

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 13th January 2025

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

There was no meeting in December 2024

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

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

Off meeting discussion: The possibility of the Church being able to put notices in the Parish Council notice boards (in addition to those in their own board) was raised. **Clerk was asked to put the matter on the February meeting agenda.**

001/25 APOLOGIES

Ward Cllr Ashton

002/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Dispensations apply to Cllrs re the setting of the precept, and to Village Hall matters)

None

003/25 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Meeting minutes of the November 11th were agreed and signed.

004/25 PLANNING (The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)

New: 24/P/2484/MMA: Sea View Farm, Walton Bay: reduction in size of extension at 23/P/0673/FUH. Considered by Members via email. No objections - comments passed to NSC planning. Ratified.

005/25 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** Pole in place; awaiting light fittings.
- ii. **Traffic Speed Issues:** Progress is being made on this complex issue, albeit slowly.
- iii. **Village Notice Board:** Chemical cleaners will be used to clean the perspex surface.
- iv. **Parish Maintenance:** Risk Assessments as required by our insurance company were reviewed, agreed and signed by the Chair and the Clerk. It was noted that these assessments will, as with all the Governance documents, be subject to ongoing and annual review to ensure their fitness for purpose. See Minute 006/35 below.
- v. **Walton Brook retaining wall repair : Gabion in brook :** Cllr Cannell reported Walton Brook as flooding from Myrtle Cottage and the open section in Walton Street. This flooding ran across the B3124 and down Moor Lane; reminiscent of the situation before the massive engineering works completed in 2010 that have, until now, resolved the flooding issue. As stated in previous minutes, NSC seem to be impervious to the results that their failure of basic maintenance are effecting. Cllr Ashton has been asked to put pressure on NSC Structures to get the gabion removed and the wall repaired: with the current crisis in communications at NSC this task may, or may not, prove effective.
- vi. **Walton Bay Bus Stop erosion:** No feedback from NSC yet re NSC or BT investigations. See comments at v. above. Cllr Wherrett is concerned that weather conditions may have

increased the danger at pavement level: particularly in respect of the people using the seat. Cllr Cannell undertook to discuss the possible taping off of the seat with the Social Club.

- vii. **B3124 Speed Limit Signage From Clevedon:** Overgrowth to be cleared. **Cllr Flower.**

006/25 GOVERNANCE

Approval and signature of Parish Maintenance and SID Operation Risk Assessments. These will future proof the Council in the context of our insurance company requirements per Minute 005/25iv above.

007/25 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Wherrett:

- i. **Bus Issues:** there is no specific progress to report, but the bus pressure group at Walton Bay is working energetically across a range of financial opportunities to gain a bus service between Portishead and Clevedon that will include the Coast Road through Walton Bay and the Clevedon Road/Norton's Wood Lane route via Clapton-in-Gordano.
- ii. **Bus Stop at Walton Bay:** Comments re this topic have been posted at Minute 005/25vi above.

Cllr Dickinson:

Village Hall: 008/25 iii below explains the increase in hire charges. Cllr Dickinson was happy to report an increase in hirings. She also reported that the Hall Committee of Management are seeking new volunteers to join their Committee.

Cllr Flower:

Potholes in Walton Street: These continue to appear. They will be picked up by our NSC area officer when they reach the circumference and depth that NSC deem appropriate for their attention. Given the national pothole crisis, repairs are likely to slow in happening.

008/25 FINANCE

- i. **2024-25 Accounts to date:** were reviewed and noted against the bank statements.
- ii. **Payments to Authorise:** none
- iii. **Hall Hire:** to increase after very many years from £6 per hr to £8 per hr. Therefore annual payment for 1.5 hrs goes from 9 x 12 = £108 per yr to 12 x 12 = £144 per year as included in the draft budget. Noted.
- iv. **2025-26 Budget:**
- (a) The draft, which had been developed by Members since November, was reviewed in detail, finalised and the precept set.
- (b) Our bank plans to change the basis of its community banking offer. This will include the introduction of a monthly bank charge for account management of some £5 per month. This charge will come from the 'Other Costs' budget and will be isolated as a separate cost heading once the details are known and the change is made.
- (c) Cllr Cannell reported that since April the clerk has been unable to drive due to eye sight issues, and in the absence of affordable and reliable taxi services, he has had to rely on lifts to attend meetings. Cllr Cannell has been acting as 'taxi' for much of this period, at no cost to the Clerk or the Council. A long term solution would be to adopt the HMRC provision of .45p per mile for the 30 mile fetch and return trip (£13.50 per meeting) to ensure the Clerk's presence at meetings. If agreed, this charge would apply from April 1st 2025 within the 'Other Costs' budget head, and would be payable to any Member who provided the service (there may be occasions when the Clerk can enjoy the services of personal friends at no cost to the Council). The meeting unanimously agreed to this as an attachment to the Other Costs element of the 2025-26 budget.
- (d) The budget was agreed as attached. **Clerk to notify NSC of the precept request.**

009/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday February 10th 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm