset - Consultation:** Integrated care is a more joined up way of looking after people. It means staff in health and social care working as a single team, to make sure people get the support they need, when and where they need it, without confusion or delay. Four such integrated teams are suggested for North Somerset. Claire Leandro explained that ideas were at the "headline" stage, with everyone involved very much in listening mode. There is support from the many groups involved in current support either separately or via partnerships, but the complexities of achieving workable and successful operating and financial outcomes (raised by Cllr Kent), were by no means underestimated.

### **3510 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Cllr Morgan: 1.** A letter from Sue Betts, of St Paul's Church, was read. It referred to the Flower Festival, but particularly to the visit to the village of the Bishop of Taunton at 4pm on Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>, at which it was hoped that the Parish Council might be represented. **The date was noted, but specific representation was not decided upon during the meeting.** **2.** The "right turn" sign on the landward side of the Coast Road at Walton Bay (just above the Two Acres entrance) needs re-aligning after the recent road works. **Clerk to liaise with Mike Brown.**

**Cllr Cannell:** The bank of the stream opposite the Talbot's has collapsed again, threatening to weaken the highway. **Clerk to report to Mike Brown.**

### **3511 FINANCE**

**Accounts 2012-13:** circulated and noted.

**Audit:** Chair and Clerk signed date-corrected Bank Reconciliation. Papers to be posted off 12<sup>th</sup> June, which is the end of the public notice period.

**Audit Commission:** Consultation re appointment of Auditor (Grant Thornton) for the period 2012/13 - 2016/17. If this goes forward, the Council (under £10,000 budget) will not be charged for the audit... although it could still incur charges for errors in paperwork that involve auditor's time.

**Cheques:** **634** CPRE Annual Sub £29.00 **635** HMRC re 3 months PAYE £75.00 **636** Village Hall hire £9.00

**PAYE:** Due to weaknesses in HMRC software/communication year end paperwork was submitted some 3 weeks late. This exposes the Council to a £100 fine which, if imposed, will be contested.

**The meeting closed at 8.45 pm**



## Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald M Hill

18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

### Minutes of the Meeting at The Village Hall - Monday 10th September 2012 at 7.30 pm

*no meeting last April - no July meeting*

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Ann Charlesworth, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** Don Hill (Clerk)

**3521 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Kent, Cllr Ashton, Claire Leandro (NSC), PC Jenny Clarke

**3522 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllrs Cannell and Charlesworth in relation to minute 3526, planning application 12/P/1042/F - the applicant is a neighbour.

**3523 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

**3524 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

#### 3525 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

**Police:** An e-mail/poster (to notice boards) received from PCSO Michele Barrett re stable break-ins and need for vigilance in guarding personal property. Piece put in August Information Sheet. No reported crime, but a theft of white goods from Myrtle Cottage was discussed. *Clerk to check with PC Clarke.*

#### 3526 PLANNING

**New:** 12/P/1546/F Sunnybank, Walton Street; Realigned drive + new garage with office over. This re-application has clearly been thoroughly thought through. After some detailed discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the proposal be given the Meeting's support. *Clerk to so inform NSC.*

**To Appeal:** 12/P/0668/F Restland garage. Appeal reference: APP/D0121/D/ 12/2182161.

**Decision Due:** 12/P/1128/ADV Walton Bay Park (Barton) Entrance Sign

**Granted:** 12/P/0602/F Highcliffe solar panels. 12/P/0741/WT Old Rectory House tree fell. 12/P/1042/F Walton Brook Cot, Moor Lane - annexe to replace garage. 12/P/1249/WT Miles Estate fell conifers Myrtle Cottage, Walton St. (Clerk shared with Cllrs Cannell, Charlesworth and Morgan - no objections).

#### 3527 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES (Green/Road Maintenance teams are behind due to the weather).

**Somerset Stones - Sunnybank:** Repaired.

**Moor Lane Subsidence:** Awaiting digging of a trial hole to assess the extent of the problem. The meeting feels that this is becoming a serious hazard. *Clerk to press for timetable of action.*

**Moor Lane Trees :** In hand and in the middle of a long list for the NSC Area.

**Moor Lane Mud:** Grips work booked - the situation has been good during this very wet summer.

**Sunnybank:** NSC has cut back dense vegetation.

**Cliff Path Stile below Brighton Cot:** New stile ordered and awaited.

**Walton Bay:** Right-turn sign above Two Acres Clerk re-aligned and confirmed it to be solidly fixed.

**Overgrowth of 30mph sign at Portishead entry to Village:** Farmer - Cllr Kent - has confirmed that he will be giving the hedges a second cut shortly and will, as before, clear the overgrowth. This has proved to be a serious problem in all rural areas during this wet period. *Clerk to report back to Ray Redmore.*

#### 3528 OTHER MATTERS *(all were discussed and noted)*

**NSC Charity Collections Policy:** Consultation on revised street/house-to-house collection arrangements and permits. Electronic copy available.

**City Deals:** ( *Note - the current euphemism for Avon is the "West of England"*). England's eight biggest cities outside London (Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield), are to gain new powers over their planning, transport, education and infrastructure building budgets. Under agreed stronger governance arrangements, most will set up combined authorities with other councils in their area (in our case, "The West of England") to form larger legal bodies capable of driving through decisions more effectively. "City Deals" could create 170,000 jobs and 37,000

apprenticeships over 20 years and unlock £8.2bn in infrastructure spending. Cllr Ashton is closely involved and stresses that there is a long way to go with the details of negotiation before we can dream of results.

**Community Payback:** Courts have the power to sentence offenders to undertake up to 300 hours of Community Payback (formerly Community Service). This is unpaid, demanding work aimed at giving something to local communities and forcing offenders to repay the community for the wrong they have done. People or organisations can nominate local projects - which can be community or charity based, e.g. street clean ups, graffiti removal, painting of run down buildings. Cllr Ashton is calling for projects that can be drawn together to strengthen this work within North Somerset.

**Electoral Review:** Local Government Boundary Review will take about 10 months, and will be completed in time for the next election. Due to the matrix of population changes in the District, it will cover all wards in North Somerset. The Commission will decide the number of councillors, and the number, names, and sizes of wards. Parishes cannot be created, abolished or altered but if one is split between District Wards, then each split part must become a Parish Ward. At around the half way stage, after the shaping of the review and the gathering of initial information, posters will be issued to parishes seeking public and PC input/reactions to, for example, the impact of ward changes upon community identity. At this time, a piece in the Information Sheet, and any other appropriate contact with residents will help the process.

**Town & Parish Charter:** A copy has been e-mailed to each Councillor. The Authors are seeking an endorsement to the document as was the case last time (2005). The meeting agreed to this. The essence of Charter is encapsulated below. [Clerk to confirm the meeting's endorsement.](#)

#### **Town and Parish Charter (updated from the 2005 original in light of changed legislation)**

North Somerset has 39 parish councils (including 4 town councils) and a Unitary Council of 61 District Councillors (The Councils). The aim of the Charter is to create a framework for The Councils to work in an open and honest partnership to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area by promoting lifelong learning opportunities (EDUCATION) - Enhancing health and well-being (HEALTH) - Protecting and improving the environment (ENVIRONMENT) - Building safer and stronger communities (POLICING) - Increasing prosperity (JOB CREATION) - Maintaining high performance (ECONOMIC OUTPUT). They should help bring life and colour to local communities ensure that public services respond to, understand and address residents' needs and aspirations and that information, consultation and involvement opportunities are accessible and well targeted. The Charter sets out obligations in key areas that The Councils will endeavour to uphold against a minimum standard of co-operation. It reflects various strands of legislation, organisation and responsibility that have emerged over the years, including: The Duty to Involve - The Sustainable Community Strategy - Parish Plans - The Power to Promote Wellbeing - Quality Council Status - The Localism Bill. The Councils will endeavour to work in as paperless an environment as is practicable. The full Charter highlights responsibilities and obligations of each of The Councils in relation to Planning, Sharing of Resources, Procurement, the work of Parish Liaison Officers and Area Officers, and transfer of services to Parish Councils.

