

Present:

Councillors: K Nixon, C Pearson (chair), T Saunders, G Newby, D Brooke, S Baker, J Sutcliffe, B Kaushiva (arrived 19:03)

In attendance:

9 members of public

Ward Cllrs M Cummings, U Ali and F Heptinstall

36 To receive apologies for absence – Cllr J Carlon and Cllr T Earnshaw submitted apologies for absence. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons for absence.

37 To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on 2nd July 2024

RESOLVED The minutes of the Parish Council meeting 2nd July 2024 were **approved** as a correct record.

38 To receive declarations of interest – Cllr Saunders said he was a friend of one of the members of the public and recused himself from the discussion on trees adjacent to The Stables.

39 To be advised of matters achieved or arisen since the last meeting not included elsewhere on the agenda - none

40 Wakefield MDC Ward 5 Councillor update

In respect of items raised previously, Cllr Cummings reported that:

- The hedges at the junctions of Elmwood and Shay Lane had been cut back.
- The laburnum next to the church had been cut back.
- The faded lines at the Cherry Tree roundabout had been refreshed.
- A response from the Highways department in respect of the Common Lane/Chevet Lane junction had been received (and circulated to Councillors) saying there was currently no case for action.
- That planning applications expired after 3 years, not 5 as previously suggested.
- That, at the July meeting, none of the Planning Committee voted in favour of the application to build continuing care properties off Nevile Drive and that all three Ward Councillors have objected to the revised application.
- The introduction of a 30mph speed limit on the current National Speed Limit section of Oakenshaw Lane is still progressing.

In response to correspondence received by the Parish Council from residents, Cllr Cummings advised that:

- Scholars Court is unadopted by WMDC so any requests for signage, etc., should be raised with the developers.
- A request for a mirror and stop sign at the Shay Lane/Greenside junction has been passed on to the Highways department.
- A request to cut back foliage along the TransPennine Trail parallel to Cherry Tree had been raised and acknowledged.
- Safety concerns relating the Manor estate were a parking issue and enforcement was a police matter.

Cllr Ali reported that:

- Road markings on Oakenshaw Lane and School Lane were both due to be repainted in the next 3 months.
- Re-surfacing of the top end of School Lane was planned for between January and March 2025.

Cllr Saunders asked who the best contact within WMDC would be to progress a new footpath across Brook Farm to connect Walton Hall park and the Colliery Nature Reserve, as per the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Cummings said she would provide contact details for Mark Lynham.

41 Public Forum

A resident of The Stables raised concerns on behalf of a number of residents about the trees in the park adjacent to their properties. They said that there was insufficient management of the risk to people or property from falling branches and that the amenity of their dwellings was reduced by the over-shadowing. The crown lift performed 12 years ago had not been detrimental to the health of the trees and it was not clear why more recent applications had been limited to mild pruning.

Cllr Nixon explained that Councillors had conducted their own risk assessment of trees in the park which raised a number of concerns across the park and wished to engage an expert to conduct a professional assessment, ideally by one of WMDC's arboreal specialists who last inspected in 2021.

Cllr Cummings and her fellow Councillors offered to immediately view the trees near The Stables and subsequently arrange a meeting with the relevant individuals. The residents requested that the professional inspection of the trees should include viewing from their side of the fence.

One of the residents questioned who should be strimming the grass at the edge of the park. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should confirm whether this is included in the grass cutting service the Parish Council purchase from WMDC.

Another resident expressed frustration with how difficult it was to get permission for Tree Preservation Order (TPO) work. They said that some tree surgeons were now unwilling to submit TPO requests as their experience was that they would be refused. This was leading to residents making their own applications which were not up to the required standard so causing more work for the WMDC officers. They argued that the blanket TPO designation across Walton dated back to 1975 and did not reflect subsequent development, also the TPO map was out of date, showing trees that had been felled over 20 years ago.

Cllr Cummings offered to look into the specific application (24/01418/TPO) currently being made by the resident.

42 SAFE Scheme & Police matters - The latest report was reviewed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to the Police to ask that all reported crimes, not just Priority 1 crimes, are tabulated and included in the monthly SAFE scheme report.

43 Road safety issues (deferred from the Ward 5 Councillor update)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would support the ambitions of www.oakenshawlane.co.uk seeking "immediate action to implement speed reduction and traffic calming measures on the full stretch of Oakenshaw Lane".

Councillors expressed their frustration at the WMDC response and lack of action to address the dangerous junction of Common Lane and Chevet Lane. As an interim measure it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to the farmer of the field north of the junction requesting that vegetation along the boundary of Chevet Lane is kept cut so as not to obstruct visibility for cars turning out of Common Lane.

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Parish Council newsletter should include an item sharing Police feedback that a substantial proportion of vehicles stopped for potential traffic offences in the Parish were driven by Walton residents, and an item reminding residents that the 20mph section of Shay Lane applied whether or not the school was open.

It was further **RESOLVED** that there be an agenda item for the October meeting to discuss the purchase of a "Smiley SID".

44 Finance & Governance

The Clerk had submitted details for June & July 2024 of accounts paid totalling £3,300.25 & £3,295.84 respectively and income received of £2,939.01 & £3,802.77 respectively.

The account balances at the end of July 2024 were: -

Barclays current	£14,532.70
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Barclays premium	£51,222.38
Nationwide savings	<u>£81,393.55</u>
Total	<u>£147,148.63</u>

RESOLVED

Accounts paid and already paid under delegated authority and income received in June & July 2024 were approved.

45 Planning Committee Working Party

- 24/01220/GPD Single storey rear extension. 115-119 Shay Lane, Walton, WF2 6LF: No comment, already decided.
- 24/01391/TPO Fell 1x sycamore tree with TPO. 12 Woodfield Park, Walton, WF2 6PL: No comment.
- 24/01418/TPO Crown Lift to 2.5metres from ground level trees T1, T2 and T3. 18 The Balk, Walton, WF2 6JU: No comment.
- 24/01221/CPL Single storey extension to rear (part retrospective) 64 The Balk, Walton WF2 6JU: No comment
- 24/01463/TPO Crown reduce T1 Oak by max 2.5m. Remove deadwood and weak, damaged & diseased branches. 48 The Balk, Walton WF2 6JU 2 HIGH MEADOWS, WALTON, WF2 6TN: No comment.
- 23/00157/OUT Land of Nevile Drive, 35 Continuing Care Apartments (revised drawings): It was **RESOLVED** that the application be objected to on the grounds of:
 - Over development on the footprint even though now 2 storeys,
 - 44 car parking spaces on site which is a lot more than the previously proposed 19 units have,
 - No facilities for continuing care in existing hub so details would be required for the 70 residents who would live in the apartments,
 - Traffic issues on the Grove and Nevile Drive and at the junction on Shay Lane.

In their absence Cllr Carlon was tasked to support the Clerk in drafting the objection.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the objection drafted for the planning meeting should also be formally submitted to the planning portal or included in the new objection.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the Clerk, in response to the enquiry from a resident about the need to resubmit their objection for the revised plans, should advise them to do so.

- Proposed Development at land off School Lane, Walton Wakefield, WF2 6PA, 2015 Notice under Article 13 of Application for Planning Permission: It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would respond, drawing attention to its own requirements for access to Jubilee Field as well as drawing attention to the access requirements of the allotments, Community Centre and local farmers.

To receive reports and consider recommendations from working parties (WP) & any correspondence received:

46 Village Hall & Coronation Cottage

It was noted that only one quote for repairs to the Cottage roof had been received. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should chase for further quotes but that the matter be on the agenda for a decision at the October meeting, regardless of the number of quotes received, so that work could be undertaken before winter.

47 Park & Jubilee Field

The Working Party has conducted a risk assessment.

RESOLVED that the groundskeeper be requested to:

- Clear low-level branches on the path from the playing field to the pavilion some of which appear to be dead.
- Trim off the sucker branches on the trees near the football pitch and by the stables entrance tree 61
- Tree next to the new houses on Scholars – monitor as appears dead

There were 17 trees with cause for concern. It was **RESOLVED** to await the outcome of the meeting to be arranged by Cllr Cummings before considering whether to employ a professional assessment of the trees.

The Working Party were disappointed to find the pavilion toilet and kitchen in a dirty condition. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to the football club asking them to keep the area clean.

It was further **RESOLVED** that there be an agenda item for the October meeting to decide on the fee for use of the park football pitches for the 24/25 season.

Cllr Nixon has provided the Clerk with a link to a suitable basketball/netball hoop design and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should progress obtaining quotes.

48 Parish environment – No action

49 Floral displays

A quote for the provision of Christmas trees was received. It was **RESOLVED** that an order be placed for 50 trees at £61+VAT each, subject to the Clerk confirming that:

- The £54+VAT cost of brackets only applies to any additional brackets required.
- That the licence application will not require the Parish Council to pay for additional lamppost inspections.

If necessary, the Clerk should seek from the supplier a 2-day extension for a decision and bring the matter back to the October Council meeting.

50 Communications

It was **RESOLVED** to include an article using the Christmas Trees to promote sponsorship opportunities for next year.

The merits of publishing the events held in the Village Hall was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should add a link from the Parish Council website to the Village Calendar maintained by the library ([Community – Walton Library](#)).

51 Tennis Club Refurbishment

An integrated design had not been received from the students and they have now finished their studies. It was **RESOLVED** that Working Party will contact appropriate landscape architects asking them to tender for producing a unified design using some of the students’ ideas.

52 Correspondence Received: Fwd: Speed Checks - Walton Lane [#285573951] [OFFICIAL] (email of 23/07/2024)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should chase the Police to obtain the results of a similar speed check data gathering for Greenside and Oakenshaw Lane as was done for Walton Lane

53 RESOLVED Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – In view of the confidential nature of the business concerned, to exclude the Press and Public

54 After input from Councillors the matter of an additional increment on the pay scale for the clerk was referred back to the Staffing Committee for further consideration.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Date	Payee	Details	AMOUNT £	DUE	Authorised	Budgeted	Contracted	Ratified	VAT £	Total £
10.7.24	Calder Security	Service CCTV in VH	£82.00	NOW	JC/TS	YES	YES		16.40	98.40
24.7.24	PAUL READMAN	Expenses-hand wash VH	£13.96	NOW	JC/TS	YES	NO		2.79	16.75
25.7.24	YPO	Bin bags/disinfectant/t roll	£64.06	NOW	JC/TS	YES	NO		12.81	76.87
28.7.24	MARK CARTER	WINDOW CLEANER	£42.00	NOW	JC/TS	YES	YES			42.00
8.8.24	JOHN CARLON	BRUSH/TRAIN/OVERPAY	30.99	NOW	JC/TS	NO	NO			30.99
30.8.24	PAUL READMAN	SALARY		30.8.24	JC/TS	YES	YES			
30.8.24	PETER WALSH	SALARY + EXPENSES		30.8.24	JC/TS	YES	YES			
19.8.24	YLCA	COURSE-K NIXON	70	16.9.24	JC/TS	YES	NO			70.00
19.8.24	PAUL READMAN	EXPENSES first aid kit-vh	22.4	NOW	JC/TS	YES	NO		4.48	26.88
19.8.24	PAUL READMAN	EXPENSES THREAD KIT	17.33	NOW	JC/TS	YES	NO		3.47	20.80
3.9.24	PAUL READMAN	EXPENSES-EYE WASH	6.57	NOW	PW/TS	YES	NO		1.32	7.89
3.9.24	PAUL READMAN	EXPENSES-FUEL	6.15	NOW	PW/TS	YES	NO		1.23	7.38
								Totals	42.50	

PAYMENTS SUMMARY - COUNCIL TO REVIEW & AUTHORISE