

# WALKERINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 20 April 2022 in Walkeringham Village Hall

Present: Councillors Howard (Chair), Roberts, Dilly, Hooton, Heath, Vessey, Derbyshire, Beard, Cty. Cllr. Taylor (part) and A Hayward (Clerk).

1 member of the public

Cllr. Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 01.04.2022 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. Bowes (family commitment)  
Cllr. Wilsey (family commitment)  
Cllr. Oxley (other commitment)  
Dist. Cllr. Sanger (another meeting)

Resolved: The apologies were accepted.

### 02.04.2022 **Approval & Signing of Minutes**

The notes of the Annual Assembly Meeting held on 21 April 2021 having been previously circulated were taken as read. The notes were approved and signed by the Chairman as the minutes of the meeting.

### 03.04.2022 **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 04.04.2022 **Chairman's Report**

#### **Covid's Long Shadow**

As the village emerges from the pandemic, normality has slowly returned. The Parish Council began face-to-face meetings in May 2021 which were socially distanced. The pandemic has been an extraordinary time and some villagers have not survived. Our thoughts are with them and their families.

#### **Village Council Tax Precept**

Walkeringham Parish Council increased its precept by RPI for the coming year. The increase is typically to cover for inflation price increases. To put this year's PC precept into a local perspective, a band D property in Walkeringham will pay a Parish Council precept of £70.27. In Gringley this figure is £66.15, in Misterton £134.90, in West Stockwith £131.58, and in Beckingham £84.62

#### **Walkeringham Neighbourhood Plan**

The delayed referendum to make final approval of the Walkeringham Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. In answer to the question:-

#### **"Do you want Bassetlaw District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Walkeringham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"**

The vote was as follows: 278 voted yes, and 37 voted no. The Plan was therefore approved.

Several important areas of the village have now been protected from development and perhaps more importantly, the style and character of all new developments has to be suitable.

The Plan itself was hard work to complete and took a significant amount of time, can I thank, on behalf of the village, all those who gave their time and effort to make this work.

#### **Walkeringham Community Garden**

During Summer 2021 work to convert the small piece of land at the side of the old Methodist Church began. The contractors installed resin bonded paths and seating areas and this was followed by the planting of the trees and hedges. This will be a stunning area when mature and something of which the village should be proud.

Can I clearly state that the bulk of the cost for this garden has been found through grants and sponsorship. Thank you to Cllr. Pat Hooton for her efforts throughout this project. We have also received sponsorship for seats, tables and plants within the community garden. Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors.

#### **Village Broadband Speed**

The Parish Council has recently been in negotiation with British Telecom Open Reach regarding Rural Broadband and the upgrading of Walkeringham to Super-Fast Broadband, which would involve Fibre to the Property (FTTP). This would typically give reliable broadband speeds of 100 mbps or higher to any household thus connected. Currently, Walkeringham operates using Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) and the final leg is completed using the existing Copper (or Aluminium) core cables to the property. This system is considerably slower and the broadband speed depends on how far your home is from the cabinet. Hence, many properties in the village have poor overall speeds.

The upgrade to Fibre to the Property (FTTP) does have other beneficial effects (other than broadband speed). For example, it is estimated that an FTTP facility adds around 8% to the property value and broadband speed is a significant factor in Estate Agent valuations. Even if you are happy with your current internet speed, or even if you do not have the internet at all, it would still be worthwhile to have the facility installed to your property, to increase its value.

**05.04.2022**      **Questions and discussion of Chairman's Report**

There were no questions.

**06.04.2022**      **Reports by Representatives of Organisations**  
**District Councillor**

Cllr. Sanger forwarded the following report which was read out on her behalf:

Here is my report for 21/22 and yet again I would like to say it is a pleasure to be your District Councillor. I am always made welcome at your Parish Council meetings and other village events.

During the year I have made a number of donations from my Community Grant for the benefit of Walkeringham residents. Each of these received £100.

Walkeringham Senior Citizens' Christmas Party  
Walkeringham Primary School for playground activities.  
Walkeringham Community Garden.  
5 Villages Swimming Pool.  
Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw.

It gave me great pleasure to nominate the Village Hall Crew, led by Malcolm, for an award at the recent Bassetlaw Achievers' Evening. The work undertaken and the care shown by the Crew during the Covid Pandemic was absolutely splendid. The Hub led by Malcolm, served Walkeringham and other local villages and shielding villagers were well catered for. Crew Members undertook many other tasks during the 2 years and many continue to do so today. Often Malcolm was seen at the Cash and Carry at 6-00am, what dedication!! Many thanks again, everyone was very proud of you all and you were the only Group to thank the Nominator - thanks again!

Finally, I try and attend as many village activities as I can but sadly, I have not done quite so well latterly because I am not very mobile at the moment. I have dealt with a number of queries/problems from residents during the year, hopefully mainly to a satisfactory conclusion and I hope you will continue to contact me. I am your District Councillor 7 days a week and willing to help with any Council related matter however large or small. Every success to everyone in the coming year.

**County Councillor**

Cllr. Taylor gave a summary of the main initiatives during the year including a focus of greener, carbon neutral-projects, such as recycling facilities and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. There has been a major planting scheme across the county. There has also been a focus on the devolution deal which will necessitate a change in which the county council works, ie a move from a committee model to a cabinet model. This will be voted on in the upcoming NCC AGM in May.

**Police Report**

From 01/04/2021, there have been seventy-nine crimes of interest reported across the beat area. This compares with ninety-one reported in the same period last year. As such, at the conclusion of the last month in this tracking year, this year's total figures are a decrease of twelve crimes compared to those reported for last year. In the corresponding period for 2019/ 2020 there was one hundred and two crimes of interest reported to the Police.

Please continue to report crime - and incidents - through to our control room on 101, or 999 as appropriate. Even in these most difficult of times, where possible, reported crimes will be dealt with in the same way as they have always been recorded, and dealt with. Please remain aware of any suspicious persons, vehicles and activity in the area and continue to report such instances through to our control room, as normal. From time to time, I am advised about incidents and crimes being shared on social media, which I was not aware of. Might I ask that incidents and crimes of this nature are reported through to our control room, for Police action and recording purposes, in the first instance and then, obviously, share your experiences with whom you desire by other methods?

As from February 2020, the Police report has included anti-social behaviour incidents only, negating other incident types from this category, such as hoax calls to the emergency services, found/ abandoned vehicles and wildlife/ animal issues. This month there have been one reported incident of anti-social behaviour across the whole beat area. This compares with no reported incidents for February 2022 and none reported for the same month in 2021.

As I complete this report, I would like to take this opportunity to advise you all that this will be the last Police report that you will be receiving from me, this is the last report in the tracking year and would seem to be the right time to do this. I retire from the Force at the end of April. Might I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all community members for the help and support you have given me over the last fifteen, or so, years. It is, and has been, genuinely, greatly appreciated. I have thoroughly enjoyed my service with Nottinghamshire Police, and serving you all.

Over the years, residents have been encouraged to report suspicious persons, vehicles and activity through to our control room and, community members seem more comfortable in doing so. This, in turn, has generally seen a reduction in reported crimes of interest (burglaries/ thefts/ criminal damage) across the beat areas I cover. Might I just remind you all of a couple of comments I have used in previous Police reports – If you witness something which does not seem right, it probably isn't, and, also, who know the villages best?? The Villagers themselves, of course.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank newsletter editors and website managers for their support, too, in making my Police reports available in their local publications and websites. Both these outlets are crucial in being able to share information locally, and allows parish members to remain connected, and informed. Thanks to you all.

PCSO D Airey

### **Burial Board**

The Parish Council Burial Board consists of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council plus 1 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 another difficult one for everyone. Keeping the Cemetery in good order was a priority as relatives visited graves more during these troublesome times. The Burial Board constantly monitored the ever-changing regulations and revised its working practices when required.

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 has worked all through the pandemic and the Burial Board is, once again, extremely grateful for his diligence and dedication. Mick has recently taken over the grass cutting of the whole of the Cemetery and not just the area around the graves and Garden of Remembrance.

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 is noted, the Burial Board will inform the owners in order that they can take remedial action. It was noted that a large ash tree bordering Mill Lane was looking in need of attention. As the tree had a Tree Preservation Order on it the Burial Board employed a tree surgeon who is licensed to manage these trees. Bo Jorgenson of Viking Trees inspected the tree and it was found to be suffering from a fungal disease and, after the relevant Planning Application was approved by Bassetlaw District Council, unfortunately had to be felled. All trees on the Cemetery are inspected regularly.

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

**07.04.2022**      **Questions to the Parish Council by Persons Present**

None

Meeting closed 8.00pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....