

WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Waldridge Parish Council held on 10 July 2018 at 7.00pm



Present: Councillors - Bell, Cork, Corner, Davies, Foster, Harding, Sexton and Warren

Also in attendance - Angela Foster - Parish Clerk, Brian Laidler - caretaker, Cllr Allan Bainbridge, County Councillor and 5 members of the public

1. **Welcome** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllrs Howie and Martin submitted their apologies

3. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

No members declared an interest.

4. **Questions from members of the public:**

- Work vans being parked on main road, causing obstruction. The Clerk to speak to the wardens
- Trees overgrown in Village. Cllr Sexton in contact with DCC re tree policy
- Plants not been watered in the Village. Cllr Cork to speak to St Barnabas and ask to carry this out

5. **Police Report:**

No report submitted as receive bi monthly

6. **Minutes of Council meeting:**

Resolved *That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.*

7. **Clerks report / Action log**

Nothing to report on Clerk report

Cllr Sexton will email over the updated log

8. Parish Matters and on-going items

The Chair re-ordered the agenda items

- a) **Allotments** - Members of the Allotment Association attended to sign the new tenancy agreement

Resolved: *The agreement was signed by both council and allotment holders*

- b) **Clerk job role / description / salary**

After the resignation of the current clerk, the members discussed who would be on the personnel panel.

Resolved: *It was agreed Cllrs Bell, Corner and Warren will arrange paperwork and interviews. The Clerk will remain in post until October.*

- c) **Waldridge in Bloom working group update –**

Cllr Cork gave an update - he noted a lot of plants have been stolen. He had received £300 from the AAP. He requested money for the judges lunch.

Resolved: *Update noted.*

- d) **County Councillors report** – Cllr Sexton gave an update on the following:

- Dog bag dispensers - further dispensers to be installed
- 4 Rothbury - resident been issues with warning to put grass back
- Village Parking - Further locations to be found
- A167 Pedestrian Crossing - on line petition
- Dog waste bin collection - will be emptied twice per week

Resolved: *Report noted. Village parking will be an agenda item in future.*

- e) **Quarterly Accounts** - The Clerk distributed accounts for approval

Resolved: *Cllr Harding signed the bank reconciliation, bank statement, petty cash and budget*

- f) **Toilet** - Cllr Bell has received 2 quotes for the toilet ranging from £2000 to £2500 plus extra £350 for new toilet and hand basins. He will check to see if that includes hot water. He will arrange a site meeting with builder and other councillors to discuss. Once costs are sought can apply to Tesco for funding.

- g) **Cinema event** - All final arrangements were discussed. Hiring 2 toilets at cost of £195 was discussed. It was suggested purchasing a further inverter and battery so there is sufficient lights.

Resolved: *All arrangements were agreed. It was agreed to hire 2 toilets. Cllr Davies to purchase at cost of approx £100*

- h) **Funday** - Hiring of toilet was discussed at £195 for 2. It was suggested holding extra Parish meeting on 14 August. The face painter doesn't have insurance.

Resolved: It was agreed to hire toilet and arrange additional Parish meeting on 14 August. It was agreed Cllr Warren/Harding to find another face painter.

i) **Working Group** - Cllr Harding gave an update. The kindness campaign had 3 nominations and 1 Parish Councillor also received a nomination. But felt councillors shouldn't be included. Cllr Harding read out the email from a resident regarding Cllr Davies and all agreed well done.

j) **Update from Facebook** - Cllr Harding gave an update. It was discussed if non parish resident should be included.

Resolved: It was agreed if non residents don't have a connection with the Parish then they would not be allowed to join

k) **Team Dynamics/Team Work** - Cllr Harding wanted to put all the underlying tension between councillors to bed and move forward. The Chair asked Cllr Sexton if he had anything he'd like to say on the matter. Cllr Sexton referred to recent 'Emergency Meeting' where the council believed underlying tensions between Cllr Davies & Sexton, were probably politically motivated on Cllr Davies' behalf and agreed that the Chair should write to Cllr Davies requesting he explain his accusations (bullying and harassment etc.) regarding Cllr Sexton's behaviour or apologise and withdraw. Months later, Cllr Davies had still not responded to said e-mail. Cllr Sexton outlined various incidents, where Cllr Davies has approached residents and accused Cllr Sexton of lying & bullying etc. Cllr Warren confirmed Cllr Davies had called Cllr Sexton a bully in her presence to another resident, during recent local parish election campaign period. Cllr Sexton said he was particularly frustrated by what he believes is Cllr Davies' continued targeted approach of his next door neighbour, when said neighbour is very uncomfortable having to listen to these comments. Several Cllr's advised Cllr Davies that his opinions, were his opinions and he should not be approaching residents and sharing his views, particularly with Cllr Sexton's neighbours. Cllr Davies refused to comment on or withdraw his accusation, other than stating he would continue to serve residents of the parish. He then began to stand to leave the meeting, Cllr Bell asked him to stay and resolve the issue and he stayed seated.

Cllr Davies then went on to accuse Cllr Sexton of being responsible (the reason) why three Cllr's (Cllr's Baker, Moody and Cork) and the clerk had all tendered their resignations. Cllr Sexton asked Cllr Davies how he had arrived at this conclusion, given he (Cllr Sexton) believed he had not stood for the vacancy until after Cllr Baker had already declared her intention to resign. Cllr Sexton said he had only met Cllr Moody twice and he had not attended WPC for over 6 or 7 months and seemed to remember Cllr Howie stating he resigned because of work commitments. Cllr Sexton then asked the clerk if she was resigning because of him. The clerk replied she was not and had decided, given the workload, it was the right time to resign. Cllr Corner asked her if she was resigning because she felt under pressure, the clerk advised yes.

Cllr Sexton then asked Cllr Cork if he was resigning because of him. Cllr Cork said no, however, he found Cllr Sexton confrontational. Cllr Cork said it was a shame, because Cllr Sexton is a good Cllr, but always in the right.

Cllr Cork then went on to challenge Cllr Sexton's application for parish Cllr in February, stating Cllr Sexton had lied to him about why he called an election instead of going via Co-Option route. Cllr Sexton advised this was a hypothetical query from Cllr Cork and that on several occasions he had made statements that he called an election because he felt the parish clerk had inferred we (the parish) should not advertise more than we needed to, otherwise it might cost the parish £5-6k if someone called an election. Cllr Sexton said under this hypothetical scenario he told Cllr Cork, he didn't believe the current Cllr's would have Co-opted him onto the council. Cllr Sexton said he only decided to stand with 24-36hrs before the deadline, given no one else had come forward, which meant if no one else

stood, he would have been appointed and no charge incurred by the council.
Cllr Cork accused Cllr Sexton of lying, saying he felt sorry for him and suggested he would have a terrible life. Cllr Sexton said he was quite happy with his quality of life.
Cllr Cork then went on to say that when we held the emergency meeting, we ALL agreed that the Chair would write to Cllr Davies asking him to quantify or withdraw his accusations, however, you (Cllr Sexton) ignored this agreement and wrote to the chair outlining your concerns about Cllr Davies behaviour, which resulted in Cllr Warren (Chair) calling Cllr Cork in tears. Cllr Warren stated she was not in tears. Cllr Sexton said the agreement for the chair to write to Cllr Davies, did not prohibit him from writing to the chair.
Cllr Davies walked out of the meeting at 9:20pm. The meeting was abandoned shortly afterwards.

l) **Planning applications received**

- No applications received

m) **To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was published.**

This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

n) **Grants / Fundraising** - This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

o) **Children's play area** - Cllr Howie was not in attendance but has submitted 2 quotes. Cllr Sexton has one other quote. A site meeting will take place and Cllrs Corner and Foster will help Cllr Howie on this project.

p) **Website design** - This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

q) **Fitness equipment / Millennium Green / goal posts / fun hoop monthly inspections –**

This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

r) **Filming at Parish meetings** - This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

s) **Installation of seats** - This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

t) **Timetable of training events** – This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

u) **WW1 event** - This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

v) **Waldridge Football Club sponsorship** - This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

w) **Policy review** - This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints

x) **Correspondence received**

- Nothing received

- y) **Correspondence received after agenda published** (to note only)
- Nothing received
- z) **Quote for path on Millennium Green** - This item didn't get talked about due to time constraints
- aa) **XLN / Website SSL certificate** - quotes received from broadband provider to cover equipment at cost of £3.95 per month. A quote received from web designer of £34.99 to have a SSL certificate
- Resolved:** *It was agreed not to have the broadband cover, the Clerk to contact to cancel. The website will be discussed in September.*
- bb) **Urgent issues for noting** (Clerk to use delegated powers if necessary) **and any items Councillors wish to agenda for next meeting**
- Lights on Waldrige Lane on next agenda

9. Financial Matters

	(a)	<u>Payments</u>
	Resolved: That the following payments be agreed:	
	(1)	That the sum of £662.46 be paid to Mrs A Foster (June 2018 wage)
	(2)	That the sum of £221.74 be paid to Mr B Laidler (June 2018
	(3)	That the sum of £714.78 be paid to HMRC
	(4)	That the sum of £2,321.00 be paid to St Barnabas Nursery - winter bedding
	(5)	That the sum of £452.76 be paid to St Barnabas Nursery - watering
	(6)	That the sum of £43.50 be paid to Mrs K Harding - post pal/kindness - via online
	(7)	That the sum of £27.00 be paid to CDALC - training
	(8)	That the sum of £125.00 be paid to David Gross - sculpture maintenance - via online
	(9)	That the sum of £1,204.80 Marmax seats
	(10)	That the sum of £85.94 be paid to Mrs A Foster - gazebo
	(11)	That the sum of £46.99 be paid to Mrs A Foster - dog chipper
	(12)	That the sum of £150.00 be paid to Jesse Ward - bubbleologist
	(13)	That the sum of £225.00 be paid to Seven Stories
	(14)	That the sum of £200.72 be paid to Mr G Cork - various items
		To date August
	(16)	That the sum of £662.46 be paid to Mrs A Foster (July 2018 wage)
	(17)	That the sum of £221.74 be paid to Mr B Laidler (July 2018
	(18)	That the sum of £175.00 be paid to Lanchester Brass Band
	(19)	That the sum of £375.00 be paid to Rock it - climbing wall
	(20)	That the sum of £400.00 be paid to M Maylia - bouncy castles

(b) Receipts

Resolved: That the following receipts be noted:

- (1) That the sum of £24.00 received room hire

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

Additional meeting planned for 14 August to commence at 7.00pm.

The meeting terminated at 9.50 pm

**Chairman
Date**