**North Somerset NHS:** Leaflets to notice boards re their "Smoke Outside" campaign.

**ALCA:** Information continues to be received. The new ALCA seems to be developing a surer footing.

#### **3529 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Cllr Kent (via Clerk):** Loose gully with surrounding tarmac breaking up - Village side of Holly Lane/sub-station opposite playing fields. The gully is set about 18" out from kerb right in path of traffic inside wheels. [Clerk to report to Mike Brown.](#)

**Cllr Morgan:** Large branch hanging from Cross Tree needs lopping. [Clerk to liaise with Ian Monger.](#)

**Cllr Charlesworth:** Moor Lane subsidence into stream opposite Talbots gets worse - there is now no road verge at a point where traffic continually needs to pull over to that verge in both directions. There is little confidence that the overgrowth building up at this point is not impeding the flow of the stream. A worry, given the related history of flooding. [Clerk to pursue urgent action via Mike Brown.](#)

### 3530 GOVERNANCE

**New Code of Conduct/Register of Interests:** NSC have briefed us on new documents as required under Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011. The meeting agreed the new Code of Conduct and each member present completed a new Register of Interests document. **Clerk to collect new document from Cllr Kent.**

**Review of Governance Documents:** A complete set of updated documents, as under, was circulated prior to the meeting, for review and approval. It is a requirement that this be done periodically.

AA	Publications Scheme	Updated
AB	Who We Are and What We Do	Updated
AC	Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Councillor)	Unchanged
AD	Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Chairman)	Unchanged
AE	Code of Conduct	Required Replacement
AF	Register of Members' Interests	Required Replacement
AG	Standing Orders - Proposed	Proposed Replacement
AG i	Standing Orders - Current	-
AH	Financial Regulations	Updated
AJ	Complaints & Equality Procedures	Unchanged
AK	Risk Assessment	New
BA	Clerks Employment paperwork	Unchanged
BB	Staff Appraisal Form	New

All were agreed subject to Clerk confirming that the proposed AG, new Standing Orders contained all the elements of the existing ones. Form AK Risk Assessment was signed by the Chairman and Clerk. Chairman suggested that this may prove a useful set of documents to share with prospective Councillors. It was agreed that a review should take place annually in June, a month after the May AGM. **Clerk to liaise with Chairman re Standing Orders. Clerk to diarize similar review to be conducted annually, at the June meeting.**

**Election of Representative to Outside Body:** Standards Sub-Committee as requested by NSC re the new Code of Conduct scheme. A member needs to be available for occasional service on the sub-committee should the need arise and providing they would be free. Cllr Morgan's name "emerged" from discussion as the person for the role and she kindly agreed to allow her name to be supplied to NSC as this Council's representative. **Clerk to inform NSC and to ensure this position is included under the Outside Representatives heading at future May AGMs.**

The meeting unanimously expressed their appreciation to the Clerk for the amount of work and diligence exhibited in respect of the formulation and compilation of the new governance documents. The meeting recognised the huge amount of additional work that this has involved over the past couple of months.

### 3531 FINANCE

**Accounts 2012-13:** Accounts to date reviewed and noted.

**Precept:** 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ precept paid via BACS today.

**Audit:** 2011-12 audit completed (with no comments and no extra charges) and details posted to notice boards for 14 days. New 5 year appointment notified by Audit commission: from 2012-13 to 2016/17 external auditor will be Grant Thornton, and charge to authorities under £10,000 will be zero (however errors will, as before, have to be paid for as extra - but extra to zero rather than extra to £60).

**Cheques:** **637** July Hall hire £6.00 (Already signed. No meeting, as non-quorate, but hall used) **638** Mazars re Audit £60.00 **639** HMRC re PAYE £78.00 **640** Village Hall hire £12.00

**The meeting closed at 9.10pm**



# Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

**Clerk: Donald M Hill**

**18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG**

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting at The Village Hall - Monday 8th October 2012 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Ann Charlesworth, Richard Kent, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** Claire Leandro (NSC Liaison), Don Hill (Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** Kevin Edwards, Nigel Wilyman, Sara & Richard Talbott

**3532 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Ashton (NSC), PC Jenny Clarke

**3533 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllrs Cannell, Charlesworth and Kent in relation to minute 3539, as their properties border the brook in Walton Street and Moor Lane.

**3534 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

**3535 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

### 3536 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

**Police:** No reported crime in the parish this month.

**Police & Crime Commissioner:** Election Notices received by the Clerk for the notice boards.

### 3537 PLANNING

**Decision Due:** 12/P/1128/ADV Walton Bay Park Sign. 12/P/1546/F Sunnybank drive/garage. 12/P/0668/F Restland garage. Appeal reference: APP/D0121/D/ 12/2182161.

### 3538 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES

**Moor Lane Subsidence:** Update awaited. Clerk e-mailed for update information to this meeting but received no response. **Claire Leandro undertook to follow up this and, if she is copied in on e-mails, other matters too.**

**Moor Lane Trees:** Still on the very long job list to be done.

**Cliff Path Stile below Brighton Cot:** New stile ordered and awaited.

**Loose gully on B3124:** Near sub-station opposite school playing fields. Reported.

**Cross Tree:** Hanging branch has been lopped.

### 3539 THE BROOK

Clearance work and repair completed within 3 days of recent flooding. There was an open session during which flooding and possible solutions were discussed per the annexe to these minutes as attached.

### 3540 OTHER MATTERS

**The Parish Street Light:** The NSC contract that provided the discounted rate of some £4 per month has ended and the charge has risen to some £13.50 per month (the exact monthly amount varies). It is no longer possible to operate the light under the umbrella of the NSC contract. Whilst this remains significantly below the £23 per month that EDF would have charged if we had remained with them, the **Clerk is to find out if other parishes are jointly seeking an improved deal from Southern Electric and, if they are, to ask to join them in that effort.**

### 3541 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**Cllr Morgan:** received complaints about tree work done on Cliff Path, behind Birches Park Homes, reportedly by Birches. **Clerk to report to Ian Monger/Andy Carroll for their follow up as appropriate.**

**Cllr Kent:** created a large grip opposite the entrance to the Ash Track in Moor Lane to alleviate flooding.

### 3452 GOVERNANCE

**New Code of Conduct/Register of Interests:** Completed Register of Interests documents copied to NSC.

**Review of Governance Documents:** Modifications to Standing Orders agreed with the Chairman, per September meeting. Set of documents now on Governance file - for review at June 2013 meeting.

**Election of Representative to Outside Body:** Cllr Morgan now representative to NSC Standards sub-committee.

### 3543 FINANCE

**Accounts 2012-13:** Accounts to date were reviewed and noted.

**Cheques:** 641 Village Hall hire £12.00

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm**



## THE BROOK

*annexe to the minutes of the September 8th 2012 meeting of the Council*

The piece below was put in October Information Sheet after recent floods.

The brook has performed well since engineering works were completed. HOWEVER, sometime ago, were it runs beside the highway in Moor Lane, traffic ran a section of bank into the Brook's flow. Consequent build up of debris held water back and led to a flood in adjacent properties. Repairs to the brook have been anticipated for some months, but nothing happened despite forceful representations to NSC. Delay has been due to exceptional pressures on the work teams due to the weather this summer, exacerbated by financial cuts that we all know about. A regular regime of twice-yearly maintenance is now in place (something that has been "in place" spasmodically before, but has never operated effectively). There has been a failure, over many years, for the sections of brook running beside the highway in Walton Street and Moor Lane to be kept adequately clear of vegetation, not helped by changes in "county" authority, arguments over who is responsible for maintaining these sections of brook, and constant changes of staff. In desperation, residents have been forced to do much of the work for themselves, in order to protect their homes. The Parish Council is giving thought to ways of resolving this incessant dilemma. If anyone has ideas that can contribute to that thinking, they will be very welcome, either via the Clerk, or one of the Parish Councillors, as under.

**SOME THOUGHTS (not part of Information Sheet piece):** Re-engineer field section to cross higher up Moor Lane - Engineer hard grips where Richard Kent dug emergency ones - PC take over responsibility for keeping sections clear and pay "contractors" to do the work (& other works?) If this were to happen, the buck would stop with the Parish and there would be implications for the level of annual precept.

