

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday May 13th 2024 - 8pm - The Village Hall

This is an open forum for electors in the Parish to express their views, their concerns and their aspirations in relation to the betterment of our community.

Topics that may come up are transport, policing, highways, planning, relations with neighbouring parishes, parish facilities, volunteering... you name it and you can add it to the list. For example North Somerset Council have been consulting on the introduction of car parking charges in the districts towns and three weekly black bin collections... what do you think of these proposals?

The format of the meeting will be as set out below in the Agenda.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of last years meeting and matters arising

2023minutes can be found on the 'Meetings Agendas and Minutes' page of our website at waltoningordanopc.org.uk. Under 'Minutes' for May 2023, scroll down past the Council minutes.

The Chair will read key points from the minutes and confirm that any actions called for were passed to the Parish Council, followed up, and reported via their minutes. The 2023 minutes were circulated to attendees after the meeting and signed as a true record at the June 2023 Parish Council meeting.

3. Reports from Interest Groups if Available

Parish Council Chairman's report / Financial report
North Somerset Council
Walton-in-Gordano Village Hall Ltd
St Pauls Church
Any other reports

4. Discussion

An open forum on issues of concern to the parish and its elector

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held In THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 15th MAY 2023 AT 8.00 pm

Residents Present: Brian Cannell (Chair), Robin Hek, Rachel Dickinson, Dave Wherrett

Others Present: Cllr Dave Baulch, Don Hill (Minute Taker)

APM23/01 APOLOGIES

Deb Tovey, Claire Flower

APM23/02 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S MEETING

These minutes were circulated to and approved by attendees of that meeting and signed as a true record by the Annual Parish Meeting chair at the next following Parish Council meeting. The items signalled for action were passed the Parish Council and progress monitored via their meeting minutes and updates in the monthly Cross Tree Chronicle.

APM23/03 REPORTS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

Reports were received from the groups below, were read to the meeting and are appended to form a part of these minutes.

- Parish Council Chairman's report
- Walton-in-Gordano Village Hall Committee
- Defibrillator Update

APM23/04 BUSES AND SOCIAL MOBILITY TRANSPORT

Dave Wherrett provided the overview below of the public transport options that either are, or may become available to the Parish

WESTlink in North Somerset is run by North Somerset Council and, despite teething problems it seems to have got off to a good start. Usage will be key to the service providing an economically viable long term solution.

WESTlink is an on-demand minibus service that allows residents to book their bus journeys through an app, website, or phone, either on-demand, or the day before travel. It forms part of the largest on-demand bus scheme in the UK. It aims to reconnect communities by offering people currently without a local service the opportunity to get back on the bus. The service consists of accessible 16-seater minibuses. The maximum wait time is expected to be 60 minutes. A single fare for any journey length within North Somerset is £2 for an adult, £1 for a child. All concessionary and older person's bus passes are accepted. You can pay via a credit or debit card attached to your app account. You can also pay the driver with cash.

WESTlink Virtual Bus Stops: You may want to be picked up or dropped off in an area that doesn't have a physical bus stop. This could be a doctor's surgery, pharmacy or a local shop. If there's a public need for an additional bus stop, WESTlink can create a virtual one that you can

choose when when you are booking. **To request a virtual bus stop**, email transport.operations@westofengland-ca.gov.uk.

Full details of WESTlink and how it operates can be found at <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/parking-travel-roads/transport-travel/bus-travel/westlink>

A new X10 service linking Clevedon and Portishead to **Cribbs Causeway** is starting in July.

Nailsea District Community Transport: Dave is doing local research into support for the service to share with the organisers so that the feasibility of offering it to our parish can be assessed.

Other Transport Alternatives: In terms of getting to medical appointments etc, Portishead Porters serve Portishead from Walton Bay on request, and Clevedon Care do the same for services to Clevedon.

Contact Portishead Porters via your medical centre.

Contact Clevedon Care by telephone on 01275 343 677

Dave is a member of a bus service pressure group at Walton Bay: they tested the WESTlink service by visiting the Salhouse in Clevedon for a social gathering and then returning to Walton Bay. The service worked well. However, with more professional pre-launch publicity the service could have got off to a better known, less faltering start.

Discussion of transport options was wide-ranging, but perhaps the key axis of concern was on-demand bus services versus the regular bus service going to specific destinations at specified times with enough buses to allow for flexibility in planning the return journey. Much of this concern seemed to be fuelled by uncertainties as to WESTlink's long term viability and to the technology-based focus of its booking systems. These systems apparently contain enough glitches in them to put off the less tech-savvy among us.

By the autumn we should know how successful the WESTlink trial has been and in what form, with what fair structure, it will be continued. In the meantime, the old adage "use it or lose it" was echoed in relation to WESTlink and Dave will continue to investigate, in particular, the Nailsea District Community Transport possibility.

APM23/05 DISCUSSION

No further matters were brought forward for discussion.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and contributing.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm