

Minutes of the Meeting of The Council on Monday 11th April 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Rachel Dickinson, Dave Wherrett, Claire Flower (after Minute 023/22)

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

020/22 APOLOGIES - Cllr Daveran Baulch

021/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

022/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING (February 14th) were agreed and signed.

023/22 NEW COUNCILLOR

This application had been accepted for co-option as a Councillor in preparation for the cancelled March meeting, so was agreed to unanimously here. Cllr Cannell welcomed Claire as a Councillor, and the paperwork to formalise the appointment was completed.

024/22 GOVERNANCE

2022 ratification of approval of governance documentation and dispensations. The annual risk assessment was reviewed by the meeting and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

025/22 AUDIT

The Annual Governance Statement - Section 1 of the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-2022 was agreed and signed.

026/22 PLANNING (*Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered*)

Granted: 22/P/0004/TRCA St Pauls tree works. 22/P/0324/TRCA Manor House T1 Japonica - Fell

Appeal: 22/00009/AT02 Breezeland New house at rear.

027/22 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** 2nd chase to email sent to NSC on October 28th **sent on February 7th.**
- ii. **Plumtree-Common Footpath:** Tree felling has been completed. Residual works due by Avon Wildlife.
- iii. **Queen's Jubilee:** With no progress being made towards a beacon being allowed on the Common, the Jubilee organising group are pursuing the possibility that a beacon can be lit on the old WC&P railway-line bed - somewhat low-lying for a beacon, but nevertheless, a symbol of celebration and resolve!
- iv. **Walton Bay Crossing/pavement extension:** NSC responded to queries raised re traffic issues at Walton Bay. This response, which is attached as part of these minutes, was discussed. Members understood the responses were provided with the realisation that Highways budgets have been slashed and, therefore, there is no realistic prospect of works being tackled in the near future. The issue of improved junction signage was raised as part of the report and the **Clerk will pursue some updated costings on this with NSC.**
- v. **Coast Road hedge:** Cutback done. Clerk has cut out some additional elder and will monitor.
- vi. **Sandbanks sewage odours:** Under watching brief via Cllr Wherrett. It is acknowledged by the owners that the upgrading project they started last year has not yet been completed: it is hoped - but not promised - that it will be during this year.
- vii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** may be suffering from ash die-back. **NSC response chased Feb 7th.**
- viii. **Odours in Walton Brook:** NSC have a duty in cases of Statutory Nuisance. The pervasive smell being experienced in the village is affecting the rights of comfortable residence and is, therefore, a Statutory Nuisance. (EA are apparently more concerned with water quality, than

with smells). NSC have acknowledged this and provided contact links for residents to progress the problem, which the Clerk has passed on to them.

- ix. **Cliff Path Bridge at Two Acres:** Work completed.
- x. **Notice Boards:** Share of Village board with Church? On Annual Residents Meeting agenda.
- xi. **Speed Monitoring Cameras:** These are technologically far more advanced than our old ones and could prove an affordable way of effective detection. Apparently NSC lend out units to parishes and the **Clerk will contact them for more information.**
- xii. **Walton Brook open section in Walton Street:** Clearance of the base of the brook is an NSC responsibility, of which they will be reminded when the pollution issue has been resolved.
- xiii. **Bus Service 56 Clevedon – Walton Bay - Portishead:** NSC has suspended this service as a registered service due to a lack of viable patronage. It is operating as a free community shuttle bus service as an interim measure whilst a review of the supported services in Redcliffe Bay and Walton Bay is undertaken. NSC would like to extend a Portishead service to Walton Bay, but that will not be possible without a turning circle there, for the bus to return to Portishead. The NSC review of viable options is continuing.
- xiv. **Waste Collection at Seascapes:** Cllr Ashton is aware of complaints about collections from this site, which is very steep and is served by special vans, rather than by the standard waste collection vehicles. Apparently a concern is that separate collections are made for recycling and non-recycling waste rather than a single collection. A senior NSC officer has been in touch with the complainants and explained that, as with standard waste collections, the two categories of waste are handled differently and need to be kept separate. Only the category of waste a van is charged with collecting will be picked up, and any other category of waste will be left for collection by the collection team for that type of waste - usually in a different week. Special teams need to visit difficult-to-access sites, of which Seascapes is but one; so their work has to be coordinated with the activities of the standard collection programme for each type of waste. It is hoped that the perceived problem has now been explained, but if complaints remain unresolved they will be investigated.

028/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Wherrett - Public footpath signs through The Bay/Sandbanks were placed by the former owners of the site, to discourage people from straying onto private land. These signs disappeared when the new owners re-developed the site, and they need replacing. It was pointed out that the public footpath is mapped, and signed at either end of the private property over which it crosses. However, any signage that the owners or their residents feel to be needed on their land must be agreed between, and be erected by, them. Cllr Wherrett agreed to pursue the matter by contacting the site owners.

029/22 FINANCE

- i. **2021-22 Accounts & Audit:**
 - a) The 2021-22 year end accounts were approved before going to internal auditor.
 - b) The AGAR 2021-22 Part 2 External Audit Exemption form was agreed and signed.
 - c) The Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-2022 accounts summary, was agreed and signed.
 - d) The 2021-2022 Bank Reconciliation was agreed and signed.
- ii. **Online Banking:** Online banking application pending mandate update.
- iii. **Bank Mandate:** to be updated to include Councillors Baulch, Wherrett and Flower.
- iv. **Cheques ratified: 812 HMRC PAYE Jan/Feb/Mar £133.00 - to ratify. (Cancelled 313 & 814). 815 D Hill** re cash settlement of Village Hall account @ £81.00 plus website costs of £13.15 - Lloyds overpayment of March pay @ -£4.64 = **£89.51**
- v. **Cheques Authorised & signed: 816 ALCA £74.04. 817 Zurich Insurance £249.45**
- vi. **Clerk's Pay:** bank standing order variation to take account of pay increase was ratified.

030/22 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

The Parish Council - Monday May 9th 2022 **at 7pm** To include the Annual Meeting of the Council

The Annual Residents' Meeting - Monday May 9th 2022 **at 8pm**

The meeting closed at 8.37pm

Minutes of the Annual & Ordinary Meetings of The Council on Monday 9th May 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Rachel Dickinson, Dave Wherrett, Claire Flower

Not Present: Cllr Dav Baulch

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

031/22 APOLOGIES - none

ANNUAL MEETING

032/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

The Chairman deferred to the Clerk to conduct the process of electing a Council Chairperson for the 2022-23 year. Cllr Cannell said he would be prepared to continue in the role. No other Members put their names forward, but all agreed, without a formal vote, that Cllr Cannell should be appointed.

Cllr Cannell duly accepted the position of Chairman of the Council for the coming year.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Baulch would be happy to be a candidate for the position of Vice-Chair of the Council for the coming year and formally proposed him. The other Members said they would not be putting their names forward and, again unanimously, without a vote, came to the decision that

Cllr Baulch be appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of the Council for the coming year.

033/22 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The PCC: There has, traditionally, not been a representative appointment to the PPC.

ALCA: We have not been appointing a representative to ALCA, rather relying on the Clerk to keep close operational contact with them.

The Village Hall: Cllr Dickinson agreed to continue representing the Council on the Village Hall Committee of Management, but pointed out that as their meetings are currently held on Tuesdays, she would have to attend remotely.

NSC Standards Sub-Committee: Cllr Cannell agreed to continue to be available to this body on the 'as called' basis under which parish representation operates.

034/22 AGREEMENT TO RE-CONFIRM THE RECENTLY APPROVED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The Council reviewed its Governance documentation earlier in the year and agreed it electronically in March as the March meeting had to be cancelled due to illness. That electronic agreement was ratified at the Council's April 11th meeting under minute 024/22 and was unanimously re-confirmed by Members here as providing the approved governance framework for the coming year.

035/22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman distributed copies of his report, which is attached to form a part of these minutes. The Report was formally read out at the immediately following Annual Residents' Meeting.

ORDINARY MEETING

036/22 DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters

037/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Flower in relation to the proposed new street light location at minute 40/22i below.

038/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on April 11th 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting, and signed.

039/22 PLANNING *(Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

New: 22/P/1059/LBC The Manor House replacement windows - 2nd phase. **No objections**
Appeal Dismissed: 22/00009/AT02 Breezeland New house at rear.

040/22 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** Positioning of a new light is proving problematical:
 - a. It has to be away from the walls of the listed barn so that the barn can be maintained properly.
 - b. A new light cannot be moved too far forward of the present one because it will be too close to Walton Brook.
 - c. It cannot be placed on the pavement of the B3124 because it is too narrow.
 - d. In all probability it cannot be affixed the the B3124 facing wall of the barn as it is a listed building.

A new - and potentially better - position has been proposed, on the Home Farm side of the B3124. **Clerk to arrange a site meeting with NSC, to include Cllr Flower.**

- ii. **Walton Bay Signage:** Updated costing re village entry signs awaited.
- iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC have inspected this tree for ash dieback and will check it again once it is in full leaf. Thereafter it will be monitored.
- iv. **Odours in Walton Brook:** There is no further information as to whether this issue has been resolved, or remains ongoing.
- v. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** Under watching brief via Cllr Wherrett.
- vi. **Notice Boards:** Share of Village board with Church? This is on the Annual Residents Meeting agenda and **an update will follow for the June meeting of this council.**
- vii. **Speed Cameras:** A response from NSC, re periodic use of a camera they have, is awaited. **Cllr Ashton undertook to follow this up.**
- viii. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** NSC will be asked to clear when pollution issue resolved and, therefore, the pollution warning sign can be removed.
- ix. **Bus Service 56 Clevedon – Walton Bay - Portishead:** The NSC options review is continuing. The topic is an item on the following Annual Residents' Meeting agenda, which will result in **an update to the agenda for this council's June meeting.**

041/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Wherrett

Public Footpath through The Bay & Sandbanks: The April Minute 028/22, whilst being accurate as a report of the meeting, was not accurate as a matter of fact, because Parish Councils *can* involve themselves in waymarking matters relating to public rights of way, whereas the minute reads that 'any signage that the owners or their residents feel to be needed on their land must be agreed between, and be erected by, them'.... ie: it is a matter between landlord and tenants.

This had been a topic of email discussion with the Clerk this afternoon, and the Clerk obtained a copy of Natural England's brochure 'Waymarking Public Rights of Way', which defines waymarking in its introduction thus:

The term waymarking means marking objects along a public right of way. It complements signposting, which shows where a right of way leaves the metalled road and indicates its initial direction.

Waymarking enables users to follow a path accurately and confidently at points where they might otherwise have difficulty.

Waymarking benefits not only users of rights of way but also farmers and landowners. It increases users' enjoyment of the countryside and prevents unintentional trespass.

Carrying out waymarking is a simple and very practical way in which a parish council, local group or individual landowner or occupier can help to look after the rights of way in their area. This booklet explains how to go about it.

It goes on to say (in relation to NSC in our case):

A highway authority is responsible for the rights of way in its area. Its duties include erecting and maintaining signposts wherever a footpath, bridleway or byway leaves a surfaced road, and waymarking those rights of way where, in the authority's opinion, it is necessary to help anyone unfamiliar with the locality to follow the route.

Any person or group wanting to see sections of a public right of way waymarked, must contact the landowner and NSC Highways: they can also approach the council of the parish through which the relevant section of pathway runs, for their support. The Parish Council is also able to promote waymarking itself.

It is evident from the information in Natural England's brochure, that, contrary to the April minute referred to at the first paragraph of this minute, this Council *could* have involved it self in getting the waymarkers replaced. The discussion surrounding the April minute 028/22 was based on precedent, and our experience of the many landlord/tenant issues that can arise, rather than on a detailed knowledge of waymarking.

The reality is that Cllr Wherrett, not without experiencing difficulties, got the site owners and NSC together on site, where NSC provided replacement waymarkers to the owners for their use in marking out the footpath route along its roadway system. A job quickly and efficiently done, against a learning curve for everyone involved, for which the meeting thanked Cllr Wherrett.

Cllr Cannell

Truespeed: Cllr Dickinson had emailed members with a report she had received that Truespeed was not now going to provide a service in the the parish because Open Reach were going to install fibre-to-the-property broadband. Cllr Cannell checked this information against the BT website and could find no evidence of an Open Reach intention to provide us with FTTP. **Cllr Ashton undertook to consult with contacts at Truespeed to get confirmation of the actual position.**

042/22 FINANCE

- i. 2022-23 Accounts to date:** These were reviewed and noted. The Clerk reported that they have now been reconciled with the latest bank statement, which arrived today.
- ii. Online Banking:** Online banking application pending mandate update.
- iii. Bank Mandate:** to be updated to include Councillors Baulch, Wherrett and Flower.
- iv. Cheques: 818** Phillip J Smith 2021-22 Audit Fee £45.00. Approved for payment.

043/22 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

June 13th 2022 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

Chairman's Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council on Monday 9th May 2022

Well the last two years have certainly been times of great change and challenge for all of us. Firstly and probably most importantly, we acknowledge the historical Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign that the country will be celebrating in June. As a village we will be joining in with our own celebrations, which are being energetically prepared by Emma Edwards, Sue Betts, Sarah Chouglay.

As we continue to come out of the restrictions forced on us by the rapid global pandemic of Covid we look back over two years of unprecedented change and situations for the Parish Council. After over 14 years as Council Chair I felt I should stand down, and Mike Ralston, then Vice-Chair, agreed to take over as chair of Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council in May 2019. None of us would have imagined the challenges that he was taking on. Starting in March 2020 we had to conduct Parish Council meetings via remote video conference calls due to the pandemic. For several Councillors this meant upgrading their broadband systems via the adoption of mobile broadband to ensure workable reception for remote meetings to be possible. This was closely followed by repeated complaints to the Parish Council from an individual from outside the parish that resulted in the whole council being reported to North Somerset Standards sub-committee. No case was found to answer after their investigation but that didn't stop the vexatious behaviour that had to be dealt with.

We were very grateful to Dav Baulch and Dave Wherrett for stepping up and volunteering to join the Parish Council in October 2021. We'd only just settled down when Mike Ralston announced that he was resigning both as Chairman and Parish Councillor due to changing personal situations. I found myself once again as Chair – I think the first time in living memory that a Chair has come back for a second try at the post! Mike's resignation allowed us to offer a councillor place to Claire Flower who, with the Council's support, I had been lobbying for years to join the Council. Thank you, Claire, for stepping into the breach. At last, we have some more young blood in the Council that will, I'm hopeful, grow and help develop the Parish Council for the next generation of Parishioners.

I would like to record at this point huge thanks to Mike Ralston for his contributions to the Parish through the Council during his six years as a Councillor, and my personal thanks for the way that he guided the Council before and during his time as Chair when we faced challenges as never before. It was largely due to Mike's endeavours that we are privileged to have the services and varied experiences of Dav and David.

As of May 9th, Walton-in-Gordano Parish Councillors are Mr Brian Cannell, Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dav Baulch, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower.

After discussions, Councillor Brian Cannell was elected as Chairman at the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Councillor Dav Baulch was elected as Vice Chair.

Councillor Dickinson will continue to represent the PC on the Village Hall management committee. and I will continue as representative on NSC Standards Sub committee.

North Somerset Council was represented at the Parish Council meetings by Councillor Nigel Ashton, our Ward councillor with North Somerset Council. He has been a regular attendee and greatly valued advisor at Parish Council meetings throughout the year.

Whilst police budgets have not supported their regular attendance at meetings, we continue to work with the Portishead team of what is now called the Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea Neighbourhood Policing group. We have been working closely with Sergeant Marc Stephens on several issues during the year. Fortunately, during this last year, there have been only a few instances of reported crime in the parish. Neighbourhood watch schemes continue to operate in various parts of the Parish.

Due to Covid restrictions and general slow-down, the applications for necessary tree work overtook new building planning applications, if you discount those that were withdrawn.

Broadband Internet speed continues to be a problem for much of the parish. We don't appear to be significantly closer to getting fibre broadband in The Village and Walton Down than we were the last time I wrote a Chairman's report back in 2019. Hopeful noises are still being made by potential suppliers but not backed up with any tangible timetabled promises. Rest assured as soon as the Council have any new information, we will let you know the details.

Community Speedwatch is being enthusiastically led by John Jackson, who is heading a group of volunteers running the activity in the Parish. The statistics from the sessions make interesting reading every month in the Cross Tree Chronicle. If you would like to be involved please contact John.

There have been some instances of sewerage odours both on the coast below some of the Park home sites and also in the lower reaches of Walton Brook as it flows through the village. Both of these issues are being dealt with by the relevant authorities and the Parish Council is maintaining a watching brief on them. We are hopeful that resolution efforts by various parties will eliminate the problems.

As to finance, the Budget for 2022/23 was set during the January 2022 Parish Council meeting at £4583. After including provisions for future capital expenditure (£1000) the amount of the precept from North Somerset was £5583.

We continue to be in the cheapest 1/3 of all parishes in North Somerset by precept.

I would like to thank those who have shown an interest in the Parish and its Council over the last year and encourage those who have yet to do so.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors: Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dav Baulch, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower - not forgetting the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Don Hill - for their hard work and support over the last year. Thanks are also due to Bob and Val Baldwin who, despite their retirement, continue to look after the Village notice board for us.

MINUTES OF THE 2022 WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 9th MAY AT 8.00 pm

Present: Brian Cannell (Chair), Don Hill (Minute Taker), and 7 other residents

ARM22/01 Apologies: Sue Betts, James Barzotelli

ARM22/02 Matters arising from minutes of last year's meeting: *Circulated to and approved by attendees in June 2021 and appended as a part of these minutes.*

ARM22/03 Reports from Interest Groups: were received from the Parish Council, The Social Club, The Parish Church, The Jubilee Committee, North Somerset Council; as appended to these minutes.

ARM22/04 The Walton Bay Bus Service: At last year's ARM there was a call for this service to run to Portishead rather than to Clevedon. NSC want to do this, but need a bus turning point on the Coast Road for it to be possible. The service is being envisaged as an extension of an existing Portishead route, so the size of bus is fixed by that. Ideas emerged about the size of bus, where it would be able to turn, if it needed to turn or could be part of a circular route etc. One thing was understood: the service has historically only been used by a few people... but for them it has been a lifeline. Current NSC philosophy is to encourage people out of their cars and on to public transport: that will only be possible if that transport is available on a regular and reliable basis. Because the service has been altered at each new contract season and has not tended to offer enough useful time at a chosen destination, Walton Bay residents have been forced to seek alternative - less motor-use-efficient - means of travel, such as lifts with friends, taxis etc. From an investment point of view NSC must grasp this nettle if they are to succeed in getting people out of alternative transport and onto buses. This means they must fund a service that is regular and reliable - probably for a *long* time - before people will learn to trust that it will be there for them when they want it, be affordable, give them enough time at their destination, and not be chopped and changed every April. An interesting idea was the pool-purchase of a mini-bus that could be routed through subscribing 'Gordano' locations in the Portishead/Clevedon/Nailsea triangle. That logically links to the idea of charity bus services, that do tend to be reliable and to provide enough time at the destinations they serve. It was suggested that more information from potential users could be gleaned via pieces in the Cross Tree Chronicle and by involving the specialist knowledge of our Village Agent. **This is something that could be followed up by the Parish Council.**

ARM22/05 Noticeboards in the parish: As they become due for replacement they will cost in the region of £1200 each (yes, an unbelievable sum!) - do parishioners rely on them for information? There was a long discussion about who actually does - of our resident population - use them. In the days before the internet, posters and information for noticeboards would be a significant element of a parish post bag: not any more. These days, every parish has by law to have access to a website for information dissemination. In our particular case we have a long history of keeping in touch with every household in our parish - originally via the parish council run monthly 'Information Sheet' and more recently via the Social Club funded 'Cross Tree Chronicle', with its truly amazing team of publishing, production and delivery volunteers ensuring interesting and relevant information-access to all our residents. In the end, this wide-ranging review concluded that funds that would be used to replace the noticeboards

would be more usefully applied to other things, such as improved signage, village gates, traffic management schemes, community wellbeing, increasing effectiveness of our Chronicle etc. Ergo, the existing noticeboards will remain in place for the remainder of their useful lives but not be replaced. The possibility of sharing noticeboards with the church (and the social club?) was not ruled out. **The parish council will be notified if this discussion and its conclusions as it seeks a way forward.**

ARM22/06 Dog Waste Bins: Bins in the parish have been proposed. Other parishes have experienced long term and expensive management issues which we will have to budget for if they are to be a success. The minuted history of Clapton-in-Gordano was supplied (attached as part of these minutes) as a realistic scenario that will open up to us if we install bins. The obvious locations for bins are on Walton Street, in the area of the Church and at the golf club lay-by. The cost of installing and maintaining two bins would be a significant element of the present annual precept. It was suggested that persuasive notices such as 'please take your dog waste home' might be a more affordable way of stirring the consciences of the willing more effectively than 'keep off the grass' style notices. The meeting concurred and **the idea will be passed to the Parish Council to be progressed.**

ARM22/07 Open Discussion:

- i. Village Hall Car Park:** It was reported that the possibility of a car park is on the table again after planning issues stalled it some years ago. A car park is becoming an increasingly vital asset for the hall and its committee is working closely with the land managers to progress its establishment.
- ii. Cross Tree Farm Exit to B3214:** The turning right towards Clevedon is particularly hazardous. Turning left and then right to join the Walton Street exit onto the B3124 is equally hazardous, as it is not easily executed in a single continuous manoeuvre and is subject to the same hazard of fast approaching traffic making the turn into Walton Street. The white paint installed to move traffic out from the entrance works for the many, but is totally ignored by the significant few, who still slew round into Walton Street before analysing what they will meet there. A strictly engineered 'stop' for traffic moving from the Clevedon direction on the B3124 to Walton Street is still the pressed-for option. It was suggested that a 20mph speed limit along the B3124 as it passes through the Village would be a significant deterrent to the hugely excessive speeds that tend to cause the subject problem. **The meeting agreed that the parish council would be the most appropriate vehicle for carrying this issue forward with NSC.**
- iii. Footpath from Manor Drive to Golf Course:** this has become overgrown, with regular cut-backs conspicuously absent. **Don Hill undertook, in his role as Parish Clerk, to follow up this issue to solution with NSC.**
- iv. Golf Course Fence:** NSC have acknowledged their responsibility to maintain this, but nothing seems to be happening. Again, **Don Hill undertook to chase NSC for a progress report.**
- v. Gordano Greenway:** this seems to have stalled. Cllr Ashton voiced some of the real issues - cost, multiple and disparate ownership of the route, light pollution, child safety on isolated sections - that are tending to kick the project into the long grass.. at least for the time being.

The Chairman's call for other discussion items being un-responded to, he thanked everyone for attending and being so involved, and declared **the meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm.**

MINUTES OF WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021

Present: Mike Ralston (Chair), Don Hill (Minute Taker), and 5 other residents

ARM21/01 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received

ARM21/02 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MAY 13TH 2019

These were circulated to attendees and approved in June 2019 and were therefore not a formal agenda item for this meeting. There was no meeting held in May 2020 due to Covid-19.

ARM21/03 REPORTS TO THE MEETING

Due to the restrictive circumstances prevailing during the past year there were no reports from local organisations called for this meeting, which of regulatory necessity, had to be held via Zoom.

ARM21/04 DISCUSSION

Resident Involvement in the Parish Council:

Walton-in-Gordano has long been a socially vibrant parish, with a wide range of active interest groups that have been able to keep a monthly newsletter functioning over many years. There was an eloquently developed proposal that the Parish Council could do much to involve the community in *its* affairs by developing a strategic vision of where it wants to go and how it plans to get there. Many larger parishes are developing Neighbourhood Plans that are probably beyond the scope of very small parishes such as ours. However, a community consists of landowners and of residents, who will all have a sense of why they are part of the parish and how they would like to see it progress. Hopefully the Parish Council will be expanding its number of Councillors to its maximum of five over the coming months and this will provide much needed people-power for the development of some of these ideas.

The 56 Bus Service from Clevedon to Walton Bay:

There is apparently disappointment at Walton Bay that the new 56 bus service runs to Clevedon rather than to Portishead. The meeting asked that the Parish Council be asked to find out, more widely, the views of Walton Bay residents and to see what further plans North Somerset Council have - or might be persuaded to - to service the needs of this isolated population. **Don Hill noted this for action, in his role as Parish Clerk.**

The Parish Street Light at Moor Lane:

5 residents responded to the Cross Tree Chronicle piece about the light, which was phrased in a way calculated to draw responses. All respondents were strongly in favour of the light being replaced by a new light rather than it not being replaced. The Parish Council report that the necessary budget provision will be made in January 2022, so there is plenty more time for people to respond with their thoughts.

Fibre Broadband:

Truespeed is still the only company currently planning to offer a service through the Gordano Valley. They report, however, that it will be another 10 months before the service can be in operation. There is a new service from Starlink.com, currently in Beta form. This has the potential to be a significant improvement on currently available satellite broadband systems but is expensive to install (some £500).