### **Correspondence Received** *(bold blue highlighting is Clerk's)*

#### **Kevin Edwards (Crosstree)**

Normally I clear the brook between Old Rectory Farm and Church Farm every year (and Richard Talbot often clears the brook outside his property). However we were discouraged from doing this by the Parish Council on both Health and Safety grounds and the fact that this task should be one undertaken by North Somerset Council. I now feel guilty that I had not cleared the brook - if I had done then the problem may not have been so bad. There was more capacity in the pipe beneath Walton Street but the reason so much water ran down the road was that **the grating by Church Farm became blocked with weed** due to the brook not having been cleared out. I cleared this grating a number of times between 6.30 and 8am. The same weed caused the brook to become blocked down Moor Lane leading to the extensive flooding. Looking at the brook beyond Drovers Brook the water level was significantly lower which is not surprising as there is a wire fence barrier where the brook flows behind Drovers Brook. In my opinion the previous "vehicular" damage to the brook in Moor Lane may have been a contributory factor but in no way was the main cause of the problem. **The main cause has been the lack of routine maintenance of clearing vegetation.** I accept that the storm was an exceptional event and some flooding may have occurred whatever precautions were taken but I would like to suggest the following to help prevent any future flooding. 1. As we clearly cannot rely on North Somerset then **the Parish Council should organise a bi-annual clearance of the brook** by villagers. I am perfectly happy to clear the brook and know of other villagers who would help. 2. **Remove the wire fence by Drovers Brook** - this is an unnecessary barrier which causes the level to rise when a build up of vegetation occurs. We see that North Somerset have now cleared the brook in Moor Lane but not in Walton Street which just shows the power of the press as the Talbots were headline news in the North Somerset Times! There was also flooding in the shop - does Emma need to contact the paper before the brook will be cleared in Walton Street? Finally I would also like to make you aware that **the brook is also blocked between Spring Head Cottage and Taggart House** - the brook is flowing down the footpath which is completely waterlogged. The blockage is where the brook flows under the footpath.

#### **Andrew Francis (Taggart)**

I hope you can help. I have recently moved into Taggart House, Walton Street, Walton-in-Gordano. I have been informed that the Parish Council are responsible for the area of the footpath and stream that runs at the rear of my property. After the flooding issues last Monday it became apparent that **the covered culvert leading from the edge of my property, underneath the footpath and subsequently into the stream which runs alongside the footpath adjacent to Springhead Cottage, was blocked** causing the river to flood along the footpath and into the road. Over the weekend I have managed to clear a substantial amount of debris from the culvert which I had hoped would allow the stream to run freely however it is now obvious that there is a more **substantial blockage underneath the footpath**. Preliminary investigations have revealed that there is access to the culvert underneath the footpath via a large stone slab. This blockage is causing the stream to back up into my property causing the garden to flood and would, in the case of further heavy rain cause avoidable flooding to properties in the village and almost certainly to my own property. I am seeking permission from the Parish Council to either get a group of villagers together to undertake the clearance which is urgently required or alternatively for **the Parish Council to make their own arrangements to clear the full length of the culvert** as soon as possible. I consider that this matter is one that requires urgent attention and would be grateful if you could consider this matter either before or at the very latest at the Parish Council meeting on 8th October. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the meeting in person. Please can I reiterate that if this matter is not resolved as soon as possible avoidable flooding will take place.

#### **Rosemary Tucker (Old Chapel)**

Last week we had a small amount of **water came into our home** on the night of the floods, from water running down Walton street which was unable to flow down the brook due to excessive vegetation in it. As you are aware in past years concerned villagers had cleared this as nothing was ever done at the right time by the council. **The Parish council asked the villagers not to do it [health and safety, etc]** and they did not. LOOK AT THE RESULT. On Saturday I walked down Moor Lane and saw the excellent job that has now been done by

the council , this morning I walked up Walton street past the brook, nothing has been done, WHY? I await an explanation before the next heavy rainfall.

**Richard and Sara Talbott (Brookside Cottage)**

#### **Flooding issues in Moor Lane, Walton-in-Gordano**

We have lived in Brookside Cottage, Moor Lane, Walton-in-Gordano since March 1994. We are not in a flood plain. However, we do have the problem of the potential of flash flooding from the brook which is close to our cottage. **We were flooded throughout our entire ground floor on Monday, 24 September 2012** when water came over our neighbours drive and into our property.

**Background:** After flowing under the B3124 Clevedon to Portishead road, the brook flows down through a field directly towards our cottage. It then reaches our neighbours' property where it takes a sharp left hand turn, and flows :- under their drive... through a culvert under the road (Moor Lane)... Turns sharp right and flows along Moor lane for approx 100 yards... Flows out onto the moor, initially alongside further properties. The flooding event occurred because the amount of water coming down to this bottleneck exceeded the volume the brook can cope with at this point.

**Capacity to take the flow:** (a) **Volume of water** - Because of work carried out higher up the village in recent years, putting larger pipes in place, a far greater and much faster moving volume of water can now flow down the field to the lower part of the village. **No corresponding work has been done at the lower end of the village to help it cope with this increased flow.** The potential future problem, caused for the residents of Moor Lane by this work at the top of the village with none at the bottom, was pointed out by us and our neighbours at the time of the work at the cross roads, but was ignored. (b) **Maintenance of capacity** - Capacity to take the flow is crucial. The main aspects of this... Ensure that the culvert is as clear as possible. **We were promised that this would be jetted on a yearly basis but it has not been done for several years** now to our knowledge. In fact, the main channel appears to be blocked at present. See below... **Ensure that all parts of the system - from the very top to the bottom - are kept as clear as possible.** The flow is easily hindered by the build up of vegetation, silt and stones. In addition large weeds grow from the actual base of the stream and collect other debris, effectively forming a dam effect. These then further hinders the flow.

**The Council have often promised to keep the system clear but have consistently failed to do so.** We will never know if, on this latest occasion, we would have flooded or not IF the stream had been cleared. However, **despite numerous telephone calls from concerned villagers, 3 site visits and repeated assurances, the stream was NOT CLEARED. We have even had a statement saying that "The stream appears to be running well! This is despite seeing the stream crammed full of vegetation growing from the stream bed.** Thus we were not in any way given the best possible chance in terms of through flow of water. If the stream had been cleared, then a greater volume of water may have passed through more quickly, lowering the levels. Even one centimetre lower may have meant the water did not reach a high enough level to spill over into our property.

**The future:** As a result of the current flooding issue, we have been in contact with **Mr John Inman of North Somerset Council.** The **responsibility for clearing the length of the brook running alongside Moor Lane has often been disputed and hence any action at all has been sporadic and virtually non existent.** Mr Inman visited our Property on Friday, 5 October 2012. He informed me that he had spoken to the Inland Drainage Board, who regularly clear the stream from the point where it leaves the side of Moor Lane and goes out onto the moor. He stated that **from now on, the Inland Drainage Board has agreed to add the Moor Lane section to their work and clear this twice yearly.** If it actually happens this would be a major step forwards in helping to alleviate flooding at this section. This is very welcome news. However we must ensure that it actually, really happens. Mr Inman visited again today, 8 October 2012, in response to our call to say that the brook was very high again and spilling onto the road. During the course of this visit we discovered that **the main channel through the culvert under Moor Lane appears to be fully blocked.** Water seems to only be coming through the overflow channel. If this is the case , then this would have a very significant impact on water flow. **Mr Inman undertook to arrange for the culvert to be jetted\*\*** either this afternoon or tomorrow.

**Overflows:** Even if the flow is kept clear, it is still necessary to remember that the **capacity is limited when it flows under the drive and road. This can be helped by inspections and jetting where necessary.** In addition, the flow should be inspected by a qualified water engineer to :- **Assess the risk potential and extent of possible flooding... Ensure that there are adequate run-off areas to take water away from the properties to safer areas** in extreme rainfall conditions... **Ensure that no other properties further down Moor Lane are put at risk by any actions taken... Look at the brook overall, from top to bottom, in its entirety, and plan an overall approach,** rather than take a piecemeal approach... Consider any other proactive alleviating actions that can sensibly be taken.

#### **FURTHER GENERAL ACTION**

**Clarify the situation re the threat of litigation from the Council if villagers clear sections of the stream themselves.** This follows the receiving of letters a few years ago stating that we were not to do this and risked being sued if we did so... Once the above point has been clarified maybe suggest **"working party " days,** where anyone in the village with an interest in keeping the stream clear could join together and work as a team from top to bottom?

#### **In Summary:**

Flooding risk can be greatly reduced by :- 1. **Regular and thorough clearing** of the brook and culvert areas. 2. **Provision of safe overflow areas**

**Richard and Sara Talbott - 8 October 2012**

**\*\* Note - just prior to the meeting, Mr Inman let the Talbotts know that a jetter powerful enough to do the job would not be available for some 10 days.**

### ***Discussion***

Richard Talbott reported two developments - amplifying the information in his letter:

1: The Internal Drainage Board will clear the section of brook running beside the highway twice per year. **Query - as the responsible authority, or on behalf of NSC?**

The brook, as it runs over the moor is only - but regularly - cleared once per year, around September. **Cllr Kent - a member of the Internal Drainage Board - undertook to confirm this arrangement with the Drainage Board "viewer".**

2: NSC will jet the blocked culvert under Moor Lane. A jetter powerful enough to do the job would not be available for the work until October 18<sup>th</sup>. Richard stressed, again, that **this needs to be checked and done regularly.**

The Talbotts thanked all who helped them bale out the water and drenched furnishings as they struggled to re-gain the ground floor of their property. Nigel Wilyman thanked Cllr Kent for his work in digging grips to get water off the field and into the road. (Clerk's note: Cllr Kent also dug a large grip by the Ash Track, further down Moor Lane, to get rid of surface water on the road).

Cllr Kent suggested that a **new, larger culvert under Moor Lane** would better match the increased capacity now available in the Walton Street culvert due to the laying of larger pipes. (Clerk's note: This increased capacity may only be used in the most adverse of conditions - but such conditions are becoming more frequent).

Cllr Cannell noted that the overflow pipe onto the road through Revendell's wall was too small. Cllr Kent suggested it be **replaced by lintel - perhaps a metre wide**, that would allow significantly more flow onto the road (perhaps the same on other side of the road where a similarly small pipe is in place)? Nigel Wilyman had no objections to NSC putting such a lintel in place.

Kevin Edwards said that the sharp alterations of flow as it entered the culvert through Rivendell and as the flow exited the culvert into the open brook clearly impeded flow as the brook became fuller. He suggested a **re-engineering of the brook to eliminate this "dogleg"** effect that would create a more progressive variation to the angle of flow between the field and roadside sections of brook.

While the Internal Drainage Board has increased the capacity of the brook over the moors, it was noted that a metal grill seemed to impede flow as the brook left the road to go behind the four properties and that in the past earlier residents have been tempted to impede flow by creating an ornamental feature of the brook as it passes their homes. **Future residents will need to be aware of the importance of maintaining flow.** The grill is in place to keep cattle from getting onto the road. If it is kept clear it does not pose a problem: **maybe some alternative could be put in place** that was not "in" the brook.

Nigel Wilyman said **Somerset stones in Walton Street were "bubbling up"** and lifting under the pressure of flow.

Kevin Edwards said that there was a build up of vegetation around the grill outside Church Farm and that he cleared vegetation from the Walton Street open section that was very high and with **huge root balls embedded in the flow of the brook.**

The Talbotts reported that the work team turned up to clear the brook in Moor Lane without the appropriate wet-gear and had to wait for it to arrive. This has happened before - it does not inspire confidence in NSC's abilities.

Cllr Kent suggested that the Parish Council, rather than NSC, might **appoint a contractor to do the brook clearance work on a twice yearly basis.**

Sara Talbott suggested that **residents could undertake the work needed - from the golf course to the moor** - making a serious but fun exercise in which "the village" could participate. She pointed out that the village is particularly good at such things.

Cllr Cannell was concerned that if the Parish Council assumed responsibility for keeping sections of the brook flowing, they may be open to **unaffordable legal suit in the event of flood damage.**

(Clerk's note): whatever arrangements may be instituted would need clear and legal clarification... e.g. if the Parish undertook to clear sections of brook, it would be that clearance that was the subject of its insured responsibility, not any surrounding issues of management or maintenance. It may still risk being joined in any suit against NSC for contributory negligence.

Richard Talbott reported that there have been incidents of vehicles ending up in the brook in Moor Lane, particularly when it is overgrown. **The road-side of the brook needs building up such that it is clearly visible, that the road can be supported and that there is minimal danger of either road, or traffic slipping into the brook.**

**ACTION SUMMARY**  
**THE BROOK FLOOD - MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

There is no single body responsible for keeping the brook clear through the village - from the Golf Club to Walton Brook Cottage. The Brook comes through the village in sections with different bodies being responsible for each:

The Paris drain under Walton Street from Walton down to the Golf Course Ponds.	NSC
The Golf Course.	The Golf Club
Rear of Taggart & Springhead.	The Miles Estate
Beside Springhead to Walton Street.	The Miles Estate
Springhead to Old Rectory Farm Culverts.	NSC
Old Rectory Farm to Church Farm - open section beside Walton Street.	NSC
Church Farm to Moor Lane Junction with B3124 - culverts.	NSC
Moor Lane Junction to Rivendell boundary.	The Miles Estate
Rivendell.	Occupants
Rivendell Moor Lane Boundary across Moor Lane - culvert.	NSC
Opposite Rivendell to Drover's Brook - open section beside Moor Lane.	NSC/IDB(?)
Rear of Drover's Brook to Walton Brook Cottage.	Internal Drainage Board

**AT RISK PROPERTIES**

**Walton Street**

Taggart  
Springhead Cottage  
The Old Chapel  
Cross Tree Stores  
Cross Tree Farm (has its own supplementary defenses)

**Moor Lane**

Rivendell  
Brookside Cottage  
Drovers Brook  
Silverburn  
Beckside  
Walton Brook Cottage

**MAINTENANCE**

There has never been a regular inspection of this whole length of brook to check on detritus and vegetation build ups, and on its general condition, to ensure its adequacy as a drainage facility. It needs regular (twice per year) inspection, clearance, and jetting - by NSC, or, **subject to insurance and legal clearances**, by residents or a contractor. **Clerk to investigate possibilities.**

**ENGINEERING AT MOOR LANE**

1. Because of larger pipes in Walton Street, a far greater and much faster moving volume of water can now flow down to the lower part of the village, where no corresponding work has been done to cope with it. A new larger culvert is needed, perhaps with the current "dogleg" bypassed by a direct route from higher up in the field.
2. The small overflow pipe through Revendell's wall be replaced by a lintel - perhaps a metre wide, that would allow significantly more flow onto the road (perhaps the same on other side of the road where a similarly small pipe is in place)?
3. NSC needs to assess the risk potential and extent of possible flooding, ensuring adequate run-off areas (grips) to take water away from properties to safer areas in extreme rainfall conditions. No properties further down Moor Lane should be at risk by actions taken.

**Clerk to brief Cllr Ashton on current situation and seek a way forward.**

*The Clerk undertook to prepare a summary of the correspondence and discussions to be appended to the minutes of the September 8th meeting and to share then with NSC - a task in which Claire Leandro offered her support and practical help.*



# Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald M Hill

18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting at The Village Hall - Monday 12th November 2012 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Ann Charlesworth, Richard Kent, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** PCSO Graham Roberts, Don Hill (Clerk)

**3544 APOLOGIES:** Claire Leandro (NSC Liaison), Cllr Ashton (NSC)

**3545 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Kent, as a farmer in the parish, in relation to minute 3552.

**3546 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk. (*Clerk's note - the date was subsequently corrected by the Clerk.*)

**3547 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

### 3548 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

**Police:** No crime was reported in the Parish during the month.

### 3549 PLANNING

**New: 12/P/1891/F** Castle View, Walton Bay. Demolition of garage and car port. Erection of two storey extension. Erection of car Port and Porch. *Adjusted version of 11/P/1354/F (18/07/11).* Discussed: no objections.

**Decision Due: 12/P/1128/ADV** Walton Bay Park Sign - delayed but expected by mid November. **12/P/1546/F** Sunnybank drive/garage. The plans revised to exclude a garage - now to be parking area.

**Granted: ON APPEAL - 12/P/0668/F** Restland garage.

### 3550 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES

**Moor Lane Subsidence:** Added to a hot fill list on a 28 day order. May take longer due to weather.

**Moor Lane Trees:** Still on the very long job list to be done. Delayed by urgent weather induced work.

**Cliff Path Stile below Brighton Cot:** New stile due.

**Cliff Path Trees:** Complaints reported to NSC's Ian Monger and Andy Carroll.

**Loose gully on B3124:** Added to a hot fill list on a 28 day order, but gully emptying taking precedence.

**The Brook:** See attached sheet. The complexities and insurance implications of a small parish maintaining a responsibility for "spring cleaning", litter-picking or Brook maintenance were researched by the Clerk: the meeting came to the view previously put forward, that, in the current litigious environment, it would not be practical operationally or financially for the Parish Council to take on such responsibilities.

### 3551 OTHER MATTERS

**The Parish Street Light:** New 24 month contract with SWALEC signed by Clerk and Chairman (part of prior contractors Scottish & Southern).

**Hinckley Pylons:** Map of proposed route discussed. National Grid meeting (Yatton) on November 13<sup>th</sup>; noted.

**2013 Meetings:** Agreed as: Jan 14<sup>th</sup> - Feb 11<sup>th</sup> - March 11<sup>th</sup> - April 8<sup>th</sup> - **May 13<sup>th</sup> AGM at 7pm, APM at 8pm** - June 10<sup>th</sup> - July 8<sup>th</sup> - **August no meeting** - Sept 9<sup>th</sup> - Oct 14<sup>th</sup> - Nov 11<sup>th</sup> - Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Clerk signed letter to Bob Baldwin, Hall Keeper, confirming bookings for 2013.

**Community Infrastructure Levy:** Clerk explained this new levy on building developers.

### 3552 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**Cllr Kent:** The verges of the B3142 through the parish are very wide; these days only the metre nearest the tarmac is cut back by NSC contractors. This results in wide bands of very high verge-side growth which restricts driver visibility through some bends in the road and also hampers farmers' ability to access their own hedges for maintenance. **Clerk to raise the problem with NSC.**

### 3553 FINANCE

**Accounts 2012-13:** Accounts to date circulated before the meeting, discussed and noted.

**2013-14 Budget:** A fete marquee donation request of £500 has been received. Members agreed to consider membership of CPRE and ALCA and to discuss at the December - pre-budget - meeting.

**Cheques: 642** A Hollingsworth re Information Sheet 3x£7 + 3x£8 April-Sept 2012 £45.00 **643** Village Hall £6.00

**The meeting closed at 8.30 pm**

## WALTON BROOK (THE BROOK)

*a summary*

As a result of work by residents the brook running beside Springhead Cottage (Miles Estate) and the open section outside Church Farm (NSC) have been cleared of vegetation. The Internal Drainage Board is quoting NSC - as contractor - for hand-clearance of the brook running beside Moor Lane. The overflow pipe through Rivendell's wall has been replaced by a lintel, allowing much more emergency flow to the road.

### RESPONSIBILITY FOR BROOK MAINTENANCE FROM THE WALTON DOWN TO WALTON BROOK COTTAGE:

The French drain under Walton Street from Walton down to the Golf Course	NSC
The Golf Course	The Golf Club
Rear of Taggart & Springhead	The Miles Estate
Beside Springhead to Walton Street	The Miles Estate
Springhead to Old Rectory Farm Culverts	NSC
Old Rectory Farm to Church Farm - open section beside Walton Street	NSC/Miles Estate(?)**
Church Farm to Moor Lane Junction with B3124 - culverts	NSC
Moor Lane Junction to Rivendell boundary	The Miles Estate
Rivendell	Occupants - always clear
Rivendell Moor Lane Boundary across Moor Lane - culvert	NSC
Opposite Rivendell to Drover's Brook - open section beside Moor Lane	NSC/Miles Estate(?)**
Rear of Drover's Brook to Walton Brook Cottage Done every Sept/Oct	Internal Drainage Board (IDB)

**\*\* Maintenance responsibility for these sections remains - after many years of dispute - uncertain.**

NSC say: "We are still trying to establish details of ownership on this section of the watercourse to determine who has responsibility for maintaining this section and whether it is something that will be done by NSC, IDB or riparian owners. Once this has been established a maintenance plan can be considered. However, if this is the responsibility of the Council it is unlikely that a twice-yearly maintenance plan will be applied in this area given the level of risk. It is more likely that a reactive maintenance schedule would be applied."

**It is the firm understanding of this Council that the long-agreed and repeated NSC assurances that they will maintain these two sections of brook remains in place - despite years of non-performance. Any dispute with others about responsibility is inferior to the responsibility of NSC to maintain the safety of the highway and of surrounding properties.**

### MAINTENANCE

#### Desirable:

1. Twice yearly inspection of this whole length of brook to check for detritus and vegetation build ups, and on its general condition, to ensure its adequacy as a drainage facility: and clearance, and jetting as needed.
2. Maintenance on a permanent basis, of the large grips put in as an emergency during the flooding.

**THE TWO FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE SIGNED MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**SPRING CLEANING / LITTER-PICKS**

*(advice from our insurers)*

If your Parish Council is considering a clean-up, consider the following:-

**PREPARATION**

- Once a clean-up date is fixed, do a **risk assessment** and keep a written copy of it on Parish Council files.
- **Protective Equipment**: ensure there are gloves, litter pickers, bags, **hi viz tabards** (for roads) and people are suitably clothed.
- First Aid: a **qualified first aider** should be present.
- **Emergency Contacts**: if mobile phones are being relied on then the reception should be checked.

**THE WORK**

- Clear instructions must be given as to what is being cleaned, where the work is being carried out and who is responsible.
- Rubbish: ensure that everyone is aware of where the rubbish should be left.
- If you are lighting a bonfire you must follow local authority guidelines and **contact the fire brigade**.

**YOUNG VOLUNTEERS**

- If parents or guardians bring children they should know that they are responsible for the and to keep a close watch on them.
- If schools or youth groups are involved then all supervisors must be **CRB checked**.

**RISK ASSESSMENTS**

**Performing a risk assessment?**

A risk assessment is nothing more than a careful examination of what, in your work, could cause harm to people, so that you can weigh up whether you have taken enough precautions or should do more to prevent harm. The aim is to make sure that no one gets hurt or becomes ill. **Accidents** and **ill health** can ruin lives - and affect your business too if output is lost, machinery is damaged, insurance costs increase, or you have to go to court. **You are legally required to assess the risks in your workplace.**

The important things to decide are whether a hazard is significant, and whether you have it covered by satisfactory precautions so that the risk is small. You need to check this when you assess the risks. For instance, electricity can kill, but the risk of it doing so in an office environment is remote - provided that 'live' components are insulated and metal casings properly earthed.

How to assess the risks in your workplace. Follow the five steps: Don't be overcomplicated. In most cases the hazards are few and simple. Checking them is common sense, but necessary. You probably already know whether, for example, you have machinery that could cause harm, or if there is an awkward entrance or stair where someone could be hurt. If so, check that you have taken what reasonable precautions you can to avoid injury. If you are a small firm and you are confident you understand what's involved, you can do the assessment yourself. If you are a larger firm, you could ask a responsible employee, safety representative or safety officer to help you. But remember, you are responsible for seeing that it is adequately done.

**Step 1: Look for the hazards**

If you are doing the assessment yourself, walk around your workplace and look afresh at what could reasonably be expected to cause harm. Ignore the trivial and concentrate on significant hazards which could result in serious harm or affect several people.

Ask your employees or their representatives what they think. They may have noticed things which are not immediately obvious.

Manufacturers' instructions can help spot hazards and put risks in perspective. So can accident and ill-health records.

**Step 2: Decide who might be harmed, and how - Don't forget:**

- Young workers, trainees, new and expectant mothers, etc., who may be at particular risk
- Cleaners, visitors, contractors, maintenance workers, etc. who may not be in the workplace all the time
- Members of the public, or fellow workers, if there is a chance that they could be hurt by your activities

**Step 3: Evaluate the risks**

Consider how likely it is that each hazard could cause harm. This will determine whether or not you need to do more to reduce the risk. Even after all precautions have been taken, some risk usually remains. What you have to decide for each significant hazard is whether this remaining risk is high, medium or low.

First, ask yourself whether you have done all the things that the law says you have got to do. For example, there are legal requirements on prevention of access to dangerous parts of machinery. Then ask yourself whether generally accepted industry

standards are in place. But don't stop there - think for yourself, because the law also says that you must do what is reasonably practicable to keep your workplace safe. Your real aim is to make all risks small by adding to your precautions as necessary.

If you find that something needs to be done, draw up an 'action list'. Give priority to any remaining risks which are high and/or those which could affect the most people.

In taking action, ask yourself:

- Can I get rid of the hazard altogether?
- If not, how can I control the risks so that harm is unlikely?

In controlling risks, apply the principles below - if possible in the following order:

- Try a less risky option
- Prevent access to the hazard (e.g., by guarding)
- Organise work to reduce exposure to the hazard
- Issue personal protective equipment
- Provide welfare facilities (e.g., washing facilities for removal of contamination, and a good first aid kit)

Improving health and safety need not cost a lot. For instance, placing a mirror on a dangerous blind corner to help prevent vehicle accidents, or putting some non-slip material on slippery steps, are inexpensive precautions considering the risks. And failure to take simple precautions can cost you a lot more if an accident does happen.

But what if the work you do tends to vary a lot, or you or your employees move from one site to another? In these cases, identify the hazards you can reasonably expect, and assess the risks from them. After that, if you spot any additional hazards when you get to a site, get information from others on site, and take what action seems necessary. But what if you share a workplace? If so, tell the other employers and self-employed people there about any risks your work could cause them, and what precautions you are taking. Also, think about the risks to your own work-force from those who share your workplace.

But what if you have already assessed some of the risks? If, for example, you use hazardous chemicals and you have already assessed the risks to health and the precautions you need to take under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH), you can consider them 'checked' and move on.

#### **Step 4: Record your findings**

If you have fewer than five employees you do not need to write anything down, though it is useful to keep a written record of what you have done. But if you employ five or more people you must record the significant findings of your assessment. This means writing down the significant hazards and conclusions. Examples might be 'Electrical installations: insulation and earthing checked and found sound'; or, 'Fumes from welding: local exhaust ventilation provided and regularly checked'. You must also tell your employees about your findings.

Risk assessments must be suitable and sufficient. You need to be able to show that:

- A proper check was made
- You asked who might be affected
- You dealt with all the obvious significant hazards, taking into account the number of people who could be involved
- The precautions are reasonable, and the remaining risk is low

Keep the written record for future reference or use; it can help you if an inspector asks what precautions you have taken, or if you become involved in any action for civil liability. It can also remind you to keep an eye on particular hazards and precautions. And it helps to show that you have done what the law requires.

To make things simpler, you can refer to other documents, such as manuals, the arrangements in your health and safety policy statement, company rules, manufacturers' instructions, your health and safety procedures and your arrangements for general fire safety. These may already list hazards and precautions. You don't need to repeat all that, and it is up to you whether you combine all the documents, or keep them separately.

#### **Step 5: Review your assessment and revise it if necessary**

Sooner or later you will bring in new machines, substances and procedures which could lead to new hazards. If there is any significant change, add to the assessment to take account of the new hazard. Don't amend your assessment for every trivial change, or still more, for each new job, but if a new job introduces significant new hazards of its own, you will want to consider them in their own right and do whatever you need to keep the risks down. In any case, it is good practice to review your assessment from time to time to make sure that the precautions are still working effectively.





# Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

**Clerk: Donald M Hill**

**18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG**

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting at The Village Hall - Monday 10th December 2012 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Ann Charlesworth, Richard Kent, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** Claire Leandro (NSC Liaison), PCSO Graham Roberts (to minute 2559), Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public:** Nigel Wyliman, Rivendell

**3554 APOLOGIES:**, Cllr Ashton (NSC)

**3555 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**3556 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

**3557 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

### 3558 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

**Police:** New PCC, Sue Mountstevens, appointed. Chief Constable resigns. Clapton has had a trailer stolen and lead from the roof of St Michaels. Weston-in-G had three bogus 'phone calls on the night of December 7th, one purporting to be police warning of a petrol attack on a home.

### 3559 PLANNING

**Decision Due:** 12/P/1891/F Castle View WB, extension. 12/P/1546/F Sunnybank drive/garage.

**Granted:** 12/P/1128/ADV Walton Bay Park Sign

### 3560 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES

**Reported Issues awaiting action:** Moor Lane Subsidence - Moor Lane Trees - New Stile below Brighton Cot - Loose gully on B3124 - Verge overgrowth on B3124 - Broken Cross Tree Finger Post.

**Broken Tarmac/Potholes:** Hill Cottage to Old Rectory House in Walton Street: **Clerk to report.**

**Broken Somerset Stone:** above Myrtle Cottage: **Clerk to report**

**Flooding Update:** More flooding occurred during the month, none resulting in reported water ingress but several close calls in Moor Lane and Walton Bay. At Walton Bay, Birch's dug out the three gullies on the highway at the head of his lane to ease the issue there - and will keep an eye on them in future. The culverts under the Somerset stones in Walton Street were unable to cope with the flow which went down the road from Springhead - some re-entering the brook at Church Farm but much of it crossing to flow down to the 30mph sign in Moor Lane (a septic tank becomes flooded when this happens, but action is being taken to minimise this risk).

The Chairman suspended the meeting so that an open discussion could take place. Members read an updating e-mail from Sara & Richard Talbot. It is apparent from this, from what has been already noted and from what Nigel Wyliman said, that residents are doing a lot by way of self-help to ease the threat posed by the lack of engineered provision to control water flow in the Moor Lane section of brook - which is barely coping under heavy rainfall and is silting up fast at points where flow is inhibited or diverted. Residents feel they should be compensated for expenses incurred in coping with increased flows caused by engineering work higher up the village and the lack of engineered management of it in Moor Lane as part of the drainage project. The previously suggested re-engineering of the field section to cross higher up Moor Lane (regard must be taken of the electricity sub-station) was felt to be the only

positive way forward and **the Clerk was instructed to raise the level of his communications with NSC from briefing to pressure for action.**

The substance of the open discussion and action was to be incorporated into the minutes and the meeting was resumed.

### **3561 OTHER MATTERS**

**Community Resilience Project:** Update on Emergency Disaster Planning at Minute 3495 (May 2012). Noted.

**Localism Act 2011:** Issues do arise, e.g. Dispensations re declarations of interest. Explained and Noted.

**NSC Private Sector House Condition Survey 2012:** Summary data reported, discussed and noted.

### **3562 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

**Cllr Morgan:** Part of Birch's not getting grey bags. **Clerk to report to Adam Wood.**

**Cllr Cannell:** Tree overgrowth in Moor Lane is worse, with branches falling into the highway. **Clerk to Press for action.**

### **3563 FINANCE**

**Accounts 2012-13:** Accounts circulated prior to the meeting and noted.

**2013-14 Budget:** A fete marquee donation request of £500 has been received. It was decided not to continue membership of CPRE, but to re-join ALCA, which the Clerk reported as becoming significantly more useful than it used to be. **Clerk to find out ALCA membership costs and prepare draft budget for January meeting.**

**Bank:** It is now possible to do dual authorisation of cheques via internet banking. Noted, but it was felt that the Council's level of use meant no action needed.

**2013-14 Precept:** Local/Central government are in a tussle over new precept funding mechanisms as they relate to homes in receipt of housing benefit. This may effect the precept measure expressed as "an average of band D properties" After the January budget, the precept application may be delayed until the issue is resolved. ALCA/NSC are keeping parishes briefed.

**Cheques:** **644** HMRC re PAYE Oct-Dec £78.00    **645** Village Hall re Hire £9.00

**The meeting closed at 8.50 pm**



# Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

**Clerk: Donald M Hill**

**18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG**

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting at The Village Hall - Monday 14th January 2013 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Richard Kent, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** Claire Leandro (NSC Liaison), Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public:** Kevin & Emma Edwards, Claire Flower, Nigel Wyliman

**3564 APOLOGIES:**, Cllr Charlesworth, Cllr Ashton (NSC), PC Clarke

**3565 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Kent in relation to Minute 3571 Gordano Valley Cycle Path as a tenant farmer on some of the proposed route.

**3566 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

**3567 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

### 3568 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

**Police:** Theft of a tractor battery from Church Farm.

### 3569 PLANNING

**Decision Due:** 12/P/1546/F Sunnybank drive/garage.

**Granted:** 12/P/1891/F Castle View WB, extension.

### 3570 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES

**Reported Issues awaiting action:** Moor Lane Subsidence - Moor Lane Trees - New Stile below Brighton Cot - Loose gully on B3124 - Verge overgrowth on B3124 - Broken Cross Tree Finger Post.

**Broken Tarmac/Potholes:** Hill Cottage to Old Rectory House in Walton Street: Reported.

**Broken Somerset Stone:** above Myrtle Cott. ordered. Clerk asked for temporary cover to be provided.

**Birch's Grey Bags:** NSC's Adam Wood dealt with this.

**Tree overgrowth/grips in Moor Lane:** Assured by Mike Brown - 13th Dec - that these will be dealt with.

**Flooding:** Council's intention to press for re-engineering of the field section to cross higher up Moor Lane (regard must be taken of the electricity sub-station) notified to NSC via e-mail to Mike Brown.

**Moor Lane:** Large pothole at foot of Harley Hill reported to NSC's Mike Brown by Clerk.

**Sunnyside/Parsonage Hayes Entrance:** tarmac has been washed away and chipping/movement of the new Somerset stones is evident and has been reported to Mike Brown.

