

Walton on Trent Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Ian Bentley

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MINUTES OF WALTON ON TRENT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2023 AT 7.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Parish Councillors P Byron, R Mizuro, S Hilton, M Rafferty, H Hearn, N Forrest, Cllr S Swann (DCC), Cllr A Wheelton (SDDC), Cllr G Jones (SDDC), C Henning (DCC Executive Director) & Parish Clerk.

Cllr P Byron welcomed everyone to the July Parish Council meeting and the attendance of C Henning (DCC Executive Director)

23/51 To receive apologies for absence
None

23/52 Variation of Order of Business
None.

23/53 Declaration of Members Interests
None disclosed.

23/54 Chris Henning (DCC Executive Director for Highways, Traffic & Strategic Planning)

In response to the letter on Traffic Impact Concerns, dated 17 May 2023, Chris Henning addressed the Parish Council to explain that South Derbyshire had not been forgotten and that the report compiled by Cllr Cupit, and circulated to the Councillors', detailed the response from DCC to the concerns.

He stated:

- He understood the frustration of residents,
- DCC were working with SCC to address the issue of the new bridge together with Countryside as it is a developer led process,
- That DCC Highways as a Statutory Consultee would not support further development at Drakelow, unless it was underpinned by a traffic survey, which he was going to propose to his team to better understand the impact. However, the final decision would be with SDDC Planning.
- He would discuss with the legal team the legality of adopting the bridge from the Derbyshire side only,
- That DCC were committed to the events at Catton, adding to the rural economy, but a review of the mitigation plan due to the number of vehicles was necessary.

Cllr P Byron thanked Chris Henning for attending and that hopefully he clearly understood the frustration felt by residents in the area and hoped that assistance would be forthcoming

23/55 Public Speaking

The reports from Cllr S Swann and Cllr A Wheelton had been forwarded by email and circulated to the Councillors.

23/56 Chairman's Announcements
None.

23/57 To confirm the minutes of the Walton on Trent Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12 June 2023.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12 June 2023 be approved as a true record.

23/58 Clerks Report

a) Review of Outstanding Resolutions/Actions - Appendix A

- i. **Village Hall Lighting** – The Clerk reported that the lighting in the main hall was already diffused and as such very little can be done to remove the glare.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council noted all the outstanding Resolutions/Actions and agreed with all entries marked as Completed.

b) Correspondence

- i. **Police Incident Figures** – The Council noted the incident figures provided by the Police.
- ii. **Catton Hall Events** – The Clerk reported that there had been a number of complaints with regards to the loudness of the music until 3.00am at the Sausage and Cider Festival and the concern for the forthcoming Bloodstock event, All complaints have been forwarded to SDDC.
- iii. **Barr Hall Farm – Energy Storage System** - The Clerk reported that there had been correspondence from Novus Renewable Services who are developing plans to construct and operate an energy storage system at Barr Hall Farm. The company intend to engage with the local community in the coming months but would like to introduce the project to the Parish Council.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed to invite Novus Renewable Services to the next meeting on 11 September 2023.

- iv. **Remedi – Restorative Services** - The Clerk stated that a restorative organization called Remedi who are working in Derbyshire to organize reparative activities for young people and adults would like to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the project and gain feedback as to what activities they could facilitate.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed to invite Remedi to a future meeting.

- v. **Register of Interests** – The Clerk reminded the Councillors that new Register of Interests Forms need to be completed. Forms to be forwarded to the Clerk who will collate and forward to Democratic Services at SDDC

- c) **Parish Council Laptop** – The Clerk reported that purchase of a new and much faster laptop had now been completed, but there was now a question of what to do with the old one.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed from the Clerk to keep the old laptop as a ‘just in case’ spare.

23/59 Planning matters for consideration

- a) DMOT/2023/0625 - Works to 3no. Holly and 1no Yew Trees in a Conservation Area at 26 Main Street, Walton-on-Trent, Swadlincote, DE12 8LZ – Comments required by 6 July 2023 – **None submitted**
- b) DMOT/2023/0816 - The felling of 1no. Ash tree, 3no. Sycamore trees and 1no. Horse Chestnut tree in a Conservation Area on Land adjacent to Barr Hall, Drakelow Road, Walton-on-Trent, Swadlincote, DE12 8NB - Comments required by 25 July 2023 – **No Objections**
- c) DMOT/2023/0727 - The pruning of a Lime tree at Barr Hall Farm, Drakelow Road, Walton-on-Trent, Swadlincote, DE12 8NB - Comments required by 24 July 2023 – **No Objections**

23/60 Finance

a. Accounts for Payment

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed to make the following payments.

Payee	Expenditure	£	Payment
Parish Clerk	Stationary – Microsoft - Expenses	43.84	BACS
SDDC	VH – Council Tax	147.00	Direct Debit
Parish Clerk	Acer Aspire Laptop (Currys)	679.00	BACS
Swarco Ltd	1 st Instalment for SID's	2830.72	BACS
Bloomin Gardens	VH – Grass Cutting	84.00	BACS
Sth Derbys CVS	Wages (June)	681.15	BACS

M Dughan Electrical Ltd	VH – PAT Testing	95.00	BACS
DCC	Legal Fees for SID	105.00	BACS
EDF Energy	VH - Gas	186.00	Direct Debit
British Gas	VH - Electricity	92.51	Direct Debit
TOTAL		£4944.22	

b. Receipts

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council noted the following receipts:

Village Hall Hire	£ 325.00
Precept (2 nd Installment)	£3689.00
Total	£4014.00

c. Quarterly Finance Review – Appendix B

The Clerk outlined the Quarterly Finance Review which had been previously circulated to the Councillors'. As of the 30 June 2023, once the agreed or expected payments had been met, the Parish Council had £44,071.65 at its disposal.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed with the Quarterly Finance Review and for the Chair and Clerk to sign.

23/61 Speed Indicator Devices - Update

The Clerk stated that the Object in the Highway Licence from the DCC Legal Department had now been granted but the release of the £3000 grant from the PCC is still awaited. Indication from DCC is that the posts are to be installed the week commencing 10 July 2023.

23/62 Traffic Issues Report - Update

a. The meeting with DCC Executive Director Chris Henning was discussed.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed for the clerk to email thanking Chris Henning for his attendance and outlining the areas that had committed to looking into. (A copy of the email is included at the end of the minutes)

b. To date there have been 7 persons that have indicated interest in being volunteers for a Walton on Trent Community Speed Watch group. Currently liaising with Derbys Police to arrange a date for a meeting of the volunteers and training.

23/63 Village Hall Toilets

The proposed layouts of the new toilets were discussed.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed that the new toilets should have separate sections for disabled, ladies and gents.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed that Cllr R Mizuro to redraw the plans with the agreed sections and to circulate to the Councillors.

23/64 Working Group Reports and Review of Specific Areas of Responsibility

It was proposed that in future the heading for this section to be re-named and to just contain Roads and Pavements, Footpaths and Park with no Councillors' initials as this should be for everyone to be responsible for. The other areas are already discussed within the document or as required.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed with the proposal to just include in this section Roads and Pavements, Footpaths and Park with no Councillors' initials.

a) **Employees (Cllr Byron) – Nothing to discuss.**

b) **Village Hall (Cllr N Forrest) – Nothing further to discuss.**

c) **Finance (Cllr P Byron)** – Discussed at 23/60.

d) **Roads and Pavements (Cllr M Rafferty and Cllr C Mousley)** – Cllr M Rafferty reported that several of the drains along Coton Road still require cleaning out.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed for the Clerk to report the drains again to DCC

e) **Footpaths (Cllr H Hearn and Cllr R Mizuro)** – The Clerk reported that correspondence received has reported that the footpath alongside the river towards Catton is overgrown with pedestrians having to walk in the road.

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council agreed for the Clerk to report the footpath to DCC.

f) **Park (Cllr P Byron)** – Nothing to discuss.

23/65 Circulated Emails for Information – Appendix C

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council noted the other Circulated Emails for Information.

23/66 Date of the next Meeting

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council approved that the next Parish Council Meeting is to be held at 7.00pm on Monday 11 Submitted 2023, in the Walton on Trent Village Hall.

a. **Temporary Scheme of Delegation**

Resolved: Walton on Trent Parish Council approved that the Chair, Vice Chair and Parish Clerk could act on behalf of the Council until the next meeting.

There being no other business to be transacted, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Copy of email sent on 13 July 2023

Dear Mr Henning,

On behalf of the Walton on Trent Parish Council I would like to thank you for attending the Parish Council meeting on Monday 10 July 2023.

One of the main points of the conversation was in respect to the prospect of Countryside (Drakelow Developers) asking for an increase in the number of houses that they can have occupied before the bridge has to be built. The key extract on this matter from the response to our letter on traffic concerns around Walton on Trent from Charlotte Culpit, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport at DCC is as follows:

"I note your point that the Parish Council will object to any planning application or amendment application by the developer seeking to increase the number of houses allowed to be occupied at Drakelow before the bridge is occupied and I can confirm that Derbyshire County Council acknowledge your views and concerns, as outlined by our efforts above, and would want the design and delivery of the bridge to be agreed and contractually committed in totality before any consideration of raising the cap on the number of completed and sold dwellings on site. This would seem to me essential for the new residents and, most importantly, for existing communities such as yours to have restored confidence that the bridge will be progressed by the developer as well as to alleviate the traffic and environmental concerns you detail."

As Countryside are in the process of imminently requesting a variation to the existing Section 106 for the implementation of the bridge, that is to move from 400 houses occupied (already upped from the original 100) to something substantially higher - we expect 800-1200. The Councillors sincerely hope that, as discussed and you committed to look into, do your utmost to support this community by:

1) As DCC Highways are a statutory consultee, object to such an application on the basis that the surrounding road network cannot sustain the additional traffic that will come with the increased number of houses.

How will DCC and SCC highways who are both statutory consultees in the planning process be able to support their response with evidence?

2) Ensuring that the formal DCC Highways response to any request for additional houses at Drakelow from the developer shall be within the requisite time required given that the application is likely to be made during the summer holiday period.

3) Ensuring that DCC Highways will look to conduct traffic surveys in and around Walton on Trent, particularly at the Bailey Bridge, on Drakelow Road and at the Stapenhill bridge for both day to day traffic and around and during events that are on at Catton Hall (to identify traffic flow both in and out of South Derbyshire). The Parish Council believe this is needed as supporting evidence for any current and future planning applications, including the NSIP Oaklands, Drakelow and the development of the bridge. A survey is essential to give a clearer understanding of the impact traffic is having in the area.

4) Endeavouring to work with SCC and the developers at Drakelow to agree an acceptable and compliant design for the new bridge in the shortest possible timescales. We would also like to point out that the current causeway to the Bailey Bridge is not being removed and will remain the

prime barrier to flood water travelling downstream. We would expect that DCC and SCC will do everything within their powers to support this bridge to its construction and adoption.

5) Exploring the legitimacy or legality of agreeing to adopt the Derbyshire side of the new bridge crossing independent of Staffordshire's stance.

6) Evidencing that DCC (and presumably SCC) Highways can no longer mitigate the events at Catton Hall which are now causing public nuisance. At the last festival, signage was ignored and with a large equestrian event, also run at the same time at the Hall caused cars to back up down the A38. There was no traffic monitoring, Police or Highways staff on site or monitoring the agreed traffic management plan which was clearly not followed by lorries or cars. If DCC are unable to mitigate due to SCC road and bridge closures/restrictions a report is needed to SDDC licensing stating so. It was made clear to you these events are causing misery and economic loss to residents and businesses in this area with zero benefit to the South Derbyshire economy bar the landowner.

Once again thank you for attending, where hopefully you clearly understood the frustration of residents and we look forward to your help in getting Walton on Trent village out of the currently bad and deteriorating traffic environment it finds itself in.

Regards

Ian Bentley

Clerk & RFO

Walton on Trent Parish Council

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