

WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council on Tuesday 12 January 2016 in the Neville Hall at 7.00pm

Present: John Birkett - Chairman
Mike Kay – Vice Chairman
Katie Sarsfield
Mark Hipgrave
Maggi Bevan
Clive Scott-Hopkins
Suzy Young
Sally Burtenshaw - (Clerk)

In attendance: 11 members of the public

Public Question Time:

- A member of the public congratulated Cllr Young for her efforts in getting new gates installed at the Milley Bridge entrance to the village. It was noted that the speed limit remains at 40mph but a campaign to have this reduced by 10 mph is continuing.
- A resident asked if the Parish Council could contact British Gas to revisit the possibility of the provision of mains gas to the Parish
- A resident complained about speeding and destruction of the grass verges along the Shurlock Road – this is an ongoing problem which is not helped by the lorries visiting the Downfield Pit. This will again be re-addressed with Highways team
- A member of the public advised that a man hole cover in Shurlock Road which is made of inappropriate materials is too weak to take the traffic that goes across it – the Streetcare team will be contacted
- A member of the public advised that the brick postbox near to Sill Bridge is falling over. Clive Scott-Hopkins advised that this has now been repaired
- A resident enquired whether a play area could be created at the cricket club in Shurlock Row. Katie Sarsfield advised she would be happy to make initial enquiries and Clive Scott-Hopkins will contact the trust that owns it
- A member of the public advised that the idea of an open space along the Shurlock Road would not be a good idea (to be discussed in greater detail later in meeting)

SUZY
YOUNG

CHAIRMAN

SUZY
YOUNG

SUZY
YOUNG

CLIVE
SCOTT-
HOPKINS &
KATIE
SARFIELD

FC/93/01/2016 Apologies:
Cllrs Maureen Hunt, Carwyn Cox & David Evans sent their apologies

FC/94/01/2016 Minutes:
The minutes of a meeting held on 8 December 2015 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman following an amendment

FC/95/01/2016 Matters Arising from the Minutes:
• Recent inclement weather has high-lighted the areas of poor drainage in a number of places but predominantly along Halls

MARK
HIPGRAVE

Lane & Brook Lane – RBWM will be contacted to get updates on these outstanding matters

- Reduction in the height of Beech hedge in the Burial Ground – these works will be completed tomorrow
- Open space along Shurlock Road – the proposals for this area will be posted on the Parish Council's website, Facebook page & Twitter account and some will also be reproduced in the Lych Gate. The proposal is to develop a 13 acre bio diverse site between Pool Lane and Shurlock Road into a community open space with picnic benches, mown paths and parking. It is hoped that residents of the Parish will give feedback via an online survey. For residents with no internet access Katie Sarsfield will be able to arrange viewing of the papers. The Parish Council wish to received initial feedback/interest from parishioners before considering the opportunity further
- Maintenance tenders – the Vice Chairman advised that 4 tenders had been sought and received. Following discussions it was unanimously agreed that ANB Groundcare would be awarded the contract again to December 2017

FC/96/01/2016 Travellers update:
Borough Councillor Carwyn Cox had in his absence sent an e mail to the Clerk to advise that there is nothing new to report at this stage. A hearing has been listed in the Court of Appeal for April in respect of the Judicial Review matter. There is no further news relating to the result of planning hearing that took place in November

FC/97a/01/2016 Planning Applications:
No applications had been received

FC/97b/01/2016 Trees in a Conservation Area:
No applications had been received

FC97c/01/2016 Plans that have arrived within the last couple of days:
Nothing to report

FC97d/01/2016 Other Planning matters
Received 15/03327 Certificate of Lawfulness to determine whether the single storey side extension is lawful at 2 Dene Cottages, Milley Road. The Parish Council made no comments

Received 15/00020 Certificate of Lawfulness to determine whether a detached out building with open carports and storage is lawful at Glen Cottage, Beenhams Heath. The Parish Council made no comment

FC97e/01/2016 Enforcement Notices & Appeals:
Nothing to report

FC/98/01/2016 Finance:
▪ The cheques issued in early January 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

Discussions were held about setting the Precept figure for 2016/2017. The Councillors unanimously agreed that this would be raised to £17,500. The Parish Council recognised that the precept had been frozen at £14,000 for the last 7 years with very little capital expenditure having been incurred within the Parish during this time. As such the increase represents a step change to facilitate much needed capital investment (partly funded through reserves) and recognised the reduction in real terms of the precept in recent years. It was also recognised that the Band D cost in the Parish is still one of the lowest, if not the lowest in the Royal Borough. The Clerk will complete the necessary forms and send them into RBWM
The Clerk presented an invoice to the Parish Council for approval that had been received from the RBWM for the Election expenses. This was approved and signed off by the Chairman

CLERK

FC/99/01/2016 Neighbourhood Plan update:
Clive Scott-Hopkins advised that there was nothing to report

FC/100/01/2016 Reports from Representatives:

- Katie Sarsfield advised that she was hoping to have an update on the horsewalker on Twyford Road for the February meeting
- Risk Assessment walkabout will be spread over a couple of site visit Saturdays
- Litterpick – discussions were held to consider whether to organise a litter pick and, if so, when. A follow up discussion will be had with Streetcare & Highways on areas requiring attention and any assistance that they can provide (Community Warden)
- War Memorial clean – expenditure of £870 + VAT presented by The London Stone Company was unanimously agreed
- Flooding issues – the recent rainfall has exacerbated problem areas again ie. Plough Lane and The Street. Mark Hipgrave confirmed that Mark Pottinger had carried out some ditch clearance.

KATIE
SARFIELD

MAGGI
BEVAN

SUZY
YOUNG

FC/101/01/2016 Correspondence:


- The Clerk advised that the Management Team looking after the Neville Hall had agreed a pay rise for the cleaner
- The Chairman advised that a letter had been received from the PCC thanking the Parish Council for their recent generosity in donating some monies towards the flint wall being refurbished around the church
- The Clerk advised that she had received a telephone call from David Crawley-Boevey to enquire whether the Parish Council had any plans to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The church will be arranging something so it was thought that this was sufficient

FC/102/01/2016 A.O.B. – FOI request – to be re-addressed next month

FC/103/01/2016 Date of Next Site Visits:
Saturday 6 February at 9.30am

FC/104/01/2016 Next meeting: 9 February at 7.00pm in the Neville Hall

The meeting closed at 21.07 & the Confidential meeting commenced

 9/2/16