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

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

REPORTS TO THE WALTON-IN-GORDANO 2022 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING

Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council Chairman's report May 2022 - Cllr Brian Cannell

Well the last two years have certainly been times of great change and challenge for all of us. Firstly and probably most importantly, we acknowledge the historical Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign that the country will be celebrating in June. As a village we will be joining in with our own celebrations, which are being energetically prepared by Emma Edwards, Sue Betts, Sarah Chouglay.

As we continue to come out of the restrictions forced on us by the rapid global pandemic of Covid we look back over two years of unprecedented change and situations for the Parish Council. After over 14 years as Council Chair I felt I should stand down, and Mike Ralston, then Vice-Chair, agreed to take over as chair of Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council in May 2019. None of us would have imagined the challenges that he was taking on. Starting in March 2020 we had to conduct Parish Council meetings via remote video conference calls due to the pandemic. For several Councillors this meant upgrading their broadband systems via the adoption of mobile broadband to ensure workable reception for remote meetings to be possible. This was closely followed by repeated complaints to the Parish Council from an individual from outside the parish that resulted in the whole council being reported to North Somerset Standards sub-committee. No case was found to answer after their investigation but that didn't stop the vexatious behaviour that had to be dealt with.

We were very grateful to Dav Baulch and Dave Wherrett for stepping up and volunteering to join the Parish Council in October 2021. We'd only just settled down when Mike Ralston announced that he was resigning both as Chairman and Parish Councillor due to changing personal situations. I found myself once again as Chair – I think the first time in living memory that a Chair has come back for a second try at the post! Mike's resignation allowed us to offer a councillor place to Claire Flower who, with the Council's support, I had been lobbying for years to join the Council. Thank you, Claire, for stepping into the breach. At last, we have some more young blood in the Council that will, I'm hopeful, grow and help develop the Parish Council for the next generation of Parishioners. I would like to record at this point huge thanks to Mike Ralston for his contributions to the Parish through the Council during his six years as a Councillor, and my personal thanks for the way that he guided the Council before and during his time as Chair when we faced challenges as never before. It was largely due to Mike's endeavours that we are privileged to have the services and varied experiences of Dav and David.

As of May 9th, Walton-in-Gordano Parish Councillors are Mr Brian Cannell, Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dav Baulch, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower. After discussions, Councillor Brian Cannell was elected as Chairman at the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Councillor Dav Baulch was elected as Vice Chair. Councillor Dickinson will continue to represent the PC on the Village Hall management committee, and I will continue as representative on NSC Standards Sub committee. North Somerset Council was represented at the Parish Council meetings by Councillor Nigel Ashton, our Ward councillor with North Somerset Council. He has been a regular attendee and greatly valued advisor at Parish Council meetings throughout the year.

Whilst police budgets have not supported their regular attendance at meetings, we continue to work with the Portishead team of what is now called the Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea Neighbourhood Policing group. We have been working closely with Sergeant Marc Stephens on several issues during the year. Fortunately, during this last year, there have been only a few instances of reported crime in the parish. Neighbourhood watch schemes continue to operate in various parts of the Parish.

Due to Covid restrictions and general slow-down, the applications for necessary tree work overtook new building planning applications, if you discount those that were withdrawn.

Broadband Internet speed continues to be a problem with much of the parish. We don't appear to be significantly closer to getting fibre broadband in The Village and Walton Down than we were the last time I wrote a Chairman's report back in 2019. Hopeful noises are still being made by potential suppliers but not backed up with any tangible timetabled promises. Rest assured as soon as the Council have any new information, we will let you know the details. We have just heard, via a third party, that Truespeed will not be providing a service to the parish, as Open Reach are planning to do so; although there is no evidence on their website that they plan to. **Cllr Ashton - already a Truespeed customer, has offered to follow up the veracity of this report via contacts at Truespeed.**

Community SpeedWatch is being enthusiastically led by John Jackson, who is heading a group of volunteers running the activity in the Parish. The statistics from the sessions make interesting reading every month in the Cross Tree Chronicle. If you would like to be involved please contact John.

There have been some instances of sewerage odours both on the coast below some of the Park home sites and also in the lower reaches of Walton Brook as it flows through the village. Both of these issues are being dealt with by the relevant authorities and the Parish Council is maintaining a 'watching brief' on them. We are hopeful that resolution efforts by various parties will eliminate the problems.

As to finance, the Budget for 2022/23 was set during the January 2022 Parish Council meeting at £4583. After including provisions for future capital expenditure (£1000) the amount of the precept from North Somerset was £5583. We continue to be in the cheapest 1/3 of all parishes in North Somerset by precept.

I would like to thank those who have shown an interest in the Parish and its Council over the last year and encourage those who have yet to do so. Finally, on behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors: Mrs Rachel Dickinson, Mr Dav Baulch, Mr Dave Wherrett and Ms Claire Flower - not forgetting the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Don Hill - for their hard work and support over the last year. Thanks are also due to Bob and Val Baldwin who, despite their retirement, continue to look after the Village noticeboard for us.

Social Club - Barbara Wilyman

The Social Club are an active committee, currently comprised of 12 members. We hold regular meeting (mostly monthly), our aim being to promote and sustain a parish community. We have a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, together with the necessary bank accounts. We keep written minutes of our meetings in order to provide a security trail of income and expenditure and of decisions made.

Fund raising activity and social interaction were severely curtailed during the pandemic. In September 2021 we held a Boules Evening in the village hall, which was a great success; it was attended by approximately 40 people. In December 2021 we organised a Christmas Quiz, again in the village hall, which was great fun, was very successful and was attended by some 50 people. In February 2022 there was a Wassail Evening - again enjoyed by some 30 people.

I am happy to announce the return of our Village Fete on July 9th 2022. We have decided not to hire a marquee, but instead, to invest in good quality gazebos which will provide a future recourse for villagers. The committee work hard to produce this event, but are supported by so many villagers from both the Village and Walton Bay, whose help and generosity bring the community together and underpins our stated aim of promoting social activity.

An allocation of flowers from North Somerset are received each May/June. This year the theme is a Jubilee theme with red, white and blue petunias. The committee plant them out and maintain them through the summer months. The 2 additional large tubs are maintained by us, as are the planting by Walton Bay and around the Cross Tree. NSC must have a surfeit of the large wooden 'tubs' used for marshalling traffic and people during the pandemic, and it would be great if we could locate some of these for our village. **Cllr Ashton kindly undertook to investigate possibilities.**

Volunteers in the village The Parish Council, The Village Hall, The Church, The Social Club, SpeedWatch, Litter picking, as well as the clear-up team for the Common. For such a small community, this commitment to volunteering is really quite remarkable and deserving of a big vote of thanks.

Church report - Sue Betts

Of course our church life has been greatly effected by the pandemic. One of the things we did when we couldn't go to church was to take a little bit of St Paul's out, starting with our Flower Festival at Home in 2020. We delivered a cream tea and a lovely flower arrangement to your door. We followed this success with Christmas at Home and Easter at Home.

As soon as were able to, we returned to church. To keep everyone safe we picked everything up we needed, including our music system, and headed outside weather permitted. Sitting outside in the beautiful Gordano countryside really added to our worship and surprised many walkers and runners. It was so good out in the sunshine with swallows and dragonflies flying about us and even though we can use the church as normal now, we are heading outside again this year.

Obviously we have been hit financially; we have just about enough thanks to the generous support of the parish and beyond. With our small but powerful church family we pray we can carry on providing a place of peace and fellowship in our parish.

Jubilee Committee - Sue Betts

Tickets are now available for our four day celebration from Emma Edwards, Sarah Chouglay and Sue Betts. The timetable for the long weekend is as follows:

Thursday 2nd June: Lighting the Jubilee Beacon on the old railway track, Moor Lane at 8.30pm, by Brodie Lyon

Friday 3rd Jubilee Parish Concert with Portishead Lifeboat sea shanty group and villagers showing off their talents at 7.30pm in the church.

Saturday 4th Jubilee Parish Party Music and games for all 7pm in the hall.

Sunday 5th Jubilee Parish Lunch with group photo at 12 midday followed by celebration service at 3pm with Planting a Tree for the Jubilee.

There is no charge for the tickets just let us know if you would like to come along. More details in the Chronicle.

Let's get together again!

North Somerset Council - Cllr Nigel Ashton

Cllr Ashton did not present a traditional 'report' on NSC activities during the year. As usual, the political arena within which strategic goals are argued over and developed by Councillors receives wide press coverage. What Ward Councillors find themselves doing within their wards is confronting the operational results that flow from the NSC strategic deliberations.

Whilst it may be necessary to set a policy context - NSC councillors do, after all, operate in a political environment, the ward query doesn't tend to be 'what is the best way to run a waste service?' but rather 'why do I have a problem getting my bins emptied regularly?... what can you do to fix it for me?'

In that apolitical vein, Cllr Ashton said he was approached within his ward on a wide range of topics, including for example, Road Maintenance - Access to NSC Staff - Housebuilding Targets - Protecting the Greenbelt - Waste Services. He invited residents, at any time, to contact him if they feel they have a problem, and he will do his utmost to help in getting it resolved.

Clapton-in-Gordano Minutes re Dog Bins

Dog bin would be useful somewhere near the path up to the Common. Lots of bags left there. Some may be collected later but a lot aren't. I did overhear a child explaining to her grandmother that "mummy leaves pooh bags by the car when there isn't a bin!". Tom Chown

Clapton Experience

Jan 2019

Dog Waste Bins [Minute 6(g)]: Councillors consider that it would be a proper service to the village for the parish council to provide dog waste bins, to avoid bags and dog mess being left on trees and verges. They agreed to purchase three bins, at an approximate cost of £500, funded from the 2018/19 year-end surplus [see Minute 5(b)]. It is hoped that the surplus will also cover any installation costs, although considered it should be possible to minimise these by undertaking the work ourselves.

The Clerk has obtained quotes from two contractors for weekly emptying and disinfecting of three bins (located at Tynings Wood, and either end of the track between Cadbury Camp Lane and Wood Lane). NSC is unable to take on any additional bin servicing; a third contractor who was to have been approached has recently been dropped by other parish councils due to paucity of service. The need for weekly servicing, at least in the colder months, was not evident: this might be unnecessarily frequent. The Chair will liaise with the contractors about this, and whether any moderation of costs might be possible, bringing a proposal for appointment to the next meeting. ACTION: Chair

March 2019

(c) Dog Waste Bins: As reported at the last meeting, two quotes for dog waste bins servicing are being considered. When setting the 2019/20 budget, £1k provision was made for this contract, which necessitated raising the precept. As it is now proposed to install fewer bins than originally intended [see Minute 7(f)], the total costs may be significantly lower than budgeted. Councillors agreed that any year-end surplus should be carried-forward and set against servicing costs for 2020/21.

The Chair has liaised with the preferred contractor, whose advice is that these bins must be emptied and cleaned weekly; however, a reduction in cost was agreed, and there will be further liaison to establish the charge for servicing fewer bins. ACTION: BG

The parish council agreed to award the contract to K&E Property Maintenance, provided that the total cost falls within the budgetary provision.

May 2019

Dog Waste Bins [Minute 7(f)]: Councillor George advised that Mr Kevin Weekes is able to supply and install a dog waste bin for £150, and then to service this for a weekly fee of £10. As agreed at the last meeting, the bin will be located on the north-side of Cadbury Camp Lane, where the track from the end of Wood Lane emerges. Councillor George will liaise with Mr Pat Wood [of the Cadbury Camp Lane residents group] and Mr Weekes to agree the exact location and installation arrangements. ACTION: BG

Sept 2019

(e) Dog Waste Bin [Minute 7(e)]: Mr Kevin Weekes installed a dog mess bin on Cadbury Camp Lane at the end of July 2019, and has been servicing it weekly since then. Feedback will be sought from Mr Weekes and Mr Pat Wood [of the Cadbury Camp Lane Residents Group] about how much the bin is used, and whether it has addressed the problem.

May 2020

(c) Dog-Bin Servicing Contract: At the end of March 2020, the council's dog-bin contractor advised that he was compulsorily shielding for twelve weeks, and so unable to service the dog-bin. With assistance from North Somerset Council (NSC), an offer of temporary servicing (at a weekly fee of £8.40) was found. By email, councillors endorsed the Clerk to accept this (using the powers delegated at the last meeting). The temporary contractor has now advised that the arrangement will end in the first week of June, as changes to the coronavirus restrictions now allow them to resume their usual business. The council's contractor has advised that he intends to resume work in early-July. With no prospect of another temporary contractor, councillors agreed, with reluctance, that the dog-bin must be sealed after its final cleaning. Councillor George will prepare an explanatory notice for display on it. [Post-Meeting Note: An alternative contractor was found to service the bin for four weeks (at a weekly fee of £10); councillors agreed, by email, to accept this offer.]

Minutes of The Council Meeting on Monday 13th June 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Dav Baulch, Claire Flower, Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

044/22 APOLOGIES

Cllr Rachel Dickinson

045/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

(Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)

No Declarations were made.

046/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the Parish and Annual Residents' Meetings held on May 9th 2022 were agreed and signed. The Annual Residents' Meeting minutes had been circulated to all attendees for approval.

047/22 PLANNING *(Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

New: no new applications.

Decision Due: 22/P/1059/LBC Manor House windows

048/22 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** At a site meeting it was determined that the present pole is completely rotten. It was further determined that a replacement pole, which would be significantly less in diameter than the present one, could be erected in the vicinity of the present pole, to ensure that it left enough room to fit guttering behind it and to allow for maintenance access to the listed barn. This would be the least obtrusive positioning option. NSC will update their design and quote for this option and advise on what maintenance contract needs to be put in place to support it. In view of the condition report on the existing pole, the meeting agreed that the work needs to be done from the already ring-fenced capital funds, although they have not formally been brought forward to the current year's budget. **Clerk to progress and share with Miles Estate and investigate Centregreat Lighting maintenance options.**
- ii. **Walton Bay Signage:** Updated costing re village entry signs awaited and should be included in the 2023-24 budget.
- iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC have inspected this tree for ash dieback and will check it again once it is in full leaf. Thereafter it will be monitored. The matter will remain as an agenda item until resolved.
- iv. **Odours in Walton Brook:** This problem now appears to be resolved and will be removed from future agendas.
- v. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** These are currently greatly reduced as against summer expectations. A new site manager now has responsibility for servicing the system more regularly and it is hoped that this will resolve the problems. Cllr Wherrett will continue to monitor.
- vi. **Notice Boards:** The May meeting concluded that the existing boards should not be replaced. Although we are waiting a response from the Church about possible sharing of their board, practicalities seem to render it less realistic in operation than in theory.

Cllr Flower offered the possible renovation of the existing boards by Home Farm when that is needed, and the meeting agreed that this would provide the optimal solution.

- vii. **Dog Waste Bins:** It was suggested that persuasive notices such as ‘please take your dog waste home’ might be a more affordable way of stirring consciences. After research by the Clerk, and discussion by Members, it was agreed that bin management is unaffordable and notices would tend to be simply preaching to the converted: ergo, for now at least, neither dog bins nor signs will not be provided.
- viii. **Speed Cameras:** Cllr Ashton is following up the possibility of his Ward’s parishes being able to access the use of an NSC camera if one is available. More definitive news is expected shortly. *Cllr Ashton will update the Clerk on progress.*
- ix. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** NSC will be asked to clear the base of the brook when the pollution warning sign is removed (it is currently hidden by overgrowth).
- x. **Bus Service - Clevedon – Walton Bay - Portishead:** The views of the Annual Residents’ Meeting have been relayed to NSC to form part of their thinking as they develop plans for servicing Walton Bay. *Cllr Ashton is following up for a response.*
- xi. **B3214/Walton Street Junction at Crosstree Farm:** Problems for the residents of Crosstree Farm might be helped by widening the gateway: however, the property is a listed building surrounded by listed buildings, so planning permission might not be possible. A stop sign at the Clevedon entry to Walton Street and a 20mph speed limit along the B3124 as it passes through the Village have been put to NSC, from whom a response is awaited. Elements of French village traffic management were regarded as examples our highway strategists could learn from.
- xii. **Footpath from Manor Drive to Golf Course:** Overgrowth being investigated by NSC and will be removed from sections that need it - probably the area beyond the style.
- xiii. **Golf Course Fence:** Work due to start on 27th June.
- xiv. **Truespeed:** Cllr Dickinson’s report was followed up by the Clerk, who got confirmation from Truespeed that they will not be servicing Walton-in-Gordano as Open Reach will be doing so. There is no timetable available from Open Reach as to when this might happen. Cllr Cannell reported that the mobile service provided by EE, that he had to install to provide adequate Zoom capability during the pandemic, is proving very adequate and will provide a cost effective alternative for those needing to upgrade before we are provisioned with a cabled service. *Cllr Ashton undertook to get more background on the Truespeed position.*

049/22

COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Cllr Baulch

Apologies were offered - and accepted - for last month’s meetings absences: this was due to the locational/work pattern/learning curve pressures of a new job, with which members could empathise. Changes at Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council (WIG), the operation of WIG SpeedWatch and The White Hart community asset issues framed an update of happenings and expectations in our ‘twin’ parish within the Gordano Valley Ward.

Cllr Wherrett

Waste Pipe to Beach near Two Acres: A pipe has been issuing some sort of waste liquid just outside the cliff path gate to the Two Acres site. The pipe appeared after the replacement of the parks old Sewage treatment tanks about a month ago. DW emailed NSC at environmentalprotectionenquiries@n-somerset.gov.uk on 30th May but no response. The Clerk has asked NSC if it is an off road drainage pipe replaced after the recent bridge work.

Walton Common: The old wooden danger signs by the edge of the cliff overlooking the quarry, on the north west side of the common are both old and need replacing. *Clerk to ask Cllr Dickinson to liaise with Avon Wildlife Trust re replacement signage.*

Walton Street: A hole in the highway at Springhead permissive pathway junction with Walton Street needs repairing. The Councillor provided a photo to the Clerk, who will follow up with NSC.

Cllr Ashton

The Annual Residents' Meeting asked if NSC might have spare wooden tubs we could have for flowers, left over from covid street marshalling. Cllr Ashton is expecting news on this imminently.

Cllr Flower

Real frustration exists in the community because ideas for traffic management and highways improvements appear to be talked about but not acted upon. The meeting accepted that this is a real and long-term irritant to many parishes. The maintenance and management of our highways (*other than motorways and major A roads, which are looked after by Highways England*) is the responsibility of NSC, our highways authority. Highways Authorities have traditionally been guided by outdated central government regulations, which are hugely complicated to work around. NSC Councillors have, for a long time, insisted that safety - *not* regulations - should be the driver of highways planning. Whilst the logic of this view is sympathised with, those running England's highways continue to be hidebound by regulations. The 30mph speed limit on the B3124 took some 25 years of discussion and constant background pressure to bring about: similarly the recently introduced 20mph on Walton Street and the 7.5 ton weight restrictions were the result of long term insistent pressure. As in so many areas of local government, instant enthusiasm has to be underpinned by dogged persistence.

Cllr Cannell

Village Hall Car-parking: A children's party last Sunday saw vehicles parked on both sides of the B3124 through the bends outside the Hall, despite the hirers being advised that they should, for safety reasons, park down Moor Lane. There was, needless to say, traffic mayhem. This raised the possibility of a Hall car park, which the Hall Committee are looking into with the owners and managers of the surrounding fields. The Clerk will ask the Committee how this project is developing.

Low-flying Helicopters: Cllr Dickinson had laid an enquiry about the disturbingly low flying that military helicopters were undertaking in the area. Other members had also noted this. Cllr Cannell explained that the military are legally entitled to include such manoeuvres in the training programme and that, in reality, there is little we can do about it.

Vexatious Behaviour: A member of the public from outside our parish is subject to a sanction under our Vexatious Behaviour policy. The Chair has to review and, if necessary, renew the sanction every six months. Members fully supported the Chair in this process, which will be conducted towards the end of the month.

050/22

FINANCE

- i. **2022-23 Accounts to date:** were reviewed and noted.
- ii. **Online Banking:** Online banking application pending mandate update.
- iii. **Bank Mandate:** to be updated to include Councillors Baulch, Wherrett and Flower.
- iv. **Cheques: 819 HMRC re PAYE** £136.50

051/22

DATES OF NEXT MEETING - July 11th 2022 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Minutes of The Council Meeting on Monday 11th July 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Dav Baulch, Claire Flower, Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

- 052/22 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Rachel Dickinson
- 053/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS:** (Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)
Cllr Cannell re planning application 22/P/1140/FUH - family friend of the applicants.
- 054/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING**
Minutes of the meeting held on June 13th 2022 were agreed and signed.
- 055/22 PLANNING** (*The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered*)
New: 22/P/1140/FUH: Old Rectory House conversion of barn to guest accommodation. This prompted some constructive discussion and was supported by members. However, as always when this sort of application appears before parish councils, the longer term motives - separate dwelling, letting opportunity, etc have to be responsibly considered. Although there would appear to be no possibility of an independent access, the freehold of the surrounding land and properties does come under the ownership of the applicant's family, and an independent access could be created at some stage. It would be prudent of the planners to condition the application to be tied to the curtilage of the application property and not to be used for commercial letting. **Clerk to notify NSC planners of the meeting's support and caveats.**
Decision Due: 22/P/1059/LBC Manor House windows
- 056/22 PARISH MATTERS**
- i. Street Light:** Miles Estate approval, new costings, and maintenance options, awaited.
 - ii. Walton Bay Signage (2023-4 budget):** Updated costing re village entry signs awaited.
 - iii. Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC is monitoring re ash dieback. It is now in nearly full leaf.
 - iv. Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** The attentions of the site manager seem to be keeping things under control: while he has been away they did, however, get out hand somewhat. The expected further work would still seem to be needed, therefore. Monitoring will continue.
 - v. Speed Cameras:** Our ward parishes have been added to the list of 'the borrowers'. Clerk will hear from NSC (DB) in due course. **Clerk to monitor.**
 - vi. Walton St Open Section of Brook:** NSC will be asked to clear the base of the brook when the pollution warning sign is removed (it is currently hidden by overgrowth).
 - vii. Walton Bay Buses:** NSC were emailed Annual Residents' Meeting views but have not responded to them. **Clerk to forward original email to Cllr Ashton** who will press for a response. Cllr Wherrett, a user of the bus, talked with people in person and via Whatsapp. Some have missed the bus because it has run early. The present service is a 'stop-gap', while NSC sort out something more permanent: it is run by a charity and staff shortages may mean that school runs etc get priority over this service. Timetables posted at the bus stop have been removed: Cllr Wherrett will contact First Bus to see if a key can be provided so that a timetable can be put inside the timetable case. The core of regular users say the service is good, friendly. However, the perception of most

is that it isn't timely or frequent enough and doesn't run at weekends. The idea of a turn-around service only offering a route to Portishead is not popular.

viii. B3214/Walton Street Junction NSC Response:

Crosstree Farm Exit: Not an NSC matter. The owner could seek to reposition their access, reduce the height of the hedge, or get estate permission to erect a mirror on the property opposite.

Stop sign at Clevedon side of junction: NSC would only consider a STOP sign based on accident data, of which they have none. Building out the kerb into the painted area would slow approaching vehicles.

20mph limit on B3124: NSC is about to implement a new process that allows Parish Councils to make requests for Highway Works. When this goes live the PC can formally make a request for a 20 limit.

Cllr Ashton reported that a new opportunity for parishes to register their highways-based needs with NSC is being launched shortly. **Clerk to be alert to this and respond to it with a repeat of the above demands re stop signs and the 20mph speed limit.**

ix. Footpath from Manor Drive to Golf Course: Some overgrowth - NSC will clear.

x. Golf Course Fence: Work now well under way.

xi. Truespeed: are checking on the latest position due to confusion re Openreach plans. Truespeed timetable delayed due to NSC permissions issues. Further update awaited.

xii. Waste Pipe to Beach at Two Acres: NSC to investigate: their response awaited. This is not a Cliff Path issue.

xiii. Walton Common: Cliff-edge signs: Avon Wildlife will mend/replace as necessary.

xiv. Walton Street: A hole at the Springhead path junction has been reported to NSC.

xv. NSC Flower Tubs: Cllr Ashton report that here may well be some available. **Clerk to follow up with NSC's JF.**

xvi. Village Hall Car-parking: Cllr Flower reported that the site (on land that forms part of her tenancy), is delineated - she suggested that parking rentals to immediate tenants could contribute the cost of establishing and running the site. Progress is a matter for Hall management. Incidents of 'crazy parking' have been evidenced by recent photos; if they continue, they could provoke the police into obstruction charges against Hall hirers, potentially damaging the Hall's attractiveness as a hiring venue. **Members are concerned about this and will seek more information as to progress via their Hall Representative, Cllr Dickinson.**

057/22

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Baulch: Moor Lane Fly Tipping at Cassie's Gate: This has been growing by the day and has been reported to NSC, on several occasions, by residents, Cllr Dickinson and the Clerk. Cllr Ashton's intervention means it is due for clearance by Tuesday. The problem prompted use of a possible fly-tipping deterrent which **Cllr Baulch and the Clerk will follow up on.**

Cllr Cannell: Walton Street, opposite The Old Chapel: Overgrown hedge and broken concrete on the culvert are pedestrian hazards. **Clerk will raise with hedge owner and NSC.**

Cllr Dickinson (in absentia): A flood warning sign, used by volunteers at the golf course Paris-drain site on Walton Street, which tends to flood under extreme conditions, has been lost. **Can a replacement be sourced?**

The Fete - was re-constituted as The Village Mingle and proved to be the traditional success it has always been - three cheers to the huge efforts of everyone involved!

058/22

FINANCE

i. 2022-23 Accounts to date: these were received, reviewed and noted.

ii. Bank Mandate Update & Online Banking: All personal data for mandate update has now been received. **Clerk is now in a position to progress update of the mandate.**

iii. Cheques: 820... no new cheques.

059/22

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - September 12th 2022 at 7pm. *(no meeting in August)*

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

NOTICE OF MEETING CANCELLATION

The Parish Council Meeting scheduled for Monday 12th September has been Cancelled

Explanation for cancellation

Cancellation revolves around the passing Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II and the days of national mourning.

For parish councils, regulations require 3 clear working days between the publication of the agenda and the meeting itself. Under the Local Government Act 1972, days of national mourning are not counted as working days for this purpose.

The Government website states that Mourning started immediately the notice of the Queen's passing was posted on the railings of Buckingham Palace - 6.30pm on Thursday 8th of September 2022.

The National Association of Local Councils have advised that the days of national mourning therefore started on Thursday 8th September. That advice means our meeting notice has only been published for 2 clear working days - hence the the meeting having to be cancelled.

Don Hill
Clerk to the Council
Saturday 10th September 2021

Minutes of The Council Meeting of Monday 10th October 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Dav Baulch, Claire Flower, Rachel Dickinson, Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

060/22 Apologies - none

061/22 The Chair proposed that the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on September 8th 2022 and the Formal Accession of His Majesty King Charles III on September 10th 2022 be recorded within the minutes of the meeting to mark these momentous constitutional events. The meeting agreed unanimously that the following minute would be that record.

062/22

i Her Majesty's Passing



The passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on September 8th came as a sudden and profound shock to the Nations and the Commonwealth she spent such a sincere, committed and distinguished reign serving.

We were able to recognise Her Majesty's passing on our website during the days of National Mourning, but, for reasons of protocol we were unable to hold our September meeting.

This October meeting therefore provides our opportunity to ensure that a fond reflection of *Our Queen* - a person whom tributes have demonstrated to be widely regarded as *The World's Queen* - is recorded as perhaps the most significant entry in the minutes we have on record and on our website, which go back to 1973.

For all but the oldest of us, this remarkable and hugely loved Monarch has been the only head of our Nation we have known. Her unwavering steadfastness has been the backbone of our life experience. We will miss her sorely.

On September 10th the proclamation that the former Prince of Wales has now become King Charles III demonstrated the remarkable continuity of our ancient and cohesive constitution.

ii Proclamation for His Majesty the King



Reuters - King Charles addresses the nation

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose Decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George: We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm and Members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council and representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and others, do now hereby with one voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late

Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Charles the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom we do acknowledge all Faith and Obedience with humble Affection; beseeching God by whom Kings and Queens do reign to bless His Majesty with long and happy Years to reign over us.

Given at St. James's Palace this Tenth day of September in the year of Our Lord Two thousand and twenty-two.

GOD SAVE THE KING

063/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS: (Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)
Cllr Flower re Village Hall car parking as farm tenant of a possible site.

064/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING
Minutes of the meeting held on July 11th 2022 were agreed and signed.

065/22 PLANNING *(The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*
New: 22/P/2137/TRCA Taggart Ho. Front, fell ash. Back, pollard Weeping Willow. **No objections.**
Withdrawn: 22/P/1140/FUH: Old Rectory House barn conversion
Approved: 22/P/1059/LBC Manor House windows.

066/22 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** NSC cost £2500. Miles Estate approval awaited. Maintenance options - **Clerk to investigate.**
- ii. **Walton Bay Signage (2023-4 budget):** Updated costing re village entry signs awaited. **Clerk to have site meeting with NSC officer re siting options.**
- iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC is monitoring re ash dieback.
- iv. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** The odours have been stronger than previously, raising comments from visitors and walkers. The “Socks” to the tanks got changed at the end of September: this greatly reduced the odours, indicating that more frequent changes may be a solution. However, it does seem that the system is either not large enough for the job expected of it, or that something critical remains wrong with the system. **Clerk to contact NSC Environmental Health for their input.**
- v. **Speed Cameras:** We are on NSC borrowers list and will hear from (DB) in due course.
- vi. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** NSC contractors EMT are booked to clear the bed.
- vii. **Buses:** After proposing the cancellation of 56 and X5 services NSC have reprieved the X5 until spring 2023. Service 56 has been axed but, as usual, we are hoping for some form of replacement as soon as possible, despite the exceptional national circumstances surrounding the current transport crisis. The council has been in touch with NSC, who discussed a range of options with them before the service was axed, including the provision of a turning circle for a full-size single decker bus at the end of Walton bay so that a service currently ending at Redcliffe Bay could be extended to Walton Bay.
A Walton Bay bus action group has been set up and attended the Portishead Folk Hall Meeting on bus issues on August 16th. They feel strongly that a lack of advertising has been a key stimulus the the service being closed.
The group held a further meeting with the NSC officer attending the Portishead meeting, on 25th September. He confirmed that alternative bus provision continues to be investigated. This might focus around a smaller bus offering a more frequent service along a route that might be extended at either end to make it more useful. The group committed to establishing a level of interest along the Clevedon to Portishead route via social media and leafleting. Cllr Wherrett reports some 200 “Interested” replies.
The bus group are meeting the NSC officer again at Castlewood on Friday 28/10/2022.
- viii. **Waste Pipe to Beach at Two Acres:** Cllr Wherrett says NSC confirm this to be in order.
- ix. **B3214:** NSC highway project register forms now to hand. Requests for stop signs at the Clevedon/Walton St junction and a 20mph speed limit on B3124 through village to be sought. This does not provide confidence that our projects will ever surface in the wider NSC scheme of things. It provides another - rather than the intended only - route to this parish achieving its aims.
- x. **Truespeed:** Their contract to service the rural areas in North Somerset has been cancelled by ‘Connecting Devon and Somerset, as was that of Gigaclear some years ago. That, again,

leaves the most rural areas of North Somerset with no affordable fibre-to-the-property provision... unless BT/Open Reach eventually decide to provide it.

- xi. **Walton Common:** Cliff-edge signs have been replaced.
- xii. **Walton Street:** Marked up for NSC Drainage team to repair.
- xiii. **NSC Flower Tubs:** It seems that NSC themselves are finding alternative uses for these tubs. Clerk followed one possible source within NSC without success. Cllr Ashton, too, has noted that NSC were finding re-use options for the tubs themselves. **Clerk to update Social Club.**
- xiv. **Flood Warning Signs:** These were relics from the days of regular flooding before the works on Walton Street in 2010. Current NSC supply is unlikely and would demand a complex health and safety protocol. The preferred NSC route is for a flood event to be reported to them for attention. (**post meeting note:** visit <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/nuisances-pollution-environmental-issues/flooding-drainage/reporting-flood> to make a flood report).
- xv. **Village Hall Car-parking:** Position outlined in the September Cross Tree Chronicle with assurances that updates will be provided as progress is made. It is expected to take some time, due to planning issues etc.
- xvi. **Walton Street, opposite The Old Chapel i:** Broken concrete on the culvert cover - repaired.
- xvii. **Walton Street, opposite Old The Chapel ii:** Overgrown hedge. See Cllrs reports at 067/22 below.
- xviii. **Loneliness:** Cllr Wherrett reported that many older people have moved to the park homes at Walton Bay to "downsize". Some, perhaps particularly those who find they are now on their own, say how lonely they are and how isolated they feel. They say there is not the "community" they were sold by the site-owners: they feel cut off, perhaps now unable to drive and with no other transport services. They say they spend long hours not seeing or speaking to anyone. Perhaps a conversation with our Village Agent, Sarah Friend, is a starting point in an effort to ease this problem. Cllr Wherrett undertook to follow up with our Village Agent.

067/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Dickinson: Overgrown hedges in Walton Street: hedges have been reported to be overgrowing walkways. **Clerk to contact owners to ask for them to be cut back.**

Cllr Baulch: Rural joyriding: A recent incident in the valley at Weston-in-Gordano involved a 4x4 type vehicle smashing through a farm gateway and wending its way across the Valley floor to emerge near the stables along the back lane towards Clapton-in-Gordano. These people seemed to be equipped with tools to gain access along the route - they must have known their way across the moors pretty well too. Unfortunately there was not enough specific evidence for the police to take the case in hand. A general discussion developed into problems of agricultural crime: witnesses to such incidents should note as much detail as possible and report them to the police.

068/22 FINANCE

- i. **2022-23 Accounts to date:** pre-circulated and noted.
- ii. **Bank Mandate Update:** completed.
- iii. **Cheques: 820** (to ratify) **HMRC** re PAYE Jul/Aug/Sep **£136.50**. **821 Walton-in-Gordano Village Hall** re hire fees for the financial year 2022-2023 **£108** (being £9 each for 11 months of Parish Council meetings (no meeting in August) and £9 for the Annual Residents' Meeting in May). Agreed.

069/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - November 14th 2022 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Minutes of The Council Meeting Held on Monday 14th November 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Dav Baulch, Claire Flower, Rachel Dickinson, Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 2 (plus one pre-meeting attendee - see minute 074/22 xii)

We have all been saddened by the recent passing of Colin Greenhill. Colin and Anne moved to The Village some 30 year ago and have ever been stalwarts of village life. From maintenance of the garden under the Cross Tree, to membership of village clubs such as the Gardening Club, to St Paul's Church and, perhaps from our perspective most significantly, the huge commitment he made as a key driver of the renovation and updating work that the then Hall Committee carried out themselves during the early 2000's, Colin's contribution to our village has been really significant. No less, Colin will be remembered and missed for the kindness and generosity of spirit that was so much a part of the way he related to those he met.

070/22 APOLOGIES - none

071/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS - Cllr Flower re minute 075/22 re a possible Village Hall car park, as a member of the incumbent tenant farmer family.

(Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)

072/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on October 10th 2022 were agreed and signed.

073/22 PLANNING (The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)

New: 22/P/2262/TRCA The Manor House - works to 9 trees; (Already approved - parish councils are not statutory consultees for this type of application). **22/P/2571/TRCA** 3 Manor Cottages - T1 - Cherry - fell T2 - Viburnum - pollard to 4ft. **No objections**

Approved: 22/P/2137/TRCA Taggart House tree work.

074/22 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** NSC cost £2500. Miles Estate agents not responding to approval chaser email. Maintenance plan - **Clerk to investigate**. Cllr Cannell to follow up Miles Estate progress.
- ii. **Walton Bay Signage:** Location and costing awaited following site meeting with NSC. There is a Weston-in-Gordano damaged grit bin on the ideal location of the from-Portishead entrance sign. **Clerk to request its removal via Cllr Baulch/their Clerk**.
- iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC is monitoring re ash dieback.
- iv. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** NSC Environmental Protection investigating.
- v. **Speed Cameras:** We are on NSC borrowers list and will hear from (DB). **Clerk to chase**.
- vi. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** NSC contractors EMT are booked to clear the bed. Cllr Flower offered to remove the sewage notice that is still in place. The sides of the brook have been cut back, but **Clerk to check to see if the bed has been cleared**.
- vii. **Buses:** There has been lots of action via the 'All Aboard the 56 Bus Group'. They have been in discussion with NSC, amongst others and have been canvassing and getting support from the public. A Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service, currently used in the north of England, is being considered. The service would mainly travel along a set route and to set times, but could be hailed at any stop along the way and also could be called by either telephone or a mobile app to go slightly off route to collect or drop off passengers in nearby streets, before returning to the set route. A service through Walton Bay from spring 2023 is hoped for. Some years ago, before the advent of local bus services within Portishead and Clevedon, the Walton Bay bus service used to circuit each town as part of its route. A

version of this is being suggested as an alternative to DRT. Key would be the ability of passengers to spend a full two hours in either town. Cllr Ashton pointed to future budgetary uncertainties, and the balancing of commercial, subsidised and dial-up options contributing to a complex mix of choices having to be considered, and all against a background of unprecedented driver shortages not just within the bus sector, but across the driver employment field. He stressed again that regular, reliable and affordable services need to be in place - perhaps initially on a medium to long-term loss-making basis - if people are to confidently make the move from private to public forms of travel.

