

## WALKERN PARISH COUNCIL

### Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4 March 2021

#### **The meeting was held via Zoom and commenced at 7.00 pm**

Those present were the Chairman, Cllr T Deffley, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr M Rist and Cllrs C Nudds, M James and K Overall. Four members of the public were in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were accepted as a correct record on the proposal of Cllr Nudds and seconded by Cllr James.

#### **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

There were no matters to discuss.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **Public Forum**

Brenda Lowe attended the meeting on behalf of a group of others to ask if a village green area could be made available to create an edible space . The idea behind this is to bring the community together, growing produce and ultimately helping the climate. The Parish Council had a number of suggestions which need to be explored further and this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **Update of Policies for Walkern Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Rist has sent through reading material regarding updating the policies. It was agreed that Councillors should read this and a meeting will be held next week to discuss further, ahead of the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **Walkern Sports & Community Centre**

The Kitchen has been fully installed and the partitioning to separate the hall has been completed. There is still some more decorating to be done and the last fire/emergency exit to be installed. A full electrical survey and certificate is due, the Clerk will arrange with Nigel Bennett and an outside event is planned for 16 April 2021. Cllr Rist suggested that a list of items and dates required should be made available so that the Parish Council is aware of when matters need to be addressed in the future regarding the WSCC building. Cllr Deffley is going to look at a Tenancy Agreement with standard terms and conditions for the management committee.

**Action: The Clerk/Cllr Deffley**

#### **Fitness Trail at Sportsfield**

A meeting is arranged with HAGS Play on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 12.30 to finalise the plans for the positioning of the new fitness equipment. The Clerk will invite Nigel Bennett and Jo Ransom to attend also.

## **Box Wood – Proposal to Add Footpaths to the Definitive Map**

A proposal to add three rights of way through Box Wood to the definitive map has been proposed by Councillors from Hertfordshire Country Council. Walkern Parish Council is minded to back this proposal but it will be made clear that the Monument must be protected. It is hoped that defined footpaths will protect the rest of the woodland's flora and fauna from walkers, as well as privately owned gardens and land. Cllr Deffley will write to Cllr Wren at HCC outlining that the Parish Council would like to see the paths used for walkers only and that clear signage and dog waste/litter bins should be provided by HCC and emptied and maintained by HCC and not fall to Walkern Parish Council to do. **Action: Cllr Deffley**

## **Free Trees for Community Projects**

Walkern Parish Council has been offered free trees from a Company that works with wildlife trusts, nature reserves and rewilding projects around the country, who will support community projects also. The Parish Council had a number of suggestions where such trees could be used, all native species, grown in the UK from seed, with free shelters, stakes and matting etc. The Clerk will speak to the project leader for more information on how to move forward with this. **Action: The Clerk**

## **Recreation Ground/Village Garden Maintenance Contract**

The Clerk is still waiting for one more quotation so the matter will be discussed at a further meeting of the Parish Councillors.

## **Finance**

### **Payments made to date:**

Staff costs -	£1348.39
The School Grounds Company - maintenance of the sportsfield	£ 647.00
Parrs Ltd - new litterbin	£ 234.00
Kompan Ltd - maintenance of playground equipment at Recreation Ground	£ 182.53
Parish Council Websites - maintenance of PC website	£ 72.00
Mr P West - deposit for fire/emergency exist at WSCC	£ 742.50
WSCC - contribution towards partitioning at WSCC	£2000.00
EHDC - dog waste bin emptying and cleaning 2020/21	£1105.44

The above payments were ratified on the proposal of Cllr Deffley and seconded by Cllr Rist.

## **Planning**

### **Planning applications received:**

70 Stevenage Road, Walkern	3/21/0089/HH
	Demolition of garage, erection of two storey side extension, part single storey and part two storey rear extension, alterations to fenestration and addition of porch to front entrance way.

Old Walkern Nursery, Froghall Lane, Walkern 3/20/2557/CLUP  
Use of building as ancillary residential annexe.

**Planning applications granted:**

9 Yew Tree Close, Walkern 3/21/0014/HH  
Erection of ground floor extension and insertion of front and rear roof lights.

**Planning applications refused:**

The Old Recreation Ground, Totts Lane, Walkern 3/20/2637/FUL  
Erection of single storey timber structure field shelter.

**Correspondence**

St Mary's Church representatives would like to hold a Mothering Sunday Posies in the Park event on Sunday 14 March 2021, erecting a stall at the Recreation Ground to hand out flowers to Mums and Carers of Walkern Parish. A covid safe risk assessment will be provided and the Clerk will contact Zurich Insurance to make sure this is allowed. Cllr Nudds offered to attend to oversee the event on behalf of Walkern Parish Council.

**Action: Cllr Nudds**

**Schedule of Outstanding Items**

The annual Allotment Association membership fee is due.

**Action: The Clerk**

**Any Other Business**

Cllr Deffley reported that he has received further communications from Chellegate Homes regarding their proposal to build a Retirement Village on land in Walkern. No planning application has been received by the Parish Council to date to comment upon.

Cllr Rist reported that houses in Stevenage Road have been flooded due to drains blocked by mud and debris. The relevant water companies have been notified and are dealing with it.

**The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.**

**The Clerk is arranging new meeting dates for the remainder of the year due to current meetings clashing with the end of month accounts preparation. The new meeting dates will be posted on the Parish Council website/Face Book page/ village notice board and emailed out as soon as possible.**