

Waltham Parish Council

EST. 1894

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st October 2019 at Waltham Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: John Barry, Jane Robinson, Sue Browne, and Ben Grillet
Parish Clerk: Tony McCord.

There were no members of the public present.

Meeting commenced at: 19.35.

19/20.0075. To receive and approve apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lawrence and approved. County Cllr Northey also gave his apologies.

19/20.0076. To receive declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary interests or Other significant Interest:

There were no declarations relating to agenda items.

19/20.0077. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2019:

The minutes were deemed to be a correct record of Resolutions and were approved and signed.

19/20.0078. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda:

- i) **Item 19/20.0055** The clerk reported that CCC Planning had been informed of activity at Dene Meadow, Duckpit Road. They are aware of the problem and enforcement action is being taken.
- ii) **Item 19/20.0062** The clerk advised Members on progress regarding the Village Hall Freehold purchase and the Parish Councils continuing interest as Custodian Trustee.

19/20.0079. Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public:

No members of the public were present.

19/20.0080. To receive reports from County and City Councillors:

County Cllr Northey had contributed a progress report, summarised as follows:

“The main thing to report is that KCC and Kent preparations are well advanced in the event of a no deal Brexit at the end of October. There is a lot on the KCC website, so it is best to look there for much greater detail. We debated it a full County Council on 12th September and had a detailed report then. Operation Stack has been ended and we now have Operation Brock, which can deal with up to 10,000 spare lorries with efficient parking. But the report to the County Council gives the picture at that time, and I would imagine more progress has been made since then. The French authorities are being extremely helpful, organised and co-operative.”

19/20.0081. Financial Matters:

- a) **To note the Parish Councils financial position:** A year to date financial report had been distributed to Members prior to the meeting and was discussed in detail. Total receipts to

date = £10,444.09; payments = £5,744.06; In year balance at 30:09:19 = £4,904.03; Total balance in accounts £13,800.65. A year-end spending projection had been included which suggests a final in year balance of £244.52. A Restricted Reserve of £4,000 is being held to support the Freehold Purchase if needed.

It was unanimously **Resolved** to approve the report.

Action: Clerk/RFO

b) To authorise any payments:

The Clerk/RFO presented a payments schedule for Member consideration:

Payment Schedule

Date	Payment Summary	Cheque No:	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount
01/10/2019	Internal Audit invoice 1809	0633	£60	0	£60
01/10/2019	Clerk September salary & expenses	0634	£217.40	0	£217.40
			£277.40	0	£277.40

After careful consideration it was **Resolved** to approve the schedule and all payments were authorised in accordance with Councils Financial Instructions.

Action: Clerk/RFO

19/20.0082. Planning Matters

- a) CA//19/01732 Duckpit Road Waltham. It was Resolved not to object to the proposal.
- b) CA//19/01806 Richdore Road Waltham. It was Resolved not to object to the proposal.

Action: Clerk

19/20.0083. Highways and the Environment.

- i) A check on the Parish Portal indicates new items on the list. All are being addressed by KCC.
- ii) **A review of the Highways Improvement Plan.** General discussion took place on outstanding issues such as HGV signage and the potential for 'gates' at village boundary. Concerns were also expressed about the verge mowing regime, overgrown roadside hedging and tree branches adjacent to overhead electricity cables at St Mary's field and on Broadway. It was **Resolved** that the Highways Improvement Plan would be updated and shared with KCC. Cllr Lawrence volunteered to review salt bin location and condition. Members were advised of a KCC / KALC "20 is Plenty" initiative for rural villages and interest was expressed in exploring further.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Lawrence.

19/20.0084. Parish Council Website.

Members were advised that the current website provided free by EiS will be discontinuing in its present form by September 2020. The annual fee for its replacement by the company would cost circa £1,200. The cost from competitors is substantially less and the clerk recommended an option appraisal to find one most suited to Waltham Parish needs. It was **Resolved** to support the recommendation with a preference for encouraging local business initiatives.

Action: Clerk

19/20.0085. Proposed Defibrillator Awareness sessions.

The Clerk reported that St John Ambulance connections had volunteered to provide awareness sessions for the parish community. In anticipation of a successful outcome grant funding was being

explored with the British Heart Foundation and the City Council. City Cllr Robert Thomas had also offered a contribution via the CCC Opportunities Fund. Members **Resolved** to support proposed action. **Action: Clerk**

19/20.0086. Any other business for information purposes only.

Members discussed a recent burglary that had occurred in the parish and the possibility of engaging in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. It was suggested that initial contact be made with Kevin Finnon, Community Warden, to discuss security issues and to invite him to a future meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm.

Next Meeting to be held on **Tuesday 5th November** commencing at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Signature:

5th November 2019