- viii. **B3214:** NSC highway project register established. Requests for stop signs at the Clevedon/Walton St junction and a 20mph speed limit on B3124 through village **to be submitted**.
- ix. **Walton Street:/Springhead footpath junction:** Marked up for NSC Drainage team to repair.
- x. **Hedges in Walton Street over-growing walkways:** Now cut back.
- xi. **Loneliness:** Cllr Wherrett has had meetings with Sarah Friend (village agent) and with Rob Stirzaker (Village Hall and Social Club Chairman). He will contact the new head of Nailsea District Community Transport (NDCT) to sound out the possibility of special services to get people to and from shopping facilities, social events etc. Walton Bay suffers from the lack of community space - the closest being St Pauls Church and the village hall - now even less accessible without a bus service. Residents in the Village and at Walton Bay are all keen to support interaction between the two areas of the parish, and do everything they can to encourage these links, but the issues around geography make this difficult.
- xii. **Broadband:** A resident from 'the narrows' in Walton Street talked with members before the start of this meeting. He is having problems with broadband reception. He confirmed that Truespeed have lost their Connecting Devon & Somerset contract, so will not be supplying a service to our parish. He has had meetings with people in other parishes in the valley and contacted our MP, Dr Liam Fox, to see if there is any leverage that can be applied to get a service that provides a realistic signal. The most realistic option appears to be Open Reach - fibre to the property by 2030? The Open Reach community broadband option requires an input from residents of some £20-25k and was fully investigated by this council after Gigaclear lost their Connecting Devon & Somerset contract. The scheme was deemed unaffordable for such a small community. A resurrection of the scheme will need coordination with NSC, and, if workable, with other parishes in the ward with the same problems: it may only be workable if grant-aid can be sourced and with the lobbying influence of Dr Fox. Cllr Baluch will share a solution he has found successful in Weston-in-Gordano. Cllr Cannel will provide the Clerk with details of the EE Mobile system he has installed successfully. **Clerk to include these briefings in the council Cross Tree Chronicle section.**
- xiii. **Dangerous Parking on B3124:** A large vehicle was regularly parking on the kerb opposite the Village Hall, blocking the footway and, critically, the drop kerb essential for disabled and pram users etc, accessing the Hall. It's was in a position that could cause a head on collision at this point in the road. We are grateful to note that the vehicle now no longer parks there, so the highway danger and pedestrian inconvenience it caused has been removed.

075/22

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Baulch

- i. The work that Cllr Wherrett is devoting to the needs of Walton Bay is to be commended. He is putting a huge amount of detailed effort into energising a sense of caring and community in this part of the parish, where the church and hall facilities are made less accessible since the withdrawal of the bus service.
- ii. The joyriding and rural crime issues raised at the October meeting continue to be disturbing; the issue has been highlighted by rural based programmes on TV and radio in the past weeks and will be the subject of continuing awareness campaigns in Weston-in-Gordano.

Cllrs Dickinson & Flower

Noted that progress on the possibility of a Village Hall car park remains firmly on the agenda of the Hall's quarterly meetings. There is Miles Estate support, but a range of NSC planning issues to be satisfactorily conformed to.

Cllr Cannell

- i. **Boundary Commission changes for 2023:** a 2nd consultation is in place, showing no change to the situation explained and reviewed at July 2021 minute 057/21. Members noted the position.
- ii. **Colin Barker:** This person lives some 12 miles away from our parish in the parish of Puxton. He is subject to exclusion from our meetings under our Vexatious Behaviour policy. He has been conducting malicious leaflet drops in the parish and has been harassing our parish and ward councillors over recent years. His behaviour, within both Puxton and Walton-in-Gordano, has become increasingly unconscionable and has been the subject of extensive police investigation. This meeting of the council was held under the threat of an email received by all councillors this past weekend, demanding their resignations for not adhering to the expected standards of conduct in public life. If Councillors failed to comply, he threatened to attend the November 24th meeting and expose the basis of his allegations. The police were notified. No councillors resigned and Mr Barker did not turn up to pursue his stated exposure. His level of harassment is spasmodic, but relentless and, for a stranger with no knowledge of our parish beyond the fact that our clerk is also the clerk of Puxton Parish Council, is bizarre. The police have not been able to develop a case of harassment case against Mr Barker, but have pointed the group of harassed institutions in Puxton and Walton-in-Gordano towards a civil option that can be pursued. This would mean us provisioning some £5,000 in legal costs. However extreme it may seem, it will be prudent to at least investigate the cost implications of such an option during the preparation of the 2023-24 budget, which the clerk is doing.

076/22 FINANCE

- i. **2022-23 Accounts to date:** pre-circulated, reviewed and noted.
- ii. **Cheques:** 822... none due.

077/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - December 12th 2022 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Minutes of The Council Meeting Held on Monday 12th December 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Dav Baulch, Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

078/22 APOLOGIES - Cllrs Rachel Dickinson and Claire Flower

079/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS - none

(Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)

080/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on November 14th 2022 were agreed and signed.

081/22 PLANNING *(The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

New: 22/P/2851/FUH - Skyfield, Walton Bay: Demolition of existing outbuilding and conservatory. Erection of single story extension to the North-East. Small single story porch extension to the South-West. Raising of roof level by 1.2m and subsequent loft conversion to create 3 bedrooms. No objections.

No Objection: 22/P/2571/TRCA 3 Manor Cottages - T1 - Cherry - fell T2 - Viburnum - pollard.

082/22 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** NSC cost £2500. Miles Estate agents not responding to approval chaser email. Maintenance plan - **Clerk to investigate.** Cllr Cannel to follow up Miles Estate progress.
- ii. **Walton Bay Signage:** Costings due. Damaged Weston-in-Gordano grit bin awaiting removal.
- iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC is monitoring re ash dieback.
- iv. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** NSC Environmental Protection investigating.
- v. **Speed Cameras:** NSC are updating their VAR kits. The service has stalled due to a critical staff member leaving. Probable progress towards spring 2023.
- vi. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** Bed cleared but not well. Sewage issue eased but not cured. Side has been cut back but there is a mains electricity wire running on the surface: this needs to be made safe. A car hit the coping stones, so the bottom 2 metres of stonework are loose and need re-setting. **Clerk to seek safety solution for wire and report loose stonework to NSC.**
- vii. **Buses:** All Aboard The 56 Bus Group will attend the Portishead Town Council Transport meeting planned for Tuesday 13th December for an NSC update.

West-of-England Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) is a West of England Combined Authority (WECA)/North Somerset Council bus strategy, forming part of a region-wide mass transit vision. It is supported by a grant of some £105.5 million over the next 3 years, of which £48 million is earmarked for North Somerset. The full plan can be downloaded at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/busserviceimprovementplan. The key North Somerset strategies in BSIP relate to the urban links between Bristol and Portishead, and Bristol and Weston-Super-Mare. The services operating within North Somerset will continue to be overseen by NSC as the Local Transport Authority (LTA). This currently operates by licensing commercially viable routes to commercial operators and licensing service links between less profitable locations via NSC subsidies. Under The Bus Services Act 2017 provision is made for 'franchising' bus services: the LTA becomes responsible for setting service criteria that will best serve the needs of its population and then franchises the routes to commercial

operators. Details are available in 'The Bus Services Act 2017 Franchising Scheme Guidance' via https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918664/bus-services-act-2017-franchising-scheme-guidance.pdf. The guidance makes it clear that franchising is neither a simple, nor a 'quick-fix' alternative to present arrangements, although it exhibits an approach that is more sensitive to the needs and aspirations of service users. Reports tell us that WECA may be looking at this option. NSC, as a non-mayoral authority, would have significant hurdles to jump before being able to do the same.

- viii. **B3124:** NSC highway project register established. Requests for stop signs at the Clevedon/Walton St junction and a 20mph speed limit on B3124 through village to be submitted.
- ix. **Walton Street/Springhead footpath junction:** Marked up for NSC Drainage team to repair.
- x. **Loneliness:** Nailsea District Community Transport (NDCT) - possible options to be pursued in 2023. Cllr Cannell shared the link to a rural initiative in County Down NI. We discussed that whilst the PC can facilitate networks into local councils etc, the driver for anything has to come from the local residents in Walton Bay themselves. Liaison perhaps with the Social Committee will prove constructive.
- xi. **Broadband:** Apparently Liam fox's office reports that BT plan to start accepting full fibre broadband orders from late 2024. This would point to a service being available from 2025/26(?), whereas our November minute anticipated 2030. As usual the strategy of Open Reach seems to remain a mystery.
- xii. **M5 Closure Issues:** Diversion problems via B3124. The meeting felt this to be the perpetual nightmare of motorway-adjacent communities. Whilst transport managers hold procedural protocols for their drivers that should co-ordinate with situation signage, previous work in this area indicates that individual drivers who do not adhere to the protocols tend not to be penalised. **Bristol Clean Air Zone Anachronisms:** From Bridge Valley Road round to Winterstoke Road drivers find themselves forced into a clean air charging zone, or seeking a way around it. This is surely an operational anachronism that needs adjusting, so that motorway emergency diversions are clear and functional? Clerk to raise with Cllr Ashton.
- xiii. **Vexatious Behaviour Ban Renewal:** On the basis of continuing, groundless, pestilent, and in some cases, threatening, communications from Colin Barker, the meeting unanimously agreed that the vexatious behaviour ban should be extended for a further six months in line with the Vexatious Behaviour Policy. The Chairman noted that these activities have done much to focus positive support for the council over recent months.

083/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Wherrett: There is a sign tucked into the entrance paraphernalia at Seascapes. It is not an official NSC sign; but could it be installed as a highway sign? In relation to this particular query, NSC wrote in March 2022:

We have pedestrians in the road warning signs and slow markings, speed limit repeaters, a junction warning sign for Two Acres, I am sorry I really don't know what else we could install along the road.

The new village signs for Walton Bay include references to concealed accesses.

Cllr Dickinson (via Cllr Cannell): The Village Hall are concerned to be 'on the ball' as the car park opportunity becomes a reality. They have appointed a planning consultant to a feasibility study.

084/22 FINANCE

- i. **2022-23 Accounts to date:** pre-circulated, reviewed and noted.
- ii. **Cheques:** 822 HMRC re PAYE Oct/Nov/Dec £136.50.
- iii. **2023-24 Budget:** 1st cast of budget to be presented in draft at the January 9th meeting.

085/22 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - January 9th 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Minutes of The Council Meeting Held on Monday 9th January 2023

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Dav Baulch, Claire Flower, Rachel Dickinson

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

001/23 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Dave Wherrett & Nigel Ashton (NSC)

002/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS - none

(Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)

003/23 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on December 12th 2022 were agreed and signed.

004/23 PLANNING *(The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

New: none

005/23 PARISH MATTERS

i. **Street Light:** Agents for the Miles Estate are asking for a wayleave agreement. Approach needed to NSC/Western Power to see if one already exists and what procedure needs to be followed if not. **Clerk to follow up, with help from Cllr Dickinson as needed.**

ii. **Walton Bay Signage**

a. **T Junction Signs**

The from-Portishead junction sign for Two Acres/Walton Bay Park was put up because the traffic sped down the hill at what is a blind junction. Photos from Cllr Wherrett indicate that a from-Clevedon junction sign was also in place opposite the gateway to Lorraine Field, which is now the entrance to Seascapes. (The sign is by a Seascapes wall on the seaward side and the pole has collapsed into the verge on the landward side). **Clerk to pursue the repair of the from Clevedon sign with NSC.**

b. **New Entry Signs for Walton Bay:** Damaged Weston-in-G grit bin awaiting removal.

iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC is monitoring re ash dieback.

iv. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** NSC Environmental Protection investigating. **Clerk to chase.**

v. **Speed Cameras:** NSC progress due towards spring 2023.

vi. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** Bed cleared but not well. Cllr Flower confirmed that there were still some odours at times. There is a mains electricity wire running on the surface: this needs to be made safe. A car hit the coping stones, so the bottom 2 metres of stonework are loose and need re-setting. **Clerk to seek safety solution for wire and report loose stonework to NSC.**

vii. **Buses:** At the Portishead Town Council buses meeting on December 13th NSC confirmed that they will launch a DRT (Demand Responsive Transport) buses system by April 2023. The All Aboard The 56 Bus Group support this initiative but are seeking assurances that the system will not require expensive or overly complicated technology that might put off target user groups such as the elderly or those with learning disabilities. The group presented NSC officers with the results from 120 survey forms:

78% would use a bus rather than their car if the bus offered a consistent and reliable bus service.

93% said they would use the bus more than once a week. 80% said they would use the bus on a Saturday.

75% were happy with a Portishead + suburbs to Clevedon + suburbs service via Walton Bay.

84% complained that past services were not reliable not going to destinations they wanted.

Further surveys are planned.

- viii. **Highways:** NSC highway project register entries being prepared by Clerk.
- ix. **Walton Street/Springhead footpath junction:** Marked up for repair. *Clerk to chase.*
- x. **Loneliness:** Cllr Wherrett will try and link people who are lonely and isolated. He will try to link them with village organisations, NDCT (now contacted) and the village agent.
- xi. **M5 Closure Issues: Bristol Clean Air Zone Anachronisms:** From Bridge Valley Road round to Winterstoke Road drivers find themselves forced into a clean air charging zone, or seeking a way around it. This is surely an operational anachronism that needs adjusting, so that motorway emergency diversions are clear and functional? *Clerk to raise with Cllr Ashton.*

006/23 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Flower - Verge-side Footpaths: There is no safe pedestrian access to Clevedon School and the town in general: walking on the twisty, fast highway is a safety no-no these days. In the mid 2000's this problem was discussed - but not minuted - in relation to the children in the village attending Clevedon School: they used to cross the fields and the problem was not pursued. The Clerk remembered that Daisy Burden was able to walk from the Keepers Cottage (Underwood or Half-Way-House) on the B3124, along mown grass verges. These have not been kept in a condition to make this possible today. Given the expense of paving a path, it was noted by Members that a grass pathway would be better than nothing on the basis that 'from little acorns...'. *(Clerk's note: this option has been added to the highways options within the capital budget support document as the parish would almost certainly be expected to at least part fund the preparation and maintenance of such a facility).*

Cllr Dickinson - Coygar Quarry: WhatsApp rumour suggests that the plan to develop a climbing centre may be revived. The last application was opposed largely because of the ill thought through traffic plans. Cllr Baulch suggested that, in the event that a planning approval was given, it would provide an opportunity for us to press NSC for quid-pro-quo in terms of project assistance.

Cllr Baulch - Traffic & Speed Cameras: Notwithstanding the NSC VAS scheme at minute 005/23v above, there is a case for local parishes to purchase and run a kit of their own that would allow more time within each parish. Clerk to email background information with the draft minutes *(for more, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/biometrics-and-surveillance-camera-commissioner>).*

007/23 FINANCE

- i. **2022-23 Accounts to date:** pre-circulated, reviewed and noted.
- ii. **Cheques: 823 D Hill** annual renewal of website SMPT from February 2nd £25.19. Approved.
- iii. **2023-24 Budget:** The draft budget was approved. Cllr Baulch suggested that, whilst the operational budget and the election provision were straightforward, the capital needed information attaching to it to indicate what it was to provide for. Although this information appeared on the website, the meeting agreed that it would be a useful addition to the this and future budgets. *Clerk to organise and to include the budget as part of these minutes.*

008/23 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - February 13th 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Minutes of The Council Meeting Held on Monday 13th February 2023

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Claire Flower, Rachel Dickinson, Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Ward Cllr Nigel Ashton (from 8pm), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

009/23 APOLOGIES: Cllr Dav Baulch

010/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS - none

(Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)

011/23 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on January 9th 2022 were agreed and signed.

012/23 PLANNING *(The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

New: 23/P/0068/TRCA Church Farm - 6 elms to fell. **Noted.** Clerk to comment positively to NSC.

013/23 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** National Grid are checking to see if they have a wayleave already. Centregreat was suggested by NSC as a possible maintenance contractor for the light and they have been contacted to see if they will undertake it.
- ii. **Walton Bay Signage**
 - a. **T Junction Signs:** repair details awaited from NSC.
 - b. **New Walton Bay Entry Signs:** Grit bin removed. Erection details awaited. Clerk to chase.
- iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC is monitoring re ash dieback.
- iv. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** NSC Environmental Protection have made two separate visits and not found a problem. It does still persist, with servicing being more occasional now the resident site manager has left that post. The situation will be monitored as the warmer weather approaches.
- v. **Speed Cameras:** NSC progress due towards spring 2023. Notwithstanding the NSC VAS scheme, there is a case for local parishes to purchase and run a kit of their own that would allow more time within each parish. *(Post-meeting note: Clerk will research types of kit, portability, power source and prices.)*
- vi. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** Electricity wire has been reported to Open Reach. Retaining wall being inspected by NSC Structures. Cllr Flower will remove the sign.
- vii. **Buses:** NSC have been evasive. They say they will be conducting a consultation period, but with standard contract dates running from April 1st, it seems highly improbable that any consultation will be valuable to implementation. The Clerk reported that an experienced NSC officer has become responsible for the 'dial-a-bus' options that might form the basis of a service for Walton Bay. Cllr Wherrett will continue to press for a reliable and long term service for this part of our parish.
- viii. **NSC's Active Travel Plan Consultation:** The summary document to this consultation was included in the meeting papers. It was viewed by members as a worthy aspirational vision. As such, it has to knit with, and guide the shape of realistic situations faced by those

responsible for delivering solutions to immediate and medium-term problems: it should sit beside more practical policy issues, and is not seen as a policy in its own right to be put through the standard consultation process.

- ix. **Highways:** NSC highway project register will not be contributed to. The Clerk suggested that it was a way of 'shelving' projects rather than to progress them. Progress and project honing need the vitality of contact between parishes and NSC officers. This council will continue to contact the ever helpful NSC officers on a project by project basis. The Parish Highways Strategy has been updated per the agenda paper which is attached as an annexe to these minutes.
- x. **Pot hole:** at Brook Cottage has been reported to NSC.
- xi. **Golf Course Lay-by:** recent flooding of the Paris Drain during the torrential rains has been reported to NSC. It will be investigated and serviced as needed.
- xii. **Walton Street/Springhead footpath junction:** Marked up for repair. Update due from NSC.
- xiii. **Loneliness:** Cllr Wherrett reports that the Nailsea service, NDCT, can offer a service to a specific community on the basis of annual individual (£20 pa) or community membership contributions. He undertook to find out what a community contribution might be for Walton-in-Gordano Parish with a view to the Parish Council considering the funding of a transport facility that can fulfil residents' travel and communication needs. Progress of such a service would then need detailed exploration within the context of the NDCT 'offer'. It could then form part of the Council's 2024-25 budget.
- xiv. **Bristol Clean Air Zone (CAZ):** Bristol Council say anyone diverted through the zone for planned road works will not be charged as the scheme will be turned off on that route. Anyone so diverted for non planned problems, such as M5 closures, and "caught", will have 28 days to appeal. some 29% of vehicles do not comply with CAZ standards. The scheme is still attracting protests from the Road Haulage Association down to those passing innocents who get caught in its occasional boundary quirks or who have to make daily visits to inner city establishments such as the BRI.
- xv. **The Coronation:** A grant request was received from a group in the village who are organising a Coronation event. A contribution from the Council was not possible as there are no budgeted funds for donations.

014/23 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Dickinson

- i. **Village Hall:** a consultant is developing alternatives for highway access, which will be the key to the car park becoming a reality.
- ii. **Defibrillators:** The Village Hall and Sue Betts (in memory of Roy) are working to purchase and position two defibrillators: one in the village, where the village hall has the needed facilities: and one at Walton Bay, on an accessible site within the Park Home complexes. The key influencer of siting will be vehicular access and an electrical power supply.
- iii. **Annual Parish Meetings:** These are perceived of by some as being 'Parish Council' events. The meeting was keen on the possibilities of broadening the concept of a Parish Plan as embraced at minute 013/23 ix above and annexed to these minutes. With no assets beyond its street light and noticeboards, highways and footpaths have tended to be the natural parish plan focus for the Parish Council. Cllr Dickinson will shape the ethos of a wider parish plan in an email to Cllr Cannell. Post the meeting the Clerk found a helpful explanation about Annual Parish Meetings from Wythall PC in Worcestershire, which largely encapsulates the shape of the explanatory discussion members engaged in at Walton. The Wythall FAQ, too, is attached as an annexe to these minutes as an example of the degree to which Walton-in-Gordano's Annual Parish Meetings are the norm within the legal boundaries of their establishment.

Cllr Flower

- iv. **Fly-tipping in Moor Lane:** this is at the entrance to the Ash Track. **The Clerk will report ti to NSC**

Cllr Wherrett:

- v. **Walton Street Parking:** The Common has attracted many more visitors since the pandemic. They park mainly alongside the Golf Club Fence above Taggart House, but also in the lay-by opposite the Golf Club fence and up towards Arodene. This has introduced more adults, children and dogs onto the highway, making their way to and from the path to the Common that lies behind Hill Cottage. Due to the twists in the road and minimal speed limit adherence, this cohort are exposed to danger from moving traffic. Appropriately positioned warning signs to motorists would alert them to the need for particular care when driving through this section of road. There was unanimity of view that this was a good idea. **The Clerk will investigate, via NSC, the type, size, location and cost of warning signs.**

Cllr Cannell

Walton Street -

- vi. **The Golf Course Lay-by:** there is fly-tipping that needs removing.
vii. **Somerset Stones, Myrtle Cottage to Springhead:** the stones are loose and need re-seating.
viii. **Somerset Stones immediately below Myrtle Cottage:** a hole is developing that needs repair.
Clerk will investigate, and report these three issues to NSC.

015/23

FINANCE

- i. **2022-23 Accounts to date:** pre-circulated, reviewed and noted.
ii. **Cheques: 824** D Hill annual renewal of SMPT access from February 2nd £39.47. A price increase of £14.28 was introduced after the initial notifications of the price being £25.19. £25.19 was paid on ch **823** via the January meeting. **Ch 824 is therefore for £14.28.** Approved.
iii. **2023-24 Budget:** NSC have confirmed receipt of the precept request for £6321.

016/23

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - March 13th 2023 at 7pm.

DATE OF WAIGPC ANNUAL MEETING & OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN MAY

*(May 8th is the Coronation bank holiday, and the new Cllrs do not take up their posts until 9th May, so the meetings will be held on **Monday 15th May 2023 at 7pm and 8pm respectively**)*

WHY DO THE PARISH COUNCIL HAVE A CAPITAL BUDGET?

Road Safety In The Parish of Walton-in-Gordano - Highway Options

(A 20mph speed limit and a 7.5 Ton weight limit now exist in Walton Street)

WALTON BAY

NSC thinking is that the existing 40mph speed limit through Walton Bay will remain. There are no new accesses onto the road, the Lorraine Field entrance - now Seascapes - always, technically having been an access to some three homes on the site, even though access had been granted through Coast Caravan Park.

- The long term aim will be to lobby NSC to have the whole area from the Golf Course to Squire's Cottage (Walton Down & Walton Bay) as a 30mph zone. This job would need provisioning at £8000+, hopefully funded at least in part by NSC.
- Village Signage for Walton Bay is going ahead at a cost to the parish of some £2000.
- If Village Gateways are used at Walton Bay, they would need provisioning at £3000 with an upkeep budget being added to the Parish Maintenance heading of the Operational Budget.

WALTON IN GORDANO VILLAGE & WALTON DOWN

With a 20mph speed limit on Walton Street and a 7.5 ton weight limit on both Walton Street and Moor Lane, the project emphasis is on the B3124, which gets busier and faster by the year.

The Parish Street Light at the Moor Lane B3124 Junction is having to be replaced at the expense of the parish council.

- The cost will be some £2-3000. The final figure will result from NSC needing to re-estimate their costs as we enter the 2023-24 financial year, and some possible legal costs relating to siting permissions.

Village Gateway Structures are used to remind drivers that they are entering a village: NSC highway approvals are needed for such works. The siting of Gateways must be decided; also if they are to be on the approach side of the highway, or on both sides of the highway (twice the cost). The B3124 to-Clevedon and to-Portishead entrances to the Village are obvious options. Moor Lane between Harley Hill and Walton Brook Cottage is another possibility. To facilitate the installation of structures the hedges at each confirmed location would need to be cut back to accommodate signage and ensure good visibility for approaching road users. Any provision for planters and other features would need to be considered at the planning stage to ensure they could be appropriately incorporated. Long term maintenance of hedges, all signage and other street furniture must be provided for within the Parish Maintenance heading of the Operational Budget. The key constraint to these gateways being installed is NSC's insistence that current national guidelines on the placing of speed limits would mean drawing the 30mph limits much closer - too close - to the centre of the village.

- Hedgerow work, Permissions, Gateways and Signage will need to be planned, executed and maintained via the Parish Council. An establishment provision of £6000+ will provide the gateways. If regular maintenance provision cannot be provided by volunteers, it must be provided for via a contractor at the prevailing rate - some £25 per hour inclusive, on the basis of attention being required at least every two months.

