

WALKERINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Council held on 21 April 2021, held remotely via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions

Present: Councillors Howard (Chair), Roberts, Dilly, Spencer, Hooton, Oxley, Heath, Bowes, Cty. Cllr. Taylor, and Angela Hayward (Clerk). 1 member of the public

01.04.2021 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Vardy (family commitment)
Dist. Cllr. Sanger (another meeting)

Resolved: The apologies were accepted.

02.04.2021 Approval & Signing of Minutes

The notes of the Annual Assembly Meeting held on 17 April 2019 having been previously circulated were taken as read. The notes were approved and signed by the Chairman as the minutes of the meeting.

03.04.2021 Matters arising from the minutes

None

04.04.2021 Chairman's Report

Covid 19 Pandemic 2020/2021

The period between March 2020 and the current date have been difficult from a Parish Council perspective. Face to face meetings have not occurred since March 2020 and virtual meetings, where members of the public have been able to attend via a 'Zoom' link have become normal. In this way, the Parish Council has maintained its operations albeit in a restricted way.

A Village Hub operated by the Village Hall & Playing Field Committee has been a beacon of local endeavour during this period providing a village food shop and offering deliveries to local house-bound residents. Our thanks go to all involved.

Village Council Tax Precept

Walkeringham Parish Council increased its precept by 3.1% for the coming year. The increase was kept to a minimum during these tricky times.

To put this year's PC precept into a local perspective, a band D property in Walkeringham will pay a Parish Council precept of £66.83. In Gringley this figure is £65.81, in Misterton £128.86, in West Stockwith £133.10, and in Beckingham £85.75

Walkeringham Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has completed all its examination stages and has been approved by the External Examiner and approved by Bassetlaw District Council.

The Pandemic has interrupted the final step of the plan which is the public referendum which was scheduled to take place in July 2020. This referendum had to be postponed until 6th May 2021 which is the new date for Walkeringham residents to approve or dismiss the plan. The plan itself however does still have influence and has shown its worth in several local planning disputes, being used by both Bassetlaw Planning and Nationally.

Walkeringham Community Garden

One project which has moved forward during the Pandemic is the proposed Walkeringham Community Garden. The site has now been legally transferred from Bassetlaw DC to Walkeringham PC. A Garden Design Consultant was employed to make proposals for the site and his design was accepted as suitable. A grant of £10k had previously been awarded to the Parish Council from the National Lottery for this project.

A contractor has now been approved to install the hard landscaping for the garden and that is expected to go ahead during 2021.

This is an exciting and ambitious local project which should improve both facility and visual appeal onto an otherwise unused piece of ground.

Walkeringham Parish Council Website

During 2020, the Parish Council website has been transformed.

The new site operates from www.walkeringham.info and as the new site was being built, it existed alongside the previous website.

The new site is now fully up and running and is a significant improvement and is receiving a much higher number of visits than previously.

The Parish Council, during the last year, also introduced its own Facebook page to try to get news items out to residents as quickly as possible.

Notable Village Losses

Former Parish Councillor Maynel Vessey died in 2020 following a long illness as did former DAC leader and Village Magazine editor Jean Priestley. May they both be remembered with affection by our community.

Roger Capp and John Sowter both left the Parish Council during the past year. Roger had been a very long-standing Councillor of 30 years and John left due to illness. I wish them both well.

05.04.2021

Questions and discussion of Chairman's Report

None

06.04.2021

Reports by Representatives of Organisations

County Councillor

This year's meetings are being held in the same unusual circumstances that prevented last year's AGMs and APMs. But through all of that time your parish councillors have continued to work to manage local facilities on behalf of residents and I have supported and assisted wherever I've been needed.

COVID

The Local Resilience Forum - led by NCC because of its Public health function - includes District and Borough Councils, NHS, Police and Fire Services; all as statutory service providers. It's also included Parish Councils, Community Groups and Voluntary Sector organisations. Community Hubs and Good Neighbour Schemes have sustained our communities and reignited the best of caring and living together in all our villages. It's shown beyond question just how well we achieve when we act together.

The changes in our ways of living have also brought more visitors to our villages, not all of whom understand living well with nature. This has resulted in some inconsiderate behaviours such as speeding, poor parking, littering and a lack of respect for the environment, livestock and wildlife. These issues are not unique to our villages or our county, but they will need a concerted effort to address as lockdowns continue to ease and visitors perhaps continue to share what we're lucky enough to live with every day.

NCC through 2020

NCC has striven to deliver "business as usual" in most key service areas: Education, Child & Adult Social Care, Highways & Public Rights of Way and Waste Management, but there have been inevitable delays in managing some programmes of work. To summarise

- All Council meetings moved online from June 2020. Officers adapted quickly to working from home and ICT systems have been bolstered at pace to make that possible.
- I am particularly proud, in my own portfolio area, of NCC's social workers and youth service, who have maintained contact with children in care and vulnerable families since the very beginning; including providing extra activities for those most at risk of placement breakdown or personal stress.
- The Full Council meeting 25 February agreed a balanced budget for 2021/22. All frontline services are being maintained.
- Planning applications have continued to be assessed, with major applications for Lound and Misson ongoing. A new Waste and Minerals Plan for Notts was adopted at the Full Council meeting 25 March; this plan period runs to 2036.
- Highways issues continue to dominate in most areas. More pothole and road repairs have been delivered in each of the past 4 years, fuelling the debate about whether that means our roads are being more neglected or more cared for. Vehicle nuisance on roads, PROWs and private land is generally a matter for

Notts Police, with NCC highways officers regularly monitoring traffic movements in response to local issues raised.

- There has been an increase in misuse of and damage to PROWs through vehicular presence and fly-tipping. NCC officers continue to address those issues over which NCC has remit and to work with BDC and Notts Police over planning, ASB and criminal matters.
- Drainage and flood mitigation work has continued since the latest flood episodes of winter 2019/20. There is particular focus on needs in Claborough, Clayworth and Walkeringham, including natural flood management and engineered solutions. The historic village water management systems are both complex and simple at the same time, and NCC is working with partner agencies who share responsibility for different parts of those systems to achieve lasting solutions. Misson and other villages alongside the River Trent and the Chesterfield Canal to West Stockwith have very particular issues which are the subject of ongoing work with the Environment Agency.
- Environmental issues are moving centre stage, with three key strands currently: a review of the waste management contract to improve recycling rates across the county; improving the council's carbon footprint across the estate and fleet; and proposals on how to create the infrastructure in towns and rural areas to support the move to electric vehicles. Reports to the respective committees are due this summer.

Over the past year I have supported villages over a range of issues which have been raised and reported on at your regular parish council meetings, so I will not reprise these here. Some are ongoing and several will need partner agency support to resolve.

I would like to thank parish councillors and clerks for everything that you have done over the past 12 months in particular, but also through the 4 years that I have had the privilege of serving alongside you.

District Councillor

District Councillor Sanger forwarded the following report:

Yet again I am starting my report with a special thank you to your Parish Council for allowing me to attend your meetings and for giving me a slot on the agenda to bring useful information from BDC for all residents and also to be able to answer any questions/queries or find an answer if I cannot answer at the meeting. Angela, your Clerk, always includes my report in the monthly minutes which are displayed on three noticeboards around the village.

What a year we have had but gradually we can now see a light at the end of the tunnel!

It has been great to use Zoom to keep in touch.

This year I have given a number of donations to Walkeringham and one or two to benefit the whole of Bassetlaw.

£100 to Walkeringham Village Hall

£100 to Walkeringham Football Team

£100 to Walkeringham Community Garden

£100 to Bassetlaw First Responders

£50 to St John's Ambulance

£100 to the Rainbow Garden at Bassetlaw Hospital re Covid

£100 Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw

May I push again Bassetlaw Youth Council. Young People between the ages of 11(Yr 7) and 19(Year 11) are invited to join. They are collected by taxi, for free, taken to either Retford or Worksop Town Hall and enjoy lots of interesting activities and visits, some suggested by themselves on things that matter to them. More information by email to youth.council@bassetlaw.gov.uk. Vanessa Cookson is the Officer for the Youth Council.

This year I nominated Malcolm to receive an Achievers' Award in Bassetlaw but unfortunately the evening had to be cancelled and Malcolm received his award through the post. Not a good way to do this but sadly Covid intervened. I don't need to tell you how marvellous he has been during the past year, we couldn't have survived without him. Sincere thank you Malcolm, keep up the excellent work.

As stated last year it is a pleasure to be your District Councillor. We haven't seen much of each other this year thanks to Covid but things can only get better! I hope I have answered your questions/queries, solved a few problems and will continue to do so in the coming year.

Police Report

No report

Burial Board

The Parish Council Burial Board consists of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council plus 2 Parish Councillors, 2 parishioners, 1 maintenance worker and has its own secretary, Mrs Jan Fox. They ensure the Cemetery is monitored regularly and Cemetery records are all kept in good order. Any problems that do arise regarding the condition and upkeep of the Cemetery are dealt with as quickly as possible.

The past year has been a difficult one for everyone. Keeping the Cemetery in good order while holding funerals, and also with relatives wishing to visit graves proved somewhat eventful. The Government rules changed often which required the Burial Board to constantly revise its working practices.

Mick Dalton, who maintains the Cemetery, has once again kept the Cemetery to the highest order ensuring it remains the peaceful and pleasant place that the friends and relatives of loved ones can visit. Mick worked alone all through the pandemic and the Burial Board is extremely grateful for his diligence and dedication. Most of the members of the Burial Board were shielding either due to age or underlying health conditions and Mick carried out all of the work without any need for physical supervision.

In order to fulfil its duty of care the Burial Board continues to update where required the comprehensive Risk Assessment. This covers all aspects of the Cemetery including all the memorials that are in place. If any problems regarding safety, stability or general disrepair of any memorial arise, the Burial Board will inform the owners in order that they can take remedial action.

The Burial Board and its members will continue their work to keep Walkeringham Parish Cemetery in good order and well maintained.

Others

Reports were also read out on behalf of
Walkeringham Primary School
Friends of Walkeringham Primary School
Village Hall Committee

07.04.2021 **Questions to the Parish Council by Persons Present**
None

Meeting closed 8.01pm

Signed:

Date: