

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Walford Parish Council Meeting



Held at Walford Church – St Michael and All Angels
Wednesday 27 March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors: Frank Myers (Chairman), Eric Drummond (Vice Chairman), Michael Agyeman, Murray Alston, Dave Berry, Karen Chinn, Simeon Cole, Heather Evans, Nesta Hirst, Sophie Hurley, Angus McIntosh and Guy Smith

In attendance: Richard Abolins (Clerk), Paul Newman (Ward Councillor) and approximately 26 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence - none

2. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation

Councillor Myers declared a non-pecuniary interest as non-executive director of Riversea Holdings, appointed to represent the interests of Walford Parish Council, in relation to references to the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch.

Councillor Drummond declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 190548

3. Adoption of Minutes of previous meeting

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2019 as a true and accurate record. They were signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Session

4.1 Report from the Community Support Co-ordinator – there was no report

4.2 The representative for the applicants for planning permission at Cherry Tree Lane discussed at the last meeting, thanked the Council for their professionalism and impartiality. He was concerned, however, that he was continuing to be treated badly by some residents and wondered if the Council could shed any light on this. The Chairman assured him that the Council had taken no further action since the discussion on the planning application.

Several parishioners expressed their objections to the proposed development of nine houses on Sharman Pitch. Amongst these objections were that such a development in the AONB would destroy the character of the hamlet and that the likelihood of increased traffic flows had not been correctly assessed. There was little acknowledgement to sustainable development in this application and with the trend towards 4/5 bedroom houses, they were not affordable to local residents. The Chairman thanked them for their comments which would be considered by the Council in their discussions.

4.3 Report from the Ward Councillor

The Chairman explained that although he was present, the Ward Councillor would not be presenting a report because of the rules on the pre-election purdah period.

5. Planning

5.1

5.1.1 190548 Upper Lodge, B4234 Bishopswood, HR9 5QY

Councillor Drummond left the room.

After considering the plans, the Council agreed that there was a similar footprint in the proposal and resolved that there was no objection.

Councillor Drummond returned.

5.1.2 190316 Waters Edge, Sharman Pitch, Howle Hill

The agent acting on behalf of the applicant gave a brief overview of the plans. The opportunity for development arose from the relocation of the nursery business on the site. The proposal was for two 2 bedroom, one 3 bedroom and six 4/5 bedroom units. The land sits in a hollow which gives scope for use of existing vegetation to fit in with the surroundings, although some hedgerows may need to be removed to improve visibility splays. Traffic should be greatly reduced as a result of the nursery business closing.



There was much discussion about whether this development fitted into the core strategy, the impact on AONB, and the accuracy of the traffic survey. Although the units will have garages as well as 2 parking spaces, it was agreed that garages are rarely used and that in larger households there were often more than 2 cars.

In a vote, 9 councillors agreed that there should be some housing on the site. 3 councillors voted against. It was resolved to respond as follows.

- The planning experts were qualified to deal with matters of core strategy and AONB
- There should be a re-analysis of the traffic statement and the parking provision should be reviewed.
- There should be careful consideration of the appearance of the development in the context of the existing dwellings
- There should be greater inclusion of sustainable energy

6. There had been some confusion over when the first meeting after the election could be held. The date originally planned was not legal and it was resolved to change the meeting to Thursday 16 May 2019 at 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The Finance Chair reported that with the year end imminent there would be a surplus against budget for various reasons – salary costs less because there was no clerk for four months, no election costs, no contingency required. She reported that the Chairman had received confirmation that Hereford Council will pay all of the electricity installation costs at the Canoe Launch. We will refund Riversea who have funded these costs.
- 7.2 Councillor McIntosh checked and signed the bank statements and cash books. The Chairman of the meeting signed the bank reconciliation. (attached)
- 7.3 The Income and Expenditure Account was noted
- 7.4 It was resolved to approve the proposed payment schedule (attached)
- 7.5 It was resolved to ratify the regular payment schedule (attached)

8. Highways / Rights of Way

- 8.1 Rights of Way –signage was being installed. If any had been missed, please let the RoW Officer know
Lengthsman – everything in hand
The Chairman thanked Councillors Evans and Cole for all their work.
- 8.2 A draft contract had been circulated and the process for re-tendering would be started.
- 8.3 A meeting had taken place at the Leys Hill junction with Balfour Beatty to discuss road safety but had not achieved any real progress. There simply is no budget available to implement measures such as traffic lights or mini-roundabout.

9. Proposed cancellation of Stagecoach route 35

It was understood that usage of the route may be uneconomic, but the Clerk will ask Stagecoach for a fuller explanation of the economic rationale behind the decision.

10. It was resolved unanimously to adopt all four policies.
Policy for policy review
Grants policy
Reserves policy
Dealing with unreasonable behaviour
11. The Clerk had circulated a proposal for changing the schedule of meetings, including consideration of amending the standing order which requires meetings to be held on Wednesdays. This will be discussed at the next meeting with the new council.
12. The election timetable had been circulated and the Chairman noted Wednesday 3 April as the last date for handing in nomination papers.

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Minutes of Walford Parish Council Meeting



13. **Items for next meeting agenda** (No discussion)
 - 13.1 To consider meeting schedule
14. **Confidential closed session** – the public were asked to leave the room.
 - 14.1 A valuation report had been received on the access to Phoenix Meadow. It was resolved to ask the surveyor to negotiate a settlement, including costs.
 - 14.2 It was resolved to approve the end of the Clerk's probationary period, which had been highly satisfactory.
 - 14.3 It was resolved to increase the Clerk's salary in accordance with NJC pay scale.

The meeting closed at 21:05.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

Walford Parish Council

Parish Council meeting on 27 March 2019

Bank reconciliation at 28 February 2019

	Lloyds Bank Treasurer's Account	WCSS petty cash	Lloyds Bank Business Instant	Total
Balance b/forward at 1 February 2019	31,187.40	107.04	11,976.38	43,270.82
Receipts	2,679.47	-	0.54	2,680.01
Payments	(2,103.19)	(56.94)	-	(2,160.13)
Transfer	(200.00)	200.00	-	-
Balance c/forward at 28 February 2019	31,563.68	250.10	11,976.92	43,790.70
Receipts not yet credited to bank Walford Village Hall	(30.65)	-	-	(30.65)
Payments not yet paid by bank	-	-	-	-
Balance per bank statement/cash book	31,533.03	250.10	11,976.92	43,760.05

Checked by Councillor Myers.....

Date 27 March 2019.....

Walford Parish Council

Parish Council meeting on 27 March 2019

Draft income and expenditure account - 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019

	Year to date	Budget	Variance
General fund			
Income			
General Income: Precept	26,500	26,500	-
RoW Grant	1,043	2,320	(1,277)
Newsletter Advertising	-	200	(200)
General Income: Bank Interest	6	10	(4)
Total general income	27,549	29,030	(1,481)
Expenditure			
Lengthsman	2,189	4,000	1,811
RoW	1,713	3,200	1,487
Newsletter	54	1,000	946
Donations to Supported Schemes	-	1,000	1,000
Employee costs	6,630	11,000	4,370
Training	550	-	(550)
Hall Hire	82	500	418
Motor Expenses	443	250	(193)
Office costs	449	400	(49)
IT Costs	1,100	1,100	0
Legal and Professional	1,675	400	(1,275)
Insurance	262	350	88
Election	-	2,700	2,700
Subscriptions	726	1,000	274
Contingency	-	1,500	1,500
Total general expenditure	15,872	28,400	12,528
General surplus/deficit	11,677	630	11,047
Projects			
Walford Community Support Scheme			
Income	5,080	7,600	(2,520)
Expenditure	(9,178)	(13,800)	4,622
Surplus/deficit	(4,098)	(6,200)	2,102
Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch			
Income			
Management fee	4,000	4,000	-
Canoe Launch fees	2,314	2,100	214
Car Park fees	1,458	1,400	58
Expenditure	(1,264)	(1,200)	(64)
Surplus/deficit	6,508	6,300	208
Neighbourhood Development Plan			
Income	-	7,000	(7,000)
Expenditure	(130)	(7,000)	6,870
Surplus/deficit	(130)	-	(130)
Total surplus/deficit	13,957	730	13,227

Walford Parish Council

Parish Council meeting on 27 March 2019

Proposed payments to be approved

Payee	Reason	Amount
Autela Group Limited	Payroll bureau	48.67
Bishopswood Village Hall	Hall hire 16 May 2019	34.20
HALC	Subscriptions 2019/20, training	991.79
Herefordshire Group Training Association	Fencing for KBCL	£490.00
Karen Chinn	WCSS expenses	£81.90
PCC of Walford	Room hire	£42.00
Place Studio	NDP report	£156.00
Richard Abolins	Clerk's expenses	£145.09
Sarah Hayes	WCSS expenses	£58.05
Sophie Hurley	WCSS expenses	£171.00
Terry Griffiths Contracts	Lengthsman and RoW	£3,584.53
The Ross Gazette Limited	WCSS advertising	£50.40
Walford Village Hall	Room hire, NDP	20.00

Regular payments to be ratified

Payee	Reason	Amount
Richard Abolins	Clerk's salary	
Sarah Hayes	WCSS co-ordinator salary	
Sage UK	Subscription by DD	£26.40

Signed by Chairman of the Meeting

F Myers

Date

27 March 2019