### 3571 OTHER MATTERS

**Gordano Valley Cycle Path:** Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council, have germinated the idea of a foot/cycle path linking Clevedon School with Gordano School. They commissioned Sustrans' John Grimshaw to map a possible route (maps circulated to meeting and attendees). Details of this process were disseminated - not via members - within the Parish, prior its discussion at this meeting and led to considerable public alarm. The principal landowner - Miles Estate - signalled concern to the Clerk via e-mail before the meeting on behalf of the Estate and its tenant farmers, who say they would experience significant operational disruption were such a pathway to be put in place (those concerns were highlighted in a written reaction from the farmer at Church Farm - Cllr Kent, who declared an interest in this matter as above). Notwithstanding Cllr Kent's notified interest, the meeting felt it imperative to attach a copy of his written reaction as attaching specific examples to the general concern raised by the Miles Estate. The mapped route presented, traverses some very boggy ground that will, Cllr Cannell suspected, prove wholly impractical. A fear was expressed that this mapped route might be but a "Trojan Horse" presented as a prelude to re-presentation of the idea as following the bed of the old railway line. The firm bed provided by that line is well known to be the key practical working area for farmers of the surrounding very boggy fields. The matter of funding was raised, given other areas in which funding was being very tightly constricted. Cllr Cannell pointed out that there may well be European funding available for such a project and that, in any event, any pot of money to which funding application might be made is probably ring-fenced for such projects and not available for other uses. He also remembered that, as part of the original widening of the B3124, the extra-wide verges of the highway were provided specifically for such a possible future use. It was noted that both the Cliff Path and Nortons Wood Lane/Clevedon Lane already provided recognised leisure links between Portishead and Clevedon and perhaps priority attention should be given to improving those. The meeting agreed to communicate to Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council that the strength of concern expressed in Walton at the proposal was such that, as representing Walton,

they had to lend support to that concern. However, the spirit behind the idea was understood and it was noted that a proposal using the verges of the B3124 would be welcomed for more specific consideration. **Clerk to follow up.**

**Boundary Commission:** NSC Area stage 1 - Reduction of Cllrs from 61 to either 46 or 51. Consultation to 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013 - "Conclusion" March 2013. Stage 2 - Ward Review, 26 March-4 June 2013. Draft recommendations August 2013. Noted.

**NSC Core Strategy (Sites & Policies Plan to 2026):** Update and consultation schedule to hand. Noted.

### 3572 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

**Cllr Morgan:** The left hand verges of the Coast Road travelling from Walton Bay to the Village, particularly between Brighton Cottages and the start of Dullies Wood, are breaking up and significant verge-edge potholes are resulting that are proving difficult to avoid at busy times. **Clerk to report.**

**Cllr Kent:** Cross Tree Junction is still the site of mis-use by motorists. From Clevedon, they speed past the entrance to Crosstree Farm and enter Walton Street with no knowledge of what they might meet coming down. Coming down Walton Street, traffic still regularly enters the B3124 towards Clevedon on the wrong side of the Cross Tree - i.e. they pass the entrance to Crosstree farm travelling in the opposite direction to the speeding traffic afore-mentioned. "An accident is waiting to happen". Notwithstanding numerous attempts to tackle this problem over the years, it persists and becomes more dangerous as traffic volumes increase. **Cllr Kent proposed the combination of a stop sign for traffic entering Walton Street from the Clevedon direction, and deterrent markings/no-entry signage for traffic coming down Walton Street. Clerk to follow up with NSC.**

**Cllr Cannell:** Is concerned at the continued effective narrowing of Moor Lane due to delays in clearing highway mud and overgrowth. He also noted - not in the Parish - that a blocked gully opposite Black Rock Villas is causing a flooding hazard to Portishead-bound traffic. **Clerk to progress both issues.**

### 3573 FINANCE

**Accounts 2012-13:** Accounts circulated prior to meeting and noted.

**HMRC:** A £100 fine letter has finally emerged in relation to late reporting of the 2011-12 Annual Return. Clerk has lodged an appeal. June 2012 - minute 3511 refers.

**2013-14 Budget:** Discussion draft circulated prior to the meeting. Only adjustment being to increase the Clerk's salary (by £24).

ITEM		BUDGET (£)
Clerk		1584
Hall Hire		105
Public Light		50
Clerk's Expenses		315
Purchases		
Audit	25	
Insurance	290	
Subscriptions (ALCA)	55	
Donations	500	
Information Sheet	105	
Contingency	0	975
<b>TOTAL BUDGET for 2013-14</b>		<b>3029</b>

Allowing for a carry forward provision of £1500, the gross precept request will be for £2675. There will be a benefits adjustment grant of some £123 coming from NSC (yet to be finalised) and this will be deducted from the gross precept to arrive at the amount of precept actually applied for.

**Cheques:** 646 Village Hall re hire £9.00

**The meeting closed at 8.50 pm**

**Proposed Cycle Path**  
***Reasons why it is not possible***

1. The old railway line is used by myself as vehicular access route through two wet (peat bog) fields.
2. It is also used a hardstanding on which feeders are placed for cattle to be fed during the winter.
3. Significant lengths of the track are impassible on foot during winter and some parts can be several inches deep in manure at times.
4. Built upon the track is a cattle and sheep handling facility which is frequently used.
5. This facility is essential to livestock handling and management as it is not possible or desirable to return the livestock to the farm buildings on a regular basis. It is the central livestock collecting point for 200 acres of land.
6. Other parts of the track are used for storage of winter bedding (round bales of rushes) and for composting manure.
7. We have a herd of suckler cows on the farm which calve in March. The fields through which the line runs are where I always put the freshly calved cows.
8. Cows are very protective of their young. A walker, especially with a dog, or a cyclist, suddenly appearing might be perceived as a threat by a cow (Cows can kill !! see the news). I am mindful of this fact and for this reason I do not put them in the two fields on my farm through which there are Public Footpaths.
9. During the summer months a Bull is also present in the fields with the cows and calves.
10. The fields adjacent to the line on the north side are where pregnant ewes and ewes with young lambs are kept, these fields are a safe area as far as sheep worrying is concerned.
11. The presence of a public access path would cause additional worry and expense and difficulty of management. I have previously had instances of sheep worrying, sheep and cattle being startled by runners and charging in all all directions!
12. Any application for a foot/cycle path would almost certainly be followed by one for a bridal path, knowing the damage caused to land by horses especially in winter this is another reason for this path to be unacceptable.

I wish to state that I am definitely not anti public access to the countryside (where appropriate) and I think people should be encouraged to visit the countryside to appreciate the environment and to see where their food is produced. Whenever I meet walkers I am keen to educate them about farming and the countryside. Also, my family and I regularly use the existing local footpaths. If a path was put alongside the railway line it would be extremely expensive because of the topography of the land. It would destroy the historic railway embankments and cause the loss of a significant area of productive land.

**Richard Kent - Church Farm, Walton-in-Gordano.**  
**January 2013**



# Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

**Clerk: Donald M Hill**

**18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG**

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting at The Village Hall - Monday 11th February 2013 at 7.30 pm

*Next Minute 3584*

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Ann Charlesworth, Richard Kent, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** Don Hill (Clerk)

**3574 APOLOGIES:**, Cllr Ashton (NSC), PC Clarke, Claire Leandro (NSC Liaison)

**3575 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** none

**3576 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

**3577 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

### **3578 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT**

**Police:** No reported crime. The speed-gun caught a number of motorists. The usual patrols were made in the Parish. A men in white transits are trying to sell chainsaws and tools and have called in the village; this activity may, or may not be legitimate and any information will be welcomed.

### **3579 PLANNING**

**Granted: 12/P/1546/F** Sunnybank drive.

### **3580 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES**

**Reported Issues: Moor Lane** - Subsidence - Mud/Trees - Harley Hill pothole. **Cliff Path:** New Stile below Brighton Cot - **B3124:** Loose gully near sub station. Verge overgrowth. Cross Tree Finger Post. **Coast Road:** verge Brighton Cot to Dully's Wood. Potholes below Hill Cot. Somerset Stone above Myrtle Cot. (temporary cover in place).

**Brook at Rivendell:** re-engineering (Darren Gilbert handling). Initial response awaited.

**Cross Tree Junction:** Stop/no-entry signs (Liam Abercrombie). Minor works group to assess - requires written consent from the secretary of state or a traffic regulation order.