- Planters and other visual improvements, both at the Gateways and elsewhere in the Village, will need to be subject to approval by the relevant property owners, or responsible authorities (NSC/ WalG PC for highways around the Cross Tree/Gateways). The planters already in the parish are being provided the Social Club and managed on a voluntary basis by them.
- Well maintained verges provide a signal to road users that they are entering a residential area. This applies particularly to the B3124 entrances. Costs for this are either absorbed by the tenant farmers or as a cost to the parish council.

Verge-side Footpaths: There is no safe pedestrian access to Clevedon School and the town in general: walking on the twisty, fast highway is a safety no-no these days. In the mid 2000's this problem was discussed - but not minuted - in relation to the children in the village attending Clevedon School: they used to cross the fields and the problem was not pursued. In past years the occupants of the Keepers Cottage (Underwood or Half-Way-House) on the B3124, were able to walk towards Clevedon along mown/footworn grass verges. These have not been kept in a condition to make this possible today. Given the expense of paving a path, a grass pathway would be better than nothing on the basis that 'from little acorns...'

- The parish would almost certainly be expected to at least part fund the preparation and maintenance of such a facility.

Moor Lane Exit on to B3124: Visibility is poor leaving Moor Lane at the junction with the B3124. Due to the location of the buildings and the minimum required road width there is no further signage which could be installed to increase visibility.

- A mirror might be possible opposite the end of Moor Lane, so drivers could see approaching B3124 traffic. If this has to be on private land, permissions will be needed from the tenant of Home Farm and the Miles Estate.

The Village Hall & Manor House Drive - It is unsafe to turn right out of the Manor House Drive, due to lack of visibility and the volume of traffic. As the wall of the neighbouring property is the main cause of the visibility issues nothing can be done to increase visibility on the Manor House side. Linked to this need, there has long been a hope that a car park can be provided for the Village Hall. The set-up costs associated with these developments will probably lie elsewhere.

- There may, however, be ongoing maintenance costs for the parish.

B3124 Through the Village: Traffic volumes and traffic speed are the main problems along this road as it winds its way through the Village. Coming from Clevedon, the present pavement stops before the Clevedon-side of Cross Tree Farm: after the property entrance the road has been painted with white markings to encourage drivers to make a wide, rather than a tight, approach to Walton Street. Observation indicates that many drivers ignore the white markings and often approach dangerously fast. They also tend to cut the corner past Cross Tree Farm into Walton Street. If there was a pavement, rather than white markings, drivers would be forced to conform to the intention of the white markings currently in place. The present situation creates a significant danger for people exiting Cross Tree Farm, and for pedestrians negotiating the Walton Street/B3124 junction. The Parish has long advocated a stop sign/road markings at the approach to this junction from Clevedon. The need for larger vehicle to be able to make the turn onto Walton Street from the Clevedon end of the B3124 will have to be catered to. The cost of these works will run into thousands of pounds and, if NSC do pay part of the bill, the parish will probably, under present arrangements for such works, be expected to make a significant contribution.

- **The pavement** needs extending from its current location to incorporate an entrance provision for Cross Tree Farm, to include the road area currently marked out in white such that it links to the existing Walton Brook Culvert. There will be some adjustment need to present surface water drainage.
- **A stop sign/road markings** are needed at the B3124 junction with Walton Street as approached from Clevedon.
- **A 20mph speed limit** is needed through the village from Manor Drive to Hackswood.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish meetings are a form of direct democracy uncommon in the UK, which primarily uses representative democracy.

This representative explanation is from the website of Wythall Parish Council, Bromsgrove, Worcs

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Annual Parish Meeting?

There can be, and often is, confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. All Town and Parish Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1 March and the 1 June (inclusive). Meetings should not commence before 6pm.

What is the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting?

The purpose of the meeting is to give the Parish Council, and other local organisations an opportunity to let local residents know what they have been doing over the past year. The meeting is also an opportunity for electors to have a say on anything they consider valuable to the people of the Parish.

What else happens at the meeting?

The meeting can also be an opportunity for local groups, clubs, societies and other voluntary and statutory organisations to provide an exhibition and/or have representatives from the group address those present at the meeting about the work they do and what they are involved in.

Who can attend the meeting?

The Annual Parish Meeting is for all electors of the Parish. It is not a meeting of the Parish Council. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting however, only registered electors of the parish may speak and vote during the meeting.

Will I be able to ask questions and make suggestions?

Any registered elector may ask a question of the Council which will usually be answered by the Chair, the Clerk or the Council, or a designated Councillor. An elector may also make a suggestion and comment on anything pertinent to the residents of the Parish. This will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

Who will chair the meeting?

The Chairman of the Council will chair the meeting. The Wythall Annual Parish Meeting is usually convened by the Chairman of the Council however, the meeting can also be convened by any two Parish Councillors, a Councillor representing the Parish on the District Council, or any six local electors of the Parish.

Will Parish Councillors be at the meeting?

All Parish Councillors will be invited to attend and Committee Chairs will also present the updates current projects the committees are driving forward. Councillors will also have an opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish. However, **the purpose of the meeting is to enable the electors to find out what is going on in their parish and to have their say.**

Will minutes of the meeting be taken?

Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Parish Meeting shall be drawn up and entered in a book provided for the purpose. The minutes shall be reviewed and signed at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

How long will the meeting last?

The length of the meeting is dependent on the number of electors present, the number of questions asked and the discussion that is raised. Generally, the meeting will not last longer than two hours.

Where can I get copies of papers for the meeting?

The agenda calling the meeting is published 7 clear days before the meeting. The agendas and reports for meetings are available for download below. If you would like to receive printed copies, contact the Parish Office.

Minutes of The Council Meeting Held on Monday 13th March 2023

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Dav Baulch, Rachel Dickinson (until 8.40pm), Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

017/23 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Claire Flower, Nigel Ashton (NSC)

018/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS - none

(Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the precept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)

019/23 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on February 13th 2023 were agreed and signed.

020/23 PLANNING *(The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

New:

23/P/0165/FUL (Clevedon TC) Conygar Quarry Climbing Centre.

This application has some updates and tweaks, but otherwise looks substantively the same as the previous one. The key difference relates to the transport access to the quarry which, despite long opening hours, is provisioning for a seemingly less ambitious - or at least less ambitiously expressed - strategy.

The main changes from the original application relate to vehicular access. Car parking provision is only for cars, bicycles and motor cycles; with no provision for coaches. Principal access is proposed from the B3124 via Nortons Wood Lane in Swiss Valley. The need for four two-bay passing places between the B3124 and the quarry entrance is at odds with the claims elsewhere that there will be no conflict between the applicant's customers and the many walkers, cyclists and horse riders who use the whole length of the Gordano Valley access lanes to the quarry. These lanes will certainly be used by customers approaching from the Bristol direction, particularly ones relying on sat-nav. With house entrances lining much of the B3124 side of Norton's Wood Lane between the the B3124 and the quarry entrance, it must be presumed that the passing places will be on the Clevedon Court Estate side of the road and that, in any event, the provision of passing spaces will depend on North Somerset Council Highways purchasing access rights from willing landowners for them to be installed and maintained.

The application does state under Road access that the site has good road access. What it fails to mention is that from the B3124 this is nearly all single vehicle width and blind bends. As they've added 4x passing places, this is self-explanatory. There is no significant acknowledgement of or provision for the rights of the many cyclists using what is a national cycle way, or of the many walkers or horse riders who people the lane. In the supporting Transport Statement, there were only 2 instances of "horse" in the complete document and they occurred in text relating to reasons for previous rejection and National policy on Quiet Lanes. Therefore the supporting Transport statement has completely ignored this significant aspect of use. Only once does it address the cycle route and that's just to give the opinion that additional traffic due to the proposals would not create a hazard problem for cyclists and that 'shared use is acceptable'.

There are, of course, many technical and operational issues that will need resolution within the quarry. However, the application falls on its transport strategy, which flies in the face of The Gordano Valley lanes system being predominantly one of Quiet Lanes that offer themselves up for inclusion within North Somerset Council's Active Travel Strategy.

23/P/0437/FUH Castle View Walton Bay replacement garage - no objections.

Clerk to post the meeting's views on these two applications to the NSC planning website.

Approved: 23/P/0068/TRCA Church Farm - 6 elms to fell.

021/23 GOVERNANCE

- i. **Document Review:** The annual review and necessary updating of the council's governing documents has been undertaken by the clerk and pre-circulated to Members for their review and approval. Formal approval was agreed except for additions to the Risk Assessment - see ii below.
- ii. **Risk Assessment:** The risk assessment needs additional items: Vexatious Behaviour, Cyber Security, off site security and access via the Chair per ALCA advice, and outsourcing of the website to ensure ongoing stability. Members agreed that these items would be introduced by the Clerk, circulated for approval and subsequent signature by the Chair and Clerk. All to be ratified at the April 2023 meeting of the Council. Clerk to progress and then post documents to the parish website for 2023-24.

022/23 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** National Grid are checking to see if they have a wayleave already. Centregreat was suggested by NSC as a possible maintenance contractor for the light and they have been contacted to see if they will undertake it. No response from National Grid or Centregreat.
- ii. **Walton Bay Signage**
 - a. **T Junction Signs:** repair details awaited from NSC.
 - b. **New Walton Bay Entry Signs:** Erection details awaited.
- iii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** NSC is monitoring re ash dieback.
- iv. **Sandbanks Sewage Odours:** The situation will be monitored as warmer weather approaches.
- v. **Speed Cameras:** NSC progress due in the new financial year. Notwithstanding the NSC VAS scheme, there is a case for local parishes to purchase and run a kit of their own that would allow more usage time within each parish. Outline guidance and costings from the Leicestershire County Council website are to hand and **CLlr Baulch undertook to contact the other Gordano Valley Ward parishes to gauge their reaction to and participation in a ward-based scheme.**
- vi. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** Sewage odours are bad again and the complainant is following through the complaints procedures. The Open Reach cable is still there. The damaged retaining wall is due for repair by NSC Structures.
- vii. **Buses and Social Mobility Transport:** NSC has publicised its Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) system that is due to start on April 3rd. It seems that other community transport services may be holding back until they can assess the impact of NRT on new offerings to such areas as Walton Bay. The critical benefit of the community run services is that they will go down into the sites, overcoming the problem of less mobile people getting up the steep slopes to the Coast Road bus stop.

The all Aboard the 56 bus group have continued to lobby for a service connecting Clevedon and Portishead via Walton Bay. They have been digesting NSCs plans for DRT and how they will link to the commercially timetabled networks.

There are concerns for less tech-savvy people being able to access the booking system, about buses being timely and frequent, and about DRT not having a set route along which people can hail-and-ride.

There is also concern about the lack of public consultation about how and where DRT services will actually operate. The worry is that that the NSC focus may be on spending the grant monies rather than on providing the most critically needed services, and in provisioning the more densely populated areas at the expense of the more isolated communities.

- viii. **Pot hole:** at Brook Cottage has been reported to NSC.
- ix. **Golf Course Lay-by:** Update on the servicing of the Paris Drain expected from NSC.
- x. **Walton Street:/Springhead footpath junction:** Repaired.
- xi. **Neighbourhood Watch:** proposed re-launch by police - members agreed to see how any new scheme settles after the introductory trials.
- xii. **Fly-tipping in Moor Lane & Walton St:** Cleared.
- xiii. **Walton Street Parking - People in Road Signs:** Clerk to hear from NSC re signs and costs
- xiv. **Walton Street - Somerset Stones, Myrtle Cottage to Springhead:** One stone to be replaced. Stones are not set, as they need to be removed to maintain the brook, so slight rocking is the norm. Edge erosion on the carriageway has deteriorated and will be closely monitored.

023/23 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Dickinson: updated the meeting on Village Hall matters and reported that her husband will act as a Defibrillator Champion as this project develops.

Cllr Wherrett: Drive from Coast Road to Two Acres: The joint between the drive and the public highway is some form of curb stone; it needs repairing: the repair responsibility may lie the owner of the drive or with NSC. **Clerk to check with NSC if it is a Highways responsibility and if it is, to report the repair need.**

024/23 FINANCE

- i. **2022-23 Accounts to date:** pre-circulated, reviewed and noted.
- ii. **Cheques: 825 HMRC PAYE** for Jan/Feb/Mar £136.50 - agreed and signed. **Clerk to bank**
- iii. **Clerk's Pay:** Standing order variation - agreed and signed. **Clerk to bank**

025/23 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - April 10th 2023 at 7pm.

DATE OF WAIGPC ANNUAL MEETING & OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN MAY

*(May 8th is the Coronation bank holiday, and the new Cllrs do not take up their posts until 9th May, so the meetings will be held on **Monday 15th May 2023 at 7pm and 8pm respectively**)*

The meeting closed at 9pm