**Sunny bank Hedge:** This is the narrow section opposite Myrtle Cottage in Walton Street. A written compliant was received that it was scratching the writer's car as she came down Walton Street. Although one member has had similar experiences, the meeting consensus was that, provided the hedge does not overgrow the highway boundary (it currently does not), there should be no problem (several of the narrow sections are lined by stone walls where a degree of overgrowth is welcomed as a buffer). The subject section of road is particularly narrow, to the extent that two vehicles cannot pass through it. It is wide enough to accommodate a single vehicle and, once a driver is positioned to negotiate the section, it should be clear to oncoming traffic that they need to give way. Due diligence is the issue; drivers should be driving at a speed and with an attentiveness to ensure they are appropriately alert to the hazards of this narrow, congested and winding section of road - they are often not. It is known, via discussions at the time of the major Walton Street engineering works, that NSC tried to think of safe ways to encourage/enforce slower speeds along Walton Street and some work was done. It was accepted that, given the reluctance of many drivers to drive appropriately, the various natural impediments along the roadside at least contribute to drivers proceeding more attentively than they otherwise would. **Clerk to respond to the letter writer.**

### **3581 OTHER MATTERS**

**Gordano Valley Cycle Path:** The Clerk shared (then draft) minute 3571 with WeG PC. who are including its contents in their future thinking on the subject. They will respond to Cllr Cannell/Clerk in due course.

**Community Resilience North Somerset/Snow Wardens (CRNS)** (*e-mail to members Jan 26th refers*): CRNS is part of a long-term National Strategy where Communities and individuals harness local resources and expertise to help themselves in an emergency, complementing the response of emergency services via standardised and Integrated Emergency Management. The programme was trailed in Congresbury in 2012. 2 years of funding will come via Defra and NSC. The search for longer-term support is ongoing. There is also a Snow Wardens Scheme, which provides snow shovels, brooms, gloves and Hi Visibility tops. To firmly integrate CRNS into the wider resilience community, North Somerset must demonstrate a district wide network of volunteers under sound strategic management. A website will share resources, best practice and help recruit communities. NS Life will carry information; events will help communities develop the programme. Information will appear in the March Information Sheet.

**NSC Private Sector Housing Delivery Plan:** This follows from a stock condition survey completed last year. It identifies what needs to be done to action the private sector element of the NSC Housing Strategy 2010-2015. The plan is open for consultation via: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/PSHi> up to February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. Noted.

### **3582 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

**Cllr Morgan: Cliff Path Style:** there is evidence of horses on the Cliff Path. They could go over the edge, or they could be dangerous to walkers if alarmed. It is incumbent upon the tenant farmer (Geoff Nash, Nailsea Wall Farm) to ensure that his stock is secure; however, this probably cannot be satisfactorily achieved where a public right of way has to be in place. The new stile is the missing link. It is believed that stock security on this piece of land has a history of being inadequate and the **Clerk was asked to prod NSC to put pressure on the tenant to improve things. Clerk also to pursue erection of new stile.** **Gullies on Coast Road:** Clerk explained these are acknowledged as being not fit for purpose (*Minutes 3091 June 07: 3146 Feb 08: 3198 July 08 refer*). No specific flooding problems result from this: the 3 working gullies at the Birch/Two Acres entrance (draining to Walton Bay) are kept clear by Birches in the absence of NSC proving reliable.

**Cllr Charlesworth:** The Clerk wrote to the Miles Estate in March 2012 about rubbish in the rhyne opposite "Cassie's Gate" in Moor Lane (presumably the responsibility of Natural England). This was never removed, indeed, grew beyond the TV to include a rotary mower, plastic box and broken glass (a conspicuous danger to animals). It was this latter that prompted the Charlesworth's to extricate this rubbish from the rhyne, which the Clerk subsequently took to the tip. The meeting's anger against fly-tippers was palpable.

### **3583 FINANCE**

**Accounts 2012-13:** Accounts circulated prior to meeting. Noted.

**HMRC:** £100 fine - awaiting their response to 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal letter.

**Cheques:** 647 A Hollingsworth Information Sheet Oct12-Mar13 6x£8 £48.00 648 Village Hall hire £6.00

**The meeting closed at 8.15 pm**



# Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council

Walton-in-Gordano – Walton Down – Walton Bay

**Clerk: Donald M Hill**

**18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG**

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 E-mail: [donaldhill@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldhill@btinternet.com)

## Minutes of the Meeting at The Village Hall - Monday 11th March 2013 at 7.30 pm

*Next Minute 3594*

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Ann Charlesworth, Floss Morgan

**In Attendance:** Claire Leandro (NSC Liaison), Don Hill (Clerk)

**3584 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Ashton (NSC), PC Clarke, Cllr Kent

**3585 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** none

**3586 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** agreed, and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

**3587 MATTERS ARISING:** None.

### 3588 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

**Police:** Garage/shed thefts in Portbury prompted the Clerk to prepare an entry for the May Information Sheet - shared with PC Clark - warning people about home security as spring tempts them to open up and be outside.

### 3589 PLANNING

No new applications

### 3590 STREETS AND OPEN SPACES

**Reported Issues: Moor Lane** - Subsidence - Mud/Trees - Harley Hill pothole. **B3124:** Loose gully near sub station. Verge overgrowth. Cross Tree Finger Post. **Coast Road:** verge Brighton Cot to Dully's Wood. Potholes below Hill Cot. Somerset Stone above Myrtle Cot. (temporary cover in place).

**Cross Tree Junction:** Stop/no-entry. **Awaiting response from Liam Abercrombie.** **Cliff Path Stile:** date awaited.

### 3591 OTHER MATTERS

**Census - 2011:** Clerks' summary of WalG area data was discussed and noted with interest.

**W-s-M Museum:** Now run by Town Council, seeking local history inputs. Noted

**NSC Core Strategy (Sites & Policies Plan to 2026) / Draft NS Parking Standards for New Developments:** The proposed Gordano Valley Cycle Path appears on the map (via the timber railway route, not the WC&P) - but only to indicate an area where development cannot obstruct such proposal moving forward which, since it is in a no-development, green belt zone, will not signify. No other direct implications for the Parish. Maps studied and noted.

**NS Cycle Forum:** A membership organisation, driven by NSC, to increase the number cyclists, who can give their views about issues which affect them. More information at: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Transport/Travel/Cycling/cycleforum.htm>. This forum wrongly minuted WalGPC/Landowner involvement and concurrence with the mooted Portishead-Clevedon Cycle Path. These minutes also surprised WelG PC and have been challenged. Chairman and Clerk have been in touch with WelG PC and expect to meet with Cllrs there informally during the month. The Miles Estate have contacted the Chairman to register an objection to the cycle path proposal.

### 3592 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

**Cllr Morgan:** Asked if the Electoral Register is available to display. Clerk explained that he is legally unable to make it so. Proposed a brown tourist road sign directing people to the Shop/Tearoom, Church (to replace existing) and Farm Shop. It was thought that such a sign would have to be negotiated and paid for by the owners of those establishments, who would have to negotiate directly with NSC. The Church already has 2 signs, recently negotiated by, and with a donation from, this Council as a special - non-commercial - case. **Clerk to ask NSC for confirmatory advice.**

**Cllr Charlesworth:** Moor Lane Rubbish - the moving of unsightly rubbish from private land/rhynes onto the highway was raised. The Clerk suggested this was, technically, fly-tipping. If such rubbish is being moved it must be disposed of by those removing it or arrangements for its immediate collection by NSC contractors must be made - this latter is no longer as reliable an option as it has been over recent years.

**Cllr Cannell:** "Speeding Mums" driving children to riding lessons along Clevedon Lane/Norton's Wood Lane drive in a way they would not tolerate, if they connected the danger caused as being to their own children when riding horses on the road. Pubs have notices asking customers to leave quietly late at night - it was suggested that stables ask if they can bring influence to bear on their customers to drive more carefully in the vicinity of horse riding activities and along the approaching narrow rural lanes. **Clerk will write to stable owners, (copy to Clevedon TC, & PC Clark).**

### 3593 FINANCE

**Accounts 2012-13:** Accounts were circulated before the meeting and noted.

**HMRC:** £100 fine - awaiting their response to 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal letter, which was sent recorded delivery.

**Cheques:** 649 HMRC for PAYE Jan-Mar £78. 650 Village Hall hire £6.00

**The meeting closed at 8.